

# Strong & Courageous (Awakening to Greater Things)



**Administrative Bishop Daniel Hampton**

*In discussion with Pastor Randy Bowles, a few weeks ago about our current state of affairs, I asked him to write an article for the Mountaineer Ministries Newsletter. What a truthful and encouraging article it is. I know you will be strengthened and encouraged by it. Daniel W. Hampton*

As we have entered into the third millennium of history we have witnessed significant shifts in the moral and spiritual fabric of our world and our nation. These shifts have prompted varied responses from the church as a whole. The responses have been all over the emotional spectrum from anger and outrage to disappoint and discouragement. However, this past year has revealed maybe the two most alarming responses, those being exhaustion and fear.

These particular responses are the signs that we are on the verge of something GREAT! I know that may seem crazy to even think or even greater have the audacity to declare it. However if we have learned anything from history we should know that when things look the bleakest is when the power of heaven is most evident.

Take for instance the children of Israel who had forfeited the Promise of God because they were tired & afraid. Their exhaustion and fear prevented them from believing in the Promise of God. That's the thing about exhaustion and fear; they have the ability to skew and distort our view of reality. I mean think about it: Moses sends 12 spies to search out the Promise Land and they each saw the same thing. They saw a land flowing with milk and honey. They saw the overwhelming production of the fertile soil of the land with its fruits, vegetables and pristine landscape conducive to raising massive amounts of livestock. That was the reality however, exhaustion and fear distorted the view of the promise. Only two men (Joshua & Caleb) had a clear vision of the promise.

After looking at the lives of these two men there are two significant attributes that were present that every circumstance and situation were filtered through. They were STRENGTH & COURAGE! These attributes were not anchored in their ability but rather in the authority and ability of their GOD! Sometimes when we are surrounded by exhaustion and fear we can begin to lose sight of the promises of God. It is in this moment we must remember the "WHO" not the "WHAT". We have to make a decision to not look at what we are surrounded by but rather remember who has surrounded us.

Neither Joshua or Caleb were focused on the what but the who and they made a choice to set their gaze on the glory and power of the one who had led them through the wilderness. They had seen the provision and protection of the Father and their history with him became their wellspring of STRENGTH & COURAGE!

In fact it was the posture of heart that became the key to the awakening of an entire generation to the reality of the promise of God. Joshua and Caleb had traveled in circles in the wilderness while a generation of people who allowed exhaustion and fear to cause them to reject the promise of God perished. While one generation's mindset was perishing a new generation was arising. A generation where many were too young to be cognizant of the mindset of the past and were primed and ready for the promise.

God himself invokes the necessary attitude of this new generation by first issuing the challenge to its new leader Joshua. In Joshua 1:6-9 NLT God declares: <sup>6</sup> "Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. <sup>7</sup> Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. <sup>8</sup> Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. <sup>9</sup> This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

These instructions would be the key to leading a generation into the promise of God. He gives a command to be:

- Strong - to take hold of or hold on to
- Courageous - to be alert or resolute

After all of these years the face and names have changed, but I'm confident there are many Joshuas & Calebs who in this season of exhaustion and fear simply need to be REMINDED to be STRONG & COURAGEOUS! May we arise in the strength and courage of our God walking in obedience and faithfulness. May we know that our God is with us, and if He is with us the PROMISE will not allude us.

As you who are reading this are keenly aware the Promise of "greater" things has been declared by Jesus himself to his church in John 14:12-14 NLT says: <sup>12</sup> *"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. <sup>13</sup> You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. <sup>14</sup> Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!"*

The rumblings of awakening are already here. Revival is stirring around the world and in our nation. As we stand in the Father's Strength & Courage and align our hearts with the promise of our savior there is nothing that can stop Him from awakening His church to greater things! Exhaustion and Fear are bowing to the Strength and Courage of a Generation awakening to the promise of greater things! So I say to the exhaustion and fear facing us as leaders you are defeated because we are the generation that was made for greater things!

Bishop P. Randall Bowles  
Lead Pastor Oceana Church of God

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



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**PASTORAL APPOINTMENT**  
CHARLES HENRY  
PIEDMONT CHURCH OF GOD  
MAY 1, 2021

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**EXHORTERS LICENSURE**  
JASON BLANKENSHIP  
JOHN HARTLEY  
CARRIE HEAVENER  
DANIEL HEAVENER  
JARED MITCHEM  
GLEN ROMANS

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**MINISTER OF MUSIC/  
EXHORTERS LICENSURE**  
REBECCA BLANKENSHIP  
JENNIFER HARTLEY

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**ORDAINED BISHOP**  
JOE AKERS



**REMINDER:**  
**CAMS AND MIP**  
**DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THE**  
**UPCOMING CLASSES**  
**JUNE 30, 2021**  
**ANY QUESTIONS**  
**CONTACT**  
**SARITA @ 304-252-0622**

**OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILIES OF**

**LINDA BOWLES - WIFE OF RETIRED MINISTER PHILIP BOWLES,**  
**MOTHER OF REV. TERESA ADAMS AND PASTOR P. RANDALL BOWLES 4/1/2021**

**DONNA CRADDOCK - WIFE OF RETIRED MINISTER JOHNNY CRADDOCK 4/10/2021**

**CAMP MEETING**

**JUNE 6-10 @FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER 224 PINWOOD DR. BECKLEY WV**

**MORE INFORMATION ENCLOSED**

**The Church of God State Office Staff are 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; God's hand of protection; Students, Teachers and Staff at Schools; A miracle healing for Joshua; Upcoming surgery; Lost family; My neighbor's son; Need a job; Drug addiction; Looking for a new home; Retired Minister's; Family mourning the loss of loved one; Pregnant daughter; For depression; God to move on my daughter's heart; Our home to be a home that honors God.

### **Mountaineer Ministries Praise Reports:**

(these reports come from the white envelope enclosed)

My healing; Being saved; Church opening back up; My neighbor; Saving my husband; My Church; A financial blessing; New job; A healing touch from God; My Pastor and First Lady; God's protection; My friends and family.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR 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**

PLEASE NOTE THAT WITH THE CURRENT COVID-19 SITUATION THESE DATES ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

<b>MAY 17</b>	<b>JR. &amp; TEEN TALENT (SUBMISSION DEADLINE)</b>
<b>MAY 31</b>	<b>STATE OFFICE CLOSED</b>
<b>JUNE 6-10</b>	<b>CAMP MEETING</b>
<b>JUNE 14-18</b>	<b>TEEN CAMP</b>
<b>JUNE 21-25</b>	<b>JR. CAMP</b>
<b>JUNE 28-JULY 1</b>	<b>KIDS CAMP</b>