

Leading as Christ Led



Administrative Bishop Daniel Hampton

(Matthew 20:25-28) ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

If we want to be the type of leader that Jesus was, there are plenty of examples of how he led and what He said about leading others in scripture, especially the gospels (Paul talks a lot about Jesus’ leadership as well). The scripture above makes it clear that if you want to lead in the Kingdom you must serve. Not serve first, then you earn the right to lead; Biblical leaders continue to serve. A Christlike-leader serves always.

Romans 6:13, “offer yourselves to God” becomes a fixed point to navigate Christian leadership. Giving ourselves to kingdom work becomes exhausting when people continually let us down. That protégé you invested so much in feels called to another ministry. That couple you counseled with for hours on end decides to give up on their marriage. Without even calling you, they file for divorce. That young man from your discipleship class decides he’s not all that sure if there even is a God and stops returning your texts. How do we deal with the frustration and disappointment? Recognize that it is not our responsibility to convict of sin and woo others to Christ. In fact, it’s none of our business! We are not the Holy Spirit. You do not offer yourself to a church, to an institution, or to people. You offer yourself to God. In times of disappointment and betrayal focus on offering yourself to Him and doing the labor (for Him) of fishing for men and making disciples. Overcome the temptation to fix everyone’s problems by taking them to God in prayer. Only He can fix them anyway.

There is a story told of a fisherman who bought a new compass. Excitedly, he fastened it to the front of his boat and set off into the ocean, beyond sight of land. After a full day he decided to head home following his new compass. After an hour or so, he knew he should be able to see the shore, yet there he was surrounded by waves on a clear day. As he saw the sun begin to set in front of him instead of off his left shoulder he realized the compass was leading him west instead of north. He knew the compass worked when he bought it; what had gone wrong? When he got home he unscrewed the compass and it immediately shifted. Only then did he realize that the screw he had mounted the compass with was magnetized. It would always point north no matter which way he was going.

Besides trying to fix everyone's problems and be there for everyone, the biggest challenge Christian leaders face is their own strength. We can be so persuasive that we convince ourselves! Take time periodically to check and make sure you are listening to God's voice and following Him. Make sure that you aren't just chasing after what you want. In John 21, Jesus told Peter that he would be led where he did not want to go. How many of us are led away from success? When was the last time you followed the voice of God when you knew it would mean rejection and persecution? For many reading this, it has been recently. Take some time today to check and make sure. Even Jesus frequently took time to retreat to a mountain to pray.

In Philippians 2 and 3 Paul shows us how Jesus led and lived. Paul makes it clear that he has the most to boast of, if anyone thinks they should boast. In fact, he gives us his resume.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

⁷But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

But he has told us that Jesus was not interested in any of that. In fact, he shows us that the way up is down. He lists the humbling steps Jesus took, one after the other to go down toward service. He became a servant, made himself nothing. A human! Humbled himself. Submitted to death – even death of the lowest kind, a cross.

Leading like Jesus led means stepping out of our own desire to fix everyone and instead leave it in the hands of the Holy Spirit. It means being a servant. And it means stepping aside occasionally to check that our compass is following Him. My prayer for you is that God will help you lean on Him to do what He has called you to do. The one who calls you is faithful, and He will do it! (1 Thess. 5:24)



Bill Woodruff
Youth and USA Missions Director
West Virginia Church of God

Congratulations

PASTORAL APPOINTMENT
HERBY PRUITT
MAN CHURCH OF GOD

Sincere Condolences

TO THE FAMILIES OF

JOHN DEMOREST
RETIRED MINISTER
JULY 13, 2021

FRAN MATTHEWS

WIDOW OF RETIRED MINISTER
C.T. MATHEWS
AUGUST 2, 2021

VIRGINIA BARKER
PASTOR EDDIE BARKER'S WIFE
BURNSVILLE CHURCH OF GOD
AUGUST 15, 2021

Senior Adult Day 2021

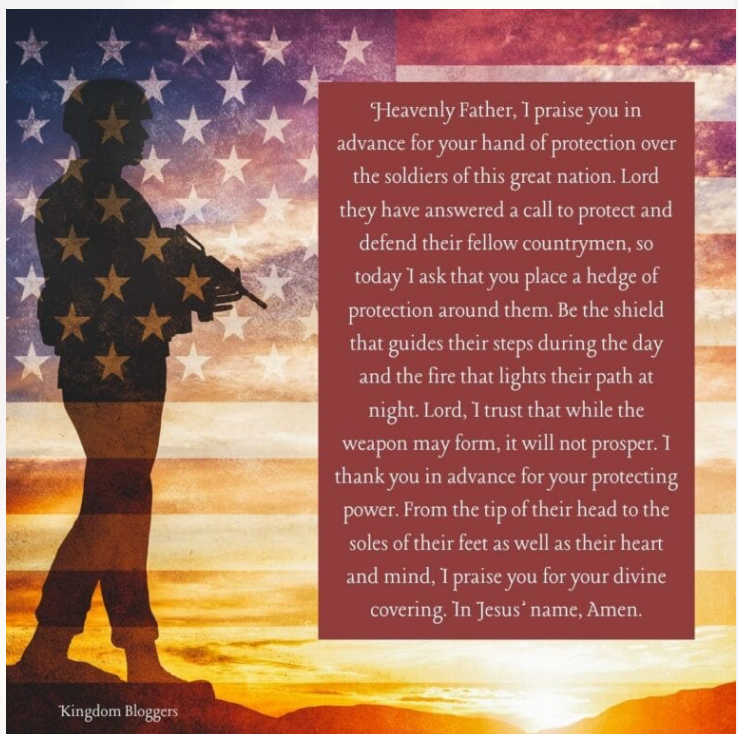
Due to the increase in Covid cases

**USA Missions Director Bishop Bill Woodruff
and the USA Missions Board have made the
decision to cancel the event for this year.**



Pastor Appreciation 2021

Honor your Pastor
in October



Heavenly Father, I praise you in advance for your hand of protection over the soldiers of this great nation. Lord they have answered a call to protect and defend their fellow countrymen, so today I ask that you place a hedge of protection around them. Be the shield that guides their steps during the day and the fire that lights their path at night. Lord, I trust that while the weapon may form, it will not prosper. I thank you in advance for your protecting power. From the tip of their head to the soles of their feet as well as their heart and mind, I praise you for your divine covering. In Jesus' name, Amen.

SEPTEMBER PRAYER INITIATIVE

Cleveland, TN—Dr. Timothy M. Hill, General Overseer of the Church of God, has issued a call to prayer for the month of September.

“With our nation and world facing multiple challenges and needs, I am strongly compelled of the Holy Spirit to announce a month-long call to prayer and fasting throughout the Church of God,” Hill stated.

Starting Wednesday, September 1 and going through the entire month, the daily event will tag on to the call for prayer launched in October 2019 called #WEPRAYCOG.

“Each day at noon Eastern time, with the exception of Sundays, I am inviting our church family and friends to join us on Church of God social media platforms for an inspirational time of scripture and prayer,” Hill continued. “During the first week, the Executive Committee of the Church of God will lead the daily five-minute prayer times. Afterwards, other state and regional leaders will be offering scripture, prayers, and petitions for a world that desperately needs healing and salvation.”

“I encourage you to join me and Paula on September 1 at 12:00 pm ET, as we kick off this next phase of #WEPRAYCOG. I look forward to seeing you then.”

The prayer calls will be available on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @COGHQ.

The Church of God State Office Staff is praying for each Pastor, Pastor's Wife, Minister and Lay member, and attender of our churches, that God will provide and keep you and your families safe during this time.

Mountaineer Ministries Prayer Requests:

(these requests come from the white envelope enclosed)

Our country; Our President and State Leaders; Military; Health Care Professionals; Health and Wellness; Finances; Jobs; Marriages; Family; The Church; A miracle healing for Joshua; Healing from complications of Covid; Husband who is lost; Drug Addiction; My grandchildren; A church member with cancer; God to save my daughter; Our home; God's direction; Children and Teachers; God's spirit to saturate our city.

Mountaineer Ministries Praise Reports:

(these reports come from the white envelope enclosed)

My pastor and wife; God's healing touch;
My home; A country we are free to worship in; God moving in our church;
Seeing souls saved and restored;
People returning to church; Protecting my children;

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT AN UPCOMING EVENT,
NEED AN APPLICATION, OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

YOU CAN CONTACT US OR RECEIVE INFORMATION IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS.

PHONE: 304-252-0622 FAX: 304-252-0665 WEB: WWW.WVCOG.COM
FACEBOOK: WEST VIRGINIA CHURCH OF GOD STATE OFFICE (CLEVELAND, TN)
EMAIL: YOUTHSEC@WVCOG.COM
MAIL: PO BOX 2374 BECKLEY, WV 25801

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 6, 2021 WVCOG STATE OFFICE CLOSED

~~OCTOBER 2, 2021 SENIOR ADULT DAY (CANCELED)~~