

Transportation Ministry  
Trustees Ministry  
Tuesday Evening Academy  
Vacation Bible School  
Voices of Victory  
Wednesday Evening Academy  
Women Chorus  
Women of Excellence Ministry  
Young Men Young Women  
Youth Choir  
Youth Crusade/Revival  
Youth Ushers

## Church News



Evelyn Washington ~ Jan. 7th  
Jasmine D. Smalls ~ Jan. 15th  
Darlene Ann Ellington ~ Jan. 24th  
Claretta M. Brisbane ~ Jan. 25th

## Interesting facts about Martin Luther King Jr.



Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. Won a Contest for Speaking in Junior High  
We mostly think of Martin Luther King Jr. today as being active during the 1960s. One of the little-known Martin Luther King Jr. facts is that he displayed many of his iconic traits as a youth. From a young age, Martin Luther King Jr. showed both an incredible intellect and great talent as a speaker. Martin Luther King Jr. won a contest for speaking during his junior year of high school. King was so smart that he skipped

grades nine and 12, and started college at only 15 years old. Martin Luther King Jr. graduated from Morehouse College at just 19 years of age. King's academic achievements are some of the most inspiring Martin Luther King Jr. facts for kids. King's degree from Morehouse was in Sociology and, after he graduated, he continued his studies at Crozer Theological Seminary. By 1951, when King was only 22 years old, he had earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Divinity degree. After King received his two Bachelor's degrees, he married his wife Coretta Scott King. Shortly thereafter, King continued his studies as a doctoral student in systematic theology. In 1955, King received his Ph.D., or doctoral degree, from Boston University. In 1954, before King received his doctorate, he became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. King was a passionate preacher who often quoted Jesus Christ and the Gospels at church and in meetings with community members.

One of the little known Martin Luther King Jr. facts is that his father Martin Luther King, Sr. was also an advocate for civil rights. The elder King gave his son more than his name. He also gave him the hope of equal rights for all people. Martin Luther King, Sr. was the head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or NAACP, chapter in Atlanta. King, Sr. also played an important role in ending the Jim Crow segregation laws in the State of Georgia. Martin Luther King, Sr. was a pastor, and Martin Luther King Jr. credited his father with his own decision to become a pastor.

## December Sermon Recap

December 6th ~ The Blood Say...

Hebrews 9:14-28

December 13th ~ The Power to Move from Knowing to Doing

Ezekiel 37:1-10

December 20th ~ This Before That

Jeremiah 29:10-12

December 27th ~ Rough, but Righteous

Matthew 1:18-21; Luke 2:4-7



## "A Seniors' Perspective"

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEW YEAR!

I always look forward to the new year! To me, it means "New Beginnings." Some people for an example simply hope to be alive, to see another year make its entrance. Some express their desire to try to be 'a better person'; or make the effort to grow more spiritually. Others look forward to reaching a 'landmark' birthday. You have your serious goal-setters and those who make the same old annual N.Y. resolutions (because they haven't been successful yet. These are the ones whose resolutions probably weren't too realistic in the first place.) But I'd like to put the question before our young people, out of a real concern: What do You look forward to in the new year and why, is serious 'food-for-thought. And one last thing: New Beginnings don't just have to come every January 1st. It can be the 1st of any given month; next Monday; 'tomorrow' or RIGHT NOW! I want to change my attitude against the 'negatives' or fears in my life. I want a new walk; a clean slate; a fresh start. (You're in the right place!)

Submitted by  
Delores Norman

Stamp



BETHESDA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
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# HOLY CONVOCATION



## "On Time Every Time"

January 4th - 8th  
7:00 PM

Broadcasting live on both

 **facebook** @BethesdaChristianFellowship1

 **YouTube** Bethesda Christian Fellowship

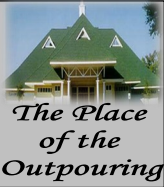
**BETHESDA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
Pastor Kenneth C. Doe, D.Min





# The Bethesda Herald

A Ministry of Bethesda Christian Fellowship



From the Pastor's Desk

*Then It Came To Me...*  
"Excelling In Attitude" - an ongoing profession." Well, we bless God for another day. This day, whatever day it is, brings opportunities to enjoy affirming, growing and maturing in our relationships with God through Christ. Every tomorrow brings these opportunities afresh. So, every tomorrow becomes a fresh "today" for excelling in joy and gladness.

We recently received the message, "Excelling In Attitude." Subsequent to delivering that message, our Lord impressed upon me the need to follow up. In other words, more needs to be said to help lock this into our spirits. Let us recall how Luke 24:49-53 describes the Ascension of our Lord after instructing that the disciples tarry in Jerusalem for empowerment. We see the attitude of these disciples. "They worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy" (verse 52). In His physical absence they blessed Him for who He is. One might think that in the absence of the Jesus of history, the physical man, they might fall apart. Not so!! His ascension just completed the revelation of His prophecy about what would happen to Him. You and I have the benefit of this infallible written record. So, the joy of the disciples is a joy we share in verse fifty-three tells us that this was no temporary, momentary, fleeting emotion. That verse says, "And (they) were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen." They were practicing "Excelling In Attitude." So should you and I.

"Then, Acts 2:46-47 provides a window for viewing and understanding some vital attitude matters about the early Church. These Christians did, daily, maintain certain practices and attitudes that proved to be their very lifeline. In the temple and from home to home, they fellowshiped. They needed one another and used one another for support and understanding. These verses reveal these attitudes: gladness and singleness of heart.

"Excelling in Attitude," these Christians lived in a seedbed of praise and thanksgiving

which fostered healthy relationships among them and with their God. "Excelling In Attitude" put them in places that pleased God and prompted Him to bless them." Should we imitate and emulate these disciples and early Church saints? Certainly!! The Word of God cannot be solely historical. It is alive today. It is empowering today. It is for saints, today. Should we resign ourselves to simply taking what the devil dishes up? Certainly not!! That would mean our good days are few and fleeting, while our bad days are numerous and enduring. I say "no" to that. I say we must learn and live the Word of God, trusting the promise of Him who came "that we might have life more abundantly" (John 10:10). Let us engage this matter of "Excelling In Attitude" by obeying Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, THINK ON THESE THINGS."

Shalom, my Friends,  
Pastor Kenneth Doe

## CHURCH'S MISSION STATEMENT AND VISION REVISITED

Our church's Mission Statement and Vision are shared again in this issue. The beginning of the calendar year seems an appropriate time to focus on these matters. Any Christian church or fellowship must have a clear, Holy Bible generated Mission Statement. This might be compared to the heart in the human body or the engine in an automobile. It is most essential. The Mission Statement is the general, over-arching goal of the church.

The Vision might be called the meat on the bones. The Vision includes those particular matters (Visions) that the Lord wills for that church to embrace in fulfilling its goal. The function of every branch of ministry in our church must be rooted in this church's

Mission Statement and Vision. There are to be no independent satellites in the local church. So, while each ministry works out its particular function through those called or given to that work, all of the parts are integral to the one body. Prayerfully read and be joined (again) with these critical components of our church.

## BETHESDA'S MISSION STATEMENT

As a Christian fellowship, we seek to fulfill the biblical mandate to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the world. It is our sincere intent to participate with the Lord in the salvation of the lost, the reclaiming of backsliders, the maturing of our fellowship, and serving as "salt and light" in our community and the world.

As agents for God in His reconciling purpose for the world, we are committed to exploring in depth the theological bases the Holy Bible offers for Christian World Mission. In pursuing this, we affirm the relatedness of the church's Mission to every phase of life and work of the church.

Consequently, it is imperative that the entire congregation be involved in our Church's Mission. We engage to maintain an effective education program regarding this mission.

\*cf. **Matthew 28:19-20, 4:19; Mark 1:17; Acts 1:8, 2:38; II Corinthians 5:17-21; Ephesians 2:13-22**

## GOD'S VISION FOR BETHESDA

"Without a Vision, the People Perish" (Proverbs 29:18) With a view toward understanding the VISION proper, it seems wise and necessary to express the connection between our church's mission statement and "God's Vision" for this house. The mission statement is the over-arching, general expression of God's will for this church. Evangelism - the making of disciples, Christian Education - providing sound biblical teaching for sustaining and maturing in the Lord, and an on-going openness to the continual move of the Spirit of God as revealed in His Word, provide the understanding, the

umbrella under which the Lord orchestrates specific directives to individual churches and ministries. So, in the local church, the instructions/directives given by the Lord through the Pastor constitute God's VISION for that local assembly. The VISION, while specific, does not necessarily include every step in bringing forth each aspect of the VISION. Many things are worked out among church leadership and the congregation

In the VISION, the Lord gives the rallying point (s) around which all believers in that church are to convene. So, through God's sovereign will, He orders the steps of each believer (Psalm 37:23) to participate in His plan (VISION) for that place. Here is an illustration that may better express or clarify the source and function of the VISION.

It is the Lord who takes His leader for that fellowship to that certain place. Here, that leader is shown "the way" to heaven, our destination. Between where that fellowship stands and its destination, the Lord reveals His will for those certain ministries that this church must implement, support, and/or work out. This revelation of specifics (the VISION) is a direct fleshing out of those general affirmations of the church's Mission Statement.

Also, the Lord's revelation of His VISION for that house need not include every matter between the present and destiny. After all, seasons of ministry change. The work of one season should set the framework for the VISION for the next.

So, accurate assessment of the VISION for the present age bridges from those ministries already functioning through those being called forth into existence.

The next article in this series will give an overview of existing ministries as well as those being called into existence by our Lord. This article and the next share a comprehensive understanding of where we have been brought and where the Lord is taking us (the VISION).

We are careful to remember that all Glory, Honor, and Praise belong to our Lord alone. While encouraged and humbled by His Grace and Mercy, we are "Walking in Excellence."

## Fulfilling Our Mission and Vision Through Ministries

Seeking to understand God's unfolding plan for our church family, we build on the Mission and Vision Statements offered earlier. How are those general sentences of the Mission Statement and the more specific assignments of the Vision being fleshed out among us? It would probably help if we would consult the last issue of The Herald and acquaint ourselves with these important items.

This issue shares a list of ministries currently in operation. Please know that individual or group listings do not necessarily reflect all items or acts of ministry occurring in that ministry. This list gives indications of the parameter or scope of ministries we are currently effecting. During future issues individual ministries will be highlighted. We, as members of the family or fellowship of believers, must continue to seek ways and be open to the leading of our LORD concerning ministries. Through dedicated Godly leaders, committed followers/participants, commitment to the ongoing maturing of our fellowship, and relentless dedication to sharing the gospel message locally and abroad, we remain ready to hear and heed the voice of God. We remain consistently involved in becoming all He desires us to be. So, those ministries already listed are the core of current involvement. We must know, though, that our LORD'S Vision for this house continues to be revealed.

Our LORD desires the completion of our next phase of building. This facility, whether it is called a family life center, activities center or whatever, will permit much ministry development. Consider this: Bethesda Academy, a graded school, will be housed; an industrial kitchen, supporting the school and other community outreach, will be included; our physical plant could then support clothing storage and a food pantry; seniors of our fellowship and community could enjoy a meeting space; afterschool programs will be housed; health and vision screenings for the young and old could be accommodated; children and seniors in need could

receive grooming perks with our blessings. The possibilities continue to flow. Some of these things will begin in our current plant. We will soon develop and initiate a "weekend hotline." This will be a resource for teens who may be out and about, finding themselves in need of counsel. "The last stop" ministry will offer compassion, the gospel, and a snack to those in the streets who need and desire to clarify things before going home. Also, the LORD desires us to be a location offering Bible College and Seminary instruction for those desiring and needing it. We must also seek to develop, implement or simply house ministries that focus on helping under-employed persons and single parents needing to improve their employability by gaining skills for better employment. So, you see the future holds much work. What is currently in place is in no way conclusive. We continue to seek God's face concerning new ministries.

Shalom, my Friends  
Pastor Kenneth C. Doe

## Bethesda Ministries

Administration  
Advance Directive ministry  
Altar Workers Ministry  
Audio/Video Ministry  
Bethesda Herald Newsletter  
Bible Study  
Brotherhood  
Deacons Ministry  
Deaconess Ministry  
Episodic Evangelistic Outreach Ministry  
Gospel Drill Team Ministry  
Intercessory Prayer  
Jail and Prison Ministries  
Junior and Senior Praise Dancers  
Kingdom Covenant Ministry  
Kitchen Ministry  
Male Chorus  
Marriage Ministry  
Mime Ministry  
Ministry of the Word (Spoken Word)  
Missionary Ministry  
New Convert/Member Ministry  
Ongoing Community Outreach Ministry  
Scholarship Ministry  
Senior Sanctuary Choir  
Senior Ushers  
Singles Ministry  
Sunbeam Choir  
Sunday School