

For the past several days I have been praying and asking the Lord for His direction in this New Year. With everything we have experienced this last year and beyond, I believe it is time to focus on the strength that comes from above. We have been so affected by all the so called experts and the varying opinions on how to live our lives through these tumultuous times that there is more confusion than assurance. You listen to one expert and get their advice and no sooner do they finish and another so called expert gives a total opposite opinion. That leaves all of us more confused and in doubt than confident we are on the right track.

There is one thing I am certain of and that is, the God we serve in not confused or dismayed. As I have spent much time in prayer and study of the Word of God asking for answers, I am more assured now than ever before our God is able to give the strength and ability to overcome whatever we may go through.

While I was reading the book of Isaiah, and when I got to chapter 40, it was as if the Lord gave me the theme for us this year. The prophet spoke about holiness, punishment, salvation, the coming Messiah and hope. All through this book you find the promise of our King, Jesus Christ. Yes, it seemed at times there was no hope or rescue anywhere in sight as the prophet spoke the word of the Lord, but then all at once hope arose and the victory was accomplished. As you read this book and observe all that was going on, I want you to notice how God intervened every time when the people returned to Him and repented of their wrongs. When the prophet would tell them of the judgement that was coming it appeared as though those words fell on deaf ears for a period of time, but there came a day of reckoning. Repentance ensued and victory prevailed.

I want to encourage you to read Isaiah and pay special attention to chapter 40. In the previous chapters, especially chapter 38, Hezekiah had been given a death sentence by Isaiah who visited him and told him to set

his affairs in order for you are going to die. "You will not recover from this illness." We would call that a **bad** diagnosis. Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, "Remember, O Lord, how I have always been faithful to you and have served you single-mindedly always doing what pleases you." Then he broke down and wept bitterly. Then this message came to Isaiah from the Lord. Go back to Hezekiah and tell him, "This is what the Lord, the God of your ancestor David, says: "I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. I will add fifteen years to your life, and I will rescue you and this city from the king of Assyria. Yes, I will defend this city."

Could it be, with all we have gone through over this past year or so; **IF we**, as His people, would turn our face toward heaven and pray intently with tears of repentance we could receive the word of promise from the Lord?

Some scholars believe that Hezekiah may have written the 40<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah. As you read that chapter, pay special attention the word **strength** as God assures us of **Strength to go through.** Also, read Psalm 40 and look carefully at verse 16 (NLT); "But may all who search for you be filled with joy and gladness in you. May those who love your salvation repeatedly shout, "The Lord is Great!"

I want to assure you today there is strength to go through whatever you may face in this New Year; **IF**, we will cry out to Him in sincere fervent prayer. Twenty-twenty two is the year we need to shout aloud with a strong voice, we have the strength to go through because the "Lord is Great."

Congratulations Ordained Minister Eric Bias Brittney Bias

Congratulations Exhorter's License Brian Arnett

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## Sincere Condolences To the Families of

Edith Collins Widow of Retired Minister Ira Collins June 26, 2021

> **George Garner** Retired Evangelist November 23, 2021

JULIA ELLIS (PINKY) Wife of Clifford Ellis Pastor Ferrellsburg Church of God December 11,2021

God Bless You In The New Year

For I know the plans for you, declares the lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Jeremiah 29:11

Winterfest

Registration is still open for Premier Winterfest in Ocean City, Maryland and Smoky Mountain Winterfest in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. If you need to register visit <u>mywinterfest.org</u>.

Goyous

PRAYER CONFERENCE FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER

> February 20-22

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

JANUARY 28-30 PREMIER WINTERFEST OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND FEBRUARY 4-6 SMOKY MOUNTAIN WINTERFEST PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE FEBRUARY 20-22 PRAYER CONFERENCE FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER MARCH 3-5 INTL. CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CONFERENCE MARCH 11-12 KIDS ADVENTURE DAY/JR TALENT NEW RIVER RANCH APRIL 8-9 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER APRIL 29-MAY 1 SMOKY MOUNTAIN KIDFEST APRIL 22-24 MASON, OHIO KIDFEST

#### 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

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; Kidney's and heart; Salvation for lost family and our nation; Daughter who is lost; My Grandchildren; Breathing issues; Healing from cancer; Sick friends and family; Daughter's surgery; Special request; Revival; Many who need a healing touch; For God to protect my children.

## **Mountaineer Ministries Praise Reports:**

(these reports come from the white envelope enclosed) My family; My pastor; God is great; God answering prayers; No cancer God sending someone to help when needed; The church; Prayers answered; His Love so, so, sweet;; Financial blessing; Three being baptized; The children in our church; Being well enough to go to church; Protecting my children; My car; A place to live and food to eat.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER 16- JANUARY 1 STATE OFFICE CLOSED FEBRUARY 20-22 PRAYER CONFERENCE FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER MARCH 11-12 KIDS ADVENTURE DAY/JR TALENT NEW RIVER RANCH APRIL 8-9 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER