

February 2018



From the Administrative Bishop Daniel W. Hampton

How To Deal With “Somebody Said... Better Known as Rumors”

It seems that almost every minute or no longer than an hour or so we hear that “somebody said.” Our first response should be: Who is the somebody? Leaks and rumors are a constant focus of the news media, politicians, neighborhoods, school classrooms and sad to say, many times church events. Rumors have a way of getting bigger with the telling. They usually start with “Have you heard” or “Somebody said” which, when we hear those phrases, we should immediately pause and not be so quick to want to know what is about to be told.

I read an article a few days ago in my devotion that was really hard to believe but is factual. The article, by Charles Swindoll, said that Abraham Lincoln’s coffin was pried open twice. The first occasion was in 1887, twenty-two long years after his assassination. Why? You may be surprised to know that it was not to determine if he had died of a bullet fired from John Wilkes Booth’s derringer. Then why? Because a rumor was sweeping the country that his coffin was empty. A select group of witnesses observed that the rumor was totally false, then watched as the casket was resealed with lead.

A second time, fourteen years later, the martyred man’s withered body was viewed *again* — this time by even more witnesses. Why again? For the same grim purpose. Rumors of the same nature had implanted doubts in the public’s mind. The pressure mounted to such proportions, that the same ghoulish, grotesque ceremony had to be carried out. In spite of the strong protest of Lincoln’s son Robert, the body was exposed a second

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& THE TRUTH SHALL
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JOHN 8:31-32
NLT**

time. Officials felt that the rumors should be laid to rest along with the Civil War president. Finally the corpse was permanently embedded in a crypt at Springfield, IL.

How cruel, but you see rumors are like that. Lacking authoritative facts and a direct source, information is loosely disseminated, creating unrest and harm. It is pandered by busybodies who cater to the sick appetite of petty people. Those who feed on rumors are small, suspicious souls. They find satisfaction in trafficking in poor-lit alleys, dropping subtle bombs that explode in others' minds by lighting the fuse of suggestion. They find comfort in being only an "innocent" channel of the unsure information; never the source. *Have you heard....I understand... Did you hear...Someone said...Somebody mentioned...The word is out...It's a concern....* all these statements usually precede or are the opening phrase for some sort of rumor. Remember all it takes to destroy a person's good name and influence is for someone to circulate an unfounded rumor and people to believe it without having the facts.

How should we deal with those who want to spread rumors? Better yet, what does the Bible tell us to do? Get your Bible and read the following Scriptures: Proverbs 10:11-21, Proverbs 15:1-7, James 3:1-12.

1. **Identify sources by name.** If the person will not identify themselves or give the name of the source then refuse to listen.
2. **Support evidence with facts.** Do not accept hearsay. Refuse to listen unless honest-to-goodness truth is being communicated. Truth is rarely veiled or uncertain.
3. **Ask the person "May I quote you?"** It is remarkable how quickly rumor-spreaders can turn four shades of red and equally remarkable is the speed with which they can backpedal.
4. **Openly admit, "I don't appreciate hearing that."** This approach is for the strong. It might drive a wedge between you and the guilty, but it is a sure way to halt the regular garbage delivery to your ears.

My prayer is that each of us will determine to deal only in truth and never be guilty of delivering rumors. John 8:31 & 32 (NLT):

31 "Jesus said to the people who believed in Him, "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. 32 And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

**CAMS & MIP Deadlines
are quickly approaching!**
Any questions can be directed to
Sarita Smith @ 304.252.0622 x1
or sarita@wvcog.com

CAMS Deadline
May 31, 2018

MIP Deadline
June 30, 2018

Pastoral Appointments

Congratulations!
**Bishop Raeford &
Rev. Yvonne Black**
**New Pastors at
Petersburg, WV**

Our Condolences to the families of:

Bishop Phillip Gross
who passed away 1/17/2018
Bishop John Pack
who passed away 1/2/2018
Mary Archer
who passed away 1/2/2018

2018
Women's
Conference

- Downloadable registration forms available on Women's Ministry page www.wvcog.com
- Register online from the Home Page www.wvcog.com



Friday March 16 & Saturday March 17
New River Ministry Center

Special Guest Speaker
Michelle Davenport
City Light Church

Deadline to Register
February 8th!

2018
Women's Conference
Aprons, Armor &
Anointing

"Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."
Ephesians 6:11

Don't miss it! An amazing testimony of hope & healing by Emma Hampton Middlebrooks!



Register Today!!!



Pretty As
A Peacock

Be-YOU-tiful

Camp Meeting 2018
Women's Awards Luncheon
Wednesday June 6, 2018 12:30 pm.

2018
Women's Awards
Luncheon

- Camp Meeting Luncheon
- Downloadable registration forms available on Women's Ministry page www.wvcog.com
- Register online from the Home Page www.wvcog.com

2018 Girls Conference

Don't be Pressed Into the Mold

Romans 12:2 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world..."

<p>Northern Conference February 24th Promise of Victory Church of God Colliers, WV Registration Deadline Feb. 9th</p>	<p>Southern Conference April 14th New River Ministry Center Fayetteville, WV Registration Deadline March 29th</p>
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*Overnight accommodations available for the Southern Conference @ The Lodge (NRMCO)

YWCA 2018
European Renaissance

Sending the Light Across Europe

Recent studies show that the majority of Europe no longer believes that God exists. In a region of the world where in the 18th century much of our theology was written, the light of truth has dimmed to a weak flame. It's time to EMIT THE LIGHT OF JESUS in Europe again!

In keeping with the YWCA Mission and Vision, the 2018 YWCA European Renaissance—Sending the Light Across Europe—will focus on the following areas for potential impact:

- PARTNER with "Send the Light to the Cities" to help establish Ministry Training Centers in the Cities of France & Amsterdam

SAVE THE DATE!

YOUTH CAMP 2018

KIDS CAMP: JUNE 12-15

MIDDLE CAMP: JUNE 18-22

TEEN CAMP: JUNE 25-29

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1ST

Winterfest

SMOKY MOUNTAIN WINTERFEST
MARCH 9-11 | KNOXVILLE, TN

JOHN GRAY, PRESTON CENTUOLO, JIM RALEY, REDDIE ASBELL, PLANET SHAKERS, EDDIE JAMES, ELEVATIO NWORSHIP

mywinterfest.com

Mark Your Calendar

February: Scripture – Psalms 42:1

- 2-4.....Premier Winterfest - Ocean City, MD
- SYNC Retreat - Pigeon Forge, TN
- 16-18.....Wild West Winterfest - Rapid City, SD
- 23.....Youth Rally - New Martinsville COG
- 24.....Northern Girls Conference, Promise of Victory COG

March: Scripture – Ecclesiastes 3:1

- 3.....Youth Rally - West Logan Church of God
- 9-10.....Smoky Mountain Winterfest, Pigeon Forge
- 16-17.....2018 Women's Conference New River Ranch

April: Scripture – John 11:25

- 7.....Youth Rally - Glen White Church of God
- 21.....Youth Rally - Elkins Church of God
- 23-24.....Southern Girls Conference - New River Ranch