

Help across the finish line



Administrative Bishop Daniel Hampton



**Youth and Discipleship Director
Bishop Bill Woodruff**

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. – 2 Timothy 4:7

In the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Derek Redmond had already posted the fastest time in the first round of heats for the 400-meter sprint. He held the British record in the event and was expected to compete strongly for a medal that year. He had been part of the British 4x400 relay team that had shocked the favored American team the year before in the World Championships. In the back stretch Redmond fell to the ground in pain, having torn his hamstring. As the stretcher team ran out, Redmond stood to his feet and began hobbling toward the finish line. In an emotional moment, his father, Jim, broke through security and helped his son finish the race, slinging Derek's arm over his shoulder. Redmond officially received a "Did Not Finish" for the race, but everyone in that stadium knew that he had done much more than finish; he had shown a tenacity that has inspired now for thirty years. The world saw a demonstration of how a father can carry a child through adversity. And he crossed the finish line despite the official ruling.

There are so many takeaways for us in this story. First of all, the Woodruff's are approaching the finish line of our time in West Virginia. We have enjoyed our time here thoroughly and cherish the friendships gained. Many of you have helped carry us in the time we have been here. My dad was military and combining that with our ministerial journey, I have lived in nine states. Many people have asked me, "where is your favorite place?" I usually reply that everywhere we have gone I have found a favorite place. In West Virginia we have found many favorite places. Some of those have been in cabins in the mountains. Some of those have been in some of your churches and homes. No doubt the New River Ministry Center and Campground ranks high. You have been so kind to our family, and we thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve this great state. My youngest child was 4 months old when we moved here six years ago, and my oldest is graduating from High School here. This is the only place all three of my kids will remember as "home".

A second takeaway from this story is the parallel to how our heavenly Father carries us in difficult times. The poem "Footprints in the Sand" is a great picture of God's care for us. This month we will celebrate Father's Day. You may not have a great example of a father to look up to, but God cares for you enough to break through the barricades and lift you up to overcome. Do not be discouraged! Do not give up. Don't let the world write you off as a "Did Not Finish". The cares of this world beat on our doors more than ever before. Distractions, anxiety, and confusion seem to reign in our culture. But God reigns over all, and puts all under His feet. If He is carrying us, it is under our feet as well.

Finally, there is a generation coming behind you that faces more blatant attacks than ever before. The enemy has been subtle for a long time, but it seems that he is coming out of the shadows. The church seems hamstrung by bad press and pandemic. The youth of our nation are being loaded onto stretchers and removed from the eternal pilgrimage. Someone needs to burst through the barricades of a culture that would prevent us from being involved to help them. We need to bear them up on our shoulders. We need to carry them across the finish line. You may not feel like you understand this generation. You can't keep up with the jargon they use and technology they employ. Jim Redmond was never as fast as his Olympian son Derek. He was a little long in the tooth and round in the middle, but he had what it took to carry his son. Our camps begin June 13th. We need you to help us. You can volunteer. If you don't think you can keep up as a cabin leader, you can help in the concession stand or kitchen. It's still hard work, but you don't have to know what "drip" is. If you can't volunteer, we need you to recruit. 125 students were saved at camp last year, and 153 received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Get the kids associated with your church to camp. Even if they've never been in the doors of your church, let camp be their on-ramp to a relationship with Jesus. We would also love it if you could sponsor a child to go to camp. It is my desire that no student ever misses out on this transformational encounter due to a lack of funds. Most of all you can pray for the greatest encounter we've ever experienced.

Thank you again for your kindness to my family and support of the vital projects and programs of the Youth and Discipleship Department. We love you, West Virginia!

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



TEEN CAMP JUNE 13-17
AGES 14-19

MIDDLE CAMP JUNE 20-24
AGES 11-13

KIDS CAMP JUNE 27-30
AGES 6-10

PREPARED USEFUL STRATEGIC

It's not too late to sign up for camp. Go to our website at WVCOG.COM. You can download and print a paper application or you can sign up online. We are also still looking for staff volunteers, applications are online. If you have any questions please feel free to give us a call at 304-252-0622 ext 3.

“Strength to go Through in 2022”

West Virginia Church of God

Camp Meeting June 5-9

Sunday 6:00 pm Monday - Thursday 10:00 am and 7:00 pm

Family Worship Center 224 Pinewood Dr. Beckley, WV



Sincere Condolences
TO THE FAMILY OF
PAUL KAMMER, PASTOR AT
FOUNDATIONS CHURCH OF GOD
&
TO THE FAMILY OF
QUINTON WEAVER JR.
HUSBAND OF SARAH WEAVER
ORDAINED MINISTER

CAMS & MIP

Registration deadline for the 2022-2023 class is June 30, 2022. Please go to wvcog.com/cams-mip for more information, or call the State Office at 304-252-0622 ext 1 and ask for Sarita.

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; Son's marriage; My lost children;
Test results to come back negative; My marriage; Sickness;
My daughters heart problems; Marriage to be restored; My home;
God's will in my life; A new car; To get off some medicine's

Mountaineer Ministries Praise Reports:

(these reports come from the white envelope enclosed)

My home; The church; A pastor who cares; God healing my body of sickness;
God saving lost souls; My job; God's hand on my life;
Feeling God's presence; Positive test results; My children;
Saving my daughter; Financial Blessings; Protecting my children;
Living in a free country; A place to live and food to eat. My family;
My church's food pantry; God sending our church a Pastor

Please continue to check our Facebook pages and Website for updated information.

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 25802

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE 5-9 CAMP MEETING FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER

JUNE 13-17 TEEN CAMP

JUNE 20-24 JR CAMP

JUNE 27-30 KIDS CAMP

JULY 25-29 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SAN ANTONIO, TX