



THE TRUE WITNESS

ON-LINE

January 2016

Sister Vernell Turner, Editor

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Associate Editor

Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas, Incorporated

Page



**Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God
of the Americas, Incorporated**

Bishop Patrick L. Frazier Jr., 1st Episcopal, Chairman Prelate

Bishop Johnnie L. Davis, 2nd Episcopal

Bishop Alonzo L. Rodgers, 3rd Episcopal

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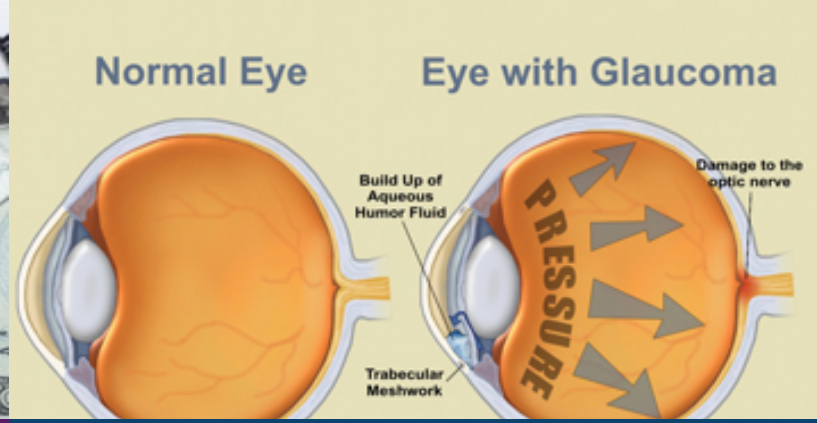
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Happy New Year!

Praise the Lord for His many blessings unto us! I am grateful for another year & another chance to set and reach my goals. I think goals are important. Once you set a goal you have to make a plan. The goal describes "what" and the plan describes "how". I love it when the Lord allows my plans to materialize.

What goals have you set for yourself this year? Have you consulted the Lord concerning your plans to reach them? God can turn your dreams into realities. If you align your goals and your life with the Word of God, you will be successful. God keeps His promises. Consider the following scriptures:

"But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Psalm 37:4

Don't just drift through time. Don't be defeated by the cares of life. It's uncertain what this year holds, but we know who holds the future. If we hide our lives in Christ and the Word of God, we will be victorious.

I appreciate each contributor to this publication.

-Vernell Turner

"But ye shall receive power; after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in Judea, and in Sumaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth."

Acts 1:8

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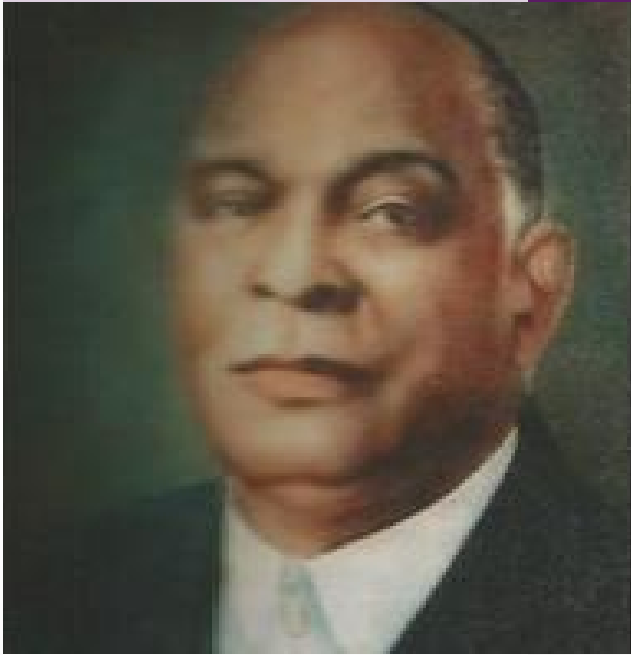
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**Bishop William
Edward Fuller Sr.**

OUR FOUNDER'S BIRTHDAY

January 29, 1875



Each January we celebrate the birthday of Bishop William Edward Fuller Sr. who is the Founder of our church, the Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas, Incorporated.

Bishop Fuller was born on January 29, 1875 in Mountville, South Carolina to George & Martha Fuller.

In 1897 he began to read a circular paper titled, "The Way of Faith". He read about a man who was sanctified in Iowa and baptized by the Holy Ghost and fire in Nebraska. Not too long after that, he went to lay out a baseball diamond and upon leaving this job he again went to the corn field and agonized until he was baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire, not even knowing where it was spoken of in the Bible.

He also read in this paper that the Fire Baptized Holiness Association was meeting in Anderson, South Carolina on August 1, 1898. He borrowed his

brother-in-law's wagon, hitched up his old grey mule, and according to his words:

"I drove forty-five miles from Mountville to Anderson and got there just about dark. On my way to the tent I heard them singing and shouting, I took off my neck tie and threw it into the ditch (did not put on another neck-tie for as long as he lived), and I ran the rest of the way because I was in such a hurry to get there and I didn't want to miss anything. It was there that I found my crowd. They preached against all worldliness. I testified to how I had come over, and kissed and hugged the saints. There was some colored ministers standing around who begged me not to join, but I stepped out like Abraham, not knowing where I was going but believing that God would bless me."

Brother Fuller joined the church and was ordained at the same meeting by B.H. Irvin, J.H. King, S.J. Mackleroy, and Brother Craft. He was the only black man in the "crowd".

Bishop returned home and gave up his membership, class leadership, and his local licence in the Methodist Church. Ridiculed by his brother-in-law, friends, and acquaintances, he went out on his own with two (2) members – his Aunt Caroline and Sister Williams who lived in Clinton, South Carolina. Each week he walked 9 miles from Mountville to Clinton to have service with Sister Williams. They declared to the other – "I'm in the Way. I'm Fire Baptized.", then hug each other and shout together, praising the Lord. Afterwards, he would walk back to Mountville.

Our founder led the Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas for 60 years. An old-time favorite hymn – "A charge to keep I have, A God to glorify; A never-dying soul to save – And fit it for the sky" became his "cloud by day" and his "pillar of fire by night". By these oft sung words he traversed the time-worn bridge from earthly labor to reward on January 20, 1958.

You can read a more detailed version of his biography on our website at www.fbhchurch.org/religious-education/resources.htm

Live Coals

By VERNELL TURNER

In February 2002, Dr. Harold Hunter, Director of International Pentecostal Holiness Church Archives and Research Center, sent me a copy of the January 11, 1905 "Live Coals" news publication of the Fire Baptized Holiness Association.

This issue contained a letter from our founder. I retyped the letter as it appeared in the Live Coals publication.

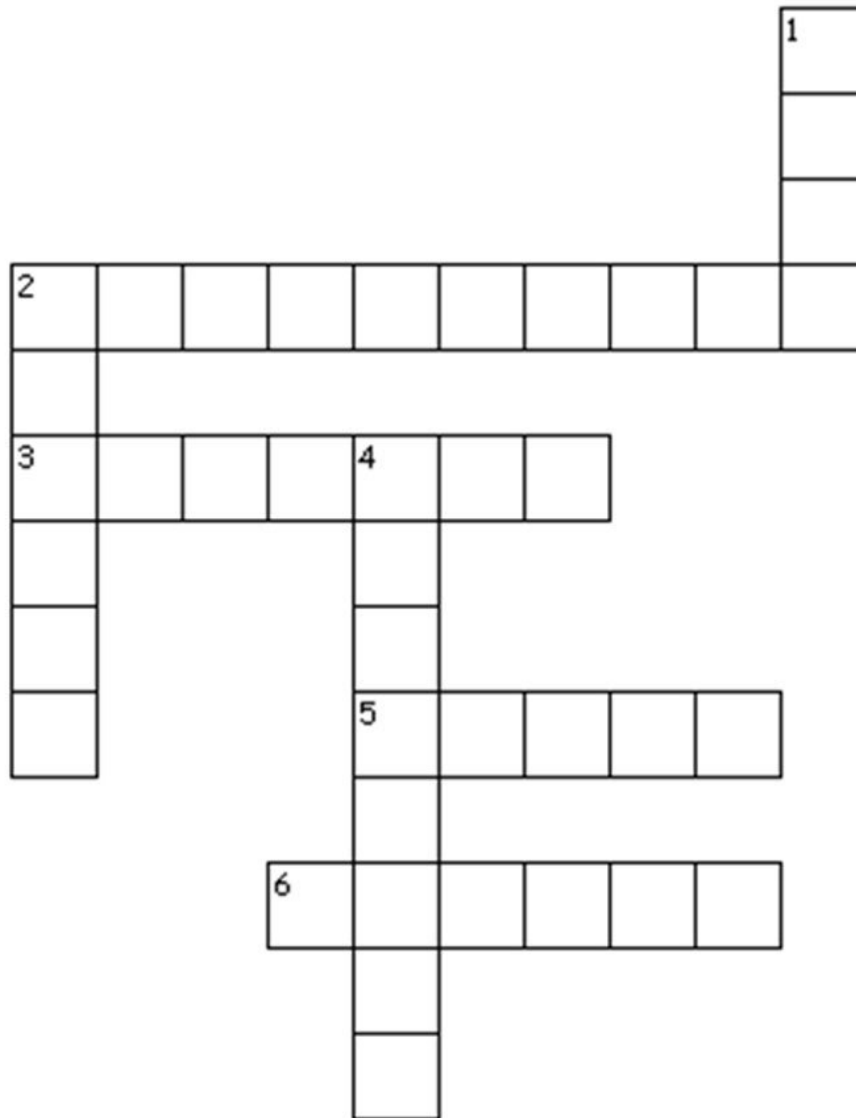
W.E. Fuller's Letter.

God bless Live Coals and all its readers. I want to say to the glory of God that I am still on this blood fire dynamite line. I praise God for the blood that cleans up, the Holy Ghost that fills up, the fire that burns up, and the dynamite that blows up, so I am up above sin, the flesh and the devil, and in this holy war to stand till Jesus comes. The Lord has blessed my labors this year - five hundred or more professed under my preaching. I have organized four colored fire-baptized churches, and the number standing in them at present is as follows: Belton, S.C., 40; Greenville, S.C., 53; Toccoa, Ga., 35; Spartanburg, S.C., 80. So the good work is going on. I want to work in some parts of Mississippi some time next year, and if any of our brethren see an opening down there among my people (colored), write and let me know. A white friend in Toccoa, Ga., gave us a piece of land for a school, on conditions, and that is, if we can arrange to build on it. He says when we get up the funds, and look like we mean business, he will make out the papers to us. I want all LIVE COALS readers to pray for us and the work in regard to this school. Oh, we need one so much for our people. I am asking God to raise up more strong men and women to spread this fiery gospel. I am out and out; what I mean is this, I am against all of these backslidden churches and whiskey-drinking, tobacco-using, gold-wearing, lodge-going, easy-reading, easy-going preachers, and members also, but I am out to spread holiness, and that on fire, and get all these men and women saved I can. Oh, I mean to spread this fire-baptized gospel from the sandy shores of the Atlantic to the slopes of the Rocky Mountains on the Pacific. I am still saved and sanctified, baptized with the Holy Ghost and on my way to the glory world, hallelujah, body healed, looking for the second coming of Jesus. I ask the prayers of all God's children.

Abbeville, S.C., Dec. 18, 1904.

OUR FOUNDER'S BIRTHDAY (continued)

How Much Do You Know About Bishop W.E. Fuller Sr.?



Across

2. His birth City
3. His grandfather's name
5. The number of years he served our church
6. His father's name

Down

1. The number of miles he walked to service each week (1st church)
2. His mother's name
4. The name Aunt Ida called him

OUR FOUNDER'S BIRTHDAY (continued)

How Much Do You Know About Bishop W.E. Fuller Sr.?

Unscramble each of the clue words. Copy the letters in the numbered cells to the other cells with the same number.

DIDELGER

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CLERGY SUCCOR

Restricted & Designated Offerings

By STARTCHURCH.COM

Section 170 of the US Tax Code stipulates that if a person gives an offering/donation to the church, in order to get a tax deduction the giver must relinquish control and allow the church to use it however the church best decides. It is important to know the difference between a restricted offering and a designated offering. Following is a brief explanation of the two types of offerings.

Restricted Offerings

A restricted offering is any offering/donation in which the giver retains control over how the offering/donation is used. Here is an example:

John and Jane Doe make a \$50,000.00 contribution to the church and they stipulate that they want it to be used only for improvements to the children's facilities. Even though the church does not have a special fund for the children's facilities. If the church acknowledges the donor's intent and accepts the donation, Under the law, the church is required to use the money solely as intended by the givers. Additionally, when the church gives the receipt to the givers, the church must clearly mark the receipt as non tax-deductible.

Another type of restricted offering is when a church creates a special program and then raises money for it. When a person gives to that special program, the church is bound to use that money solely for the purposes of that program. Here is an example:

First Church decides to announce that it is going to raise money for an orphanage in South America, which is in need of \$9,000.00. Over the next two months the church leadership announces it from the pulpit, and special offerings are taken up for the orphanage every Sunday. At the end of the two months the church has collected a total of \$7,800.00.

Since the church was already suffering financially, the pastor directs the treasurer to send \$6,000.00 to the orphanage and to apply the remaining \$1,800.00 to desperately needed pastoral salaries.

This is a classic case of misuse of restricted offerings because the church announced to the congregation from the pulpit that the special offerings they were collecting were for a specific purpose.

The use of these offerings is restricted because they were specifically collected for one reason. The church does not have the liberty to use the funds as it wishes.

A New Jersey appeals court in August of 2013 ordered a nonprofit organization to refund \$50,000.00 to a couple who gave a restricted offering. The court also noted that ordering the nonprofit to refund the couple was the most lenient sanction against the nonprofit from a menu that included "breach of fiduciary duty and civil fraud." The same court concluded that when a charity solicits and accepts a gift from a donor, knowing that the donor's expressed purpose for making the gift was to fund a particular aspect of the charity's program, it is bound to return the gift when the charity unilaterally decides not to honor the donor's originally expressed purpose.

This type of violation also happens when love offerings are taken up for guest speakers. The church leadership announces that they want to take up a love offering for the guest speaker but they do not announce that they will only give the guest speaker up to a certain amount. After the love offering is taken up, the church gives only a certain portion of it to the guest. Ouch!

The congregation believes that 100% of the offering was given to the guest speaker. Like the misuse of the funds given to the orphanage, this, too, is a crime if a pastor tells the congregation that their love offering will be given to the guest speaker but then withholds a certain portion for the church. Not to mention that it undermines the congregation's ability to trust their leadership when it comes to handling finances.

Designated Offerings

A designated offering is any type of offering/donation that is given to the church in which the donor designates the offering for a particular purpose but does not require the church to use it solely for the designation. An example can be when someone makes a donation using the church envelope and he/she designates it to a certain program. If the church envelope contains specific language (see example below), it clearly makes the designation a suggestion and allows the church to retain control, thus making the donor's contribution tax-deductible. Below is sample language you can use on your church envelopes.

"This church is a qualified section 501(c)(3) organization. All tithes, offerings, or donations of any kind are tax-deductible under section 170(c)(2). Using this envelope constitutes your agreement to relinquish control in accordance with IRS regulation."

Here's an example: Jim Steward writes a check for \$1,000.00 and designates on the memo line of the check and on the church envelope that he wishes for it to be used to buy the church a new computer. After receiving the offering, Pastor Larry notices that the church has a bigger need. The rent was due 2 days ago and the \$1,000.00 was exactly what they needed to pay it. He instructs his treasurer to write a church check for the rent. In this example, Pastor Larry did nothing wrong. He acted in the best interest of the church. The giver gets a tax deduction because he did not apply any conditions to his contribution. Under current IRS regulation, the church has the right to use the money any way it sees fit so long as it is an honest effort to further the purposes of the church, and paying the rent is pretty important to the well being of the church.

National Family Life Education

Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas, Incorporated

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

What Every Family Wants for 2016

By Reverend James & Sister Margaret Neely, Directors

(Luke 6:31 'Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.' KJV.)

The start of every year is always a great time to reflect and set goals for the next 12 months. Family is a great source of support when it comes to embarking on new journeys. Striving this year for a 'healthier family" would make all the difference for creating stronger family bonds.

No one family is presumed to embody all the traits of a perfect family. Indeed, there is no such thing as the perfect family. However, individuals can identify some of the traits of a "healthy family" already present, and become aware of the areas in which they can strengthen their own families.

Resolving to be kinder to each other as a family can do a great deal for not only improving family relations but also improving your mood for dealing with people outside of your household as well. Using magic words like 'please' and 'thank you' really does go a long way. Picking your words wisely will most likely help avoid unnecessary misunderstandings.

With the help of this warm, practical article on 'Traits of a Healthy Family, Healthy Relationships 101" (see web-site below) your family can be one that....

- Communicates and listens
- Affirms and supports one another
- Teaches respect for others
- Develops a sense of trust
- Exhibits a sense of shared responsibility
- Teaches a sense of right and wrong
- Values service to others
- Fosters family table time and conversation
- Shares leisure time
- Admits to and seeks help for problems

For a complete description of these and more traits visit this web site:
<http://www.healthyrelationships101.com/traits-of-a-healthy-family.html>

Health of the family is always on top of the list of new years' resolutions for most people and is almost always the first one we throw the towel in on. Making it a collective family mission will most likely make it more achievable.

Thank you.

God bless you.

GLAUCOMA AWARENESS

January is Glaucoma Awareness Month

-excerpts from National Eye Institute, Healthstatus.com, Glaucoma.org

Currently, more than 3 million people in the US have glaucoma. The National Eye Institute projects this number will reach 4.2 million by 2030.

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that gradually steal sight without warning. It is called "**the sneak thief of sight**" since there are no symptoms and once vision is lost, it's permanent.

As much as 40% of vision can be lost without a person noticing. Vision loss is caused by damage to the optic nerve. This nerve acts like an electric cable with over a million wires. It is responsible for carrying images from the eye to the brain.

Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness. If detected early, before noticeable vision loss occurs, glaucoma can usually be controlled and severe vision loss can often be prevented. Vision that is lost from glaucoma cannot be restored.

Anyone can get glaucoma, but those at higher risk include:

- ▶ African Americans over age 40
- ▶ Everyone over age 60, especially Hispanics/Latinos
- ▶ People with a family history of the disease

The cause of glaucoma generally is a failure of the eye to maintain an appropriate balance between the amount of internal (intraocular) fluid produced and the amount that drains away. Just as a basketball or football requires air pressure to maintain its shape, the eyeball needs internal fluid pressure to retain its globe-like shape and the ability to see. When something affects the ability of internal eye structures to regulate intraocular pressure (IOP), eye pressure can rise to dangerously high levels - causing glaucoma.

There is no cure for glaucoma, yet. Medication or surgery can slow or prevent further vision loss. Early detection is vital to stopping the progress of the disease. The best way to protect your sight from glaucoma is to get a comprehensive eye examination. Then, if you have glaucoma, treatment can begin immediately.

Better eye vision can be helped by eating a diet high in vitamin C and E plus omega-3 fatty acids as well as vitamins A and D. Dark green and yellow fruits and vegetables contain carotenoids that contribute to eye health.

You are always being urged to exercise daily. Aerobic activities are highly recommended and studies have proven that increased intraocular pressure can be lowered by exercise. Though this is not fully proven, for your own good health; exercise at least thirty minutes per day.

Do maintain a healthy weight and keep your blood pressure at a normal level. If you have other medical conditions make sure these are taken care of and controlled. By all means, do not smoke and protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses. Remember: The best preventive tool of all is to pay regular visits to your eye doctor for comprehensive eye exams.

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Each year on the 3rd Monday of January, Americans celebrate the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK), a Baptist clergyman turned activist, who is often credited with spearheading the country's civil rights movement. It is thanks to his efforts that America is today a nation where everyone has equal rights, regardless of race, color or creed.

MLK who would have celebrated his 87th birthday on January 15th, 2016, was born in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1929, a city where racial divide was a way of life. Blacks and whites lived totally disparate lives. They went to different schools, ate at different

restaurants, and even sat in specially designated seats on buses and trains. His first exposure to segregation came at the age of six when he realized that he could not attend the same school as his best friend who happened to be white. Though this did not seem right to the young boy, just like others, he accepted it as a way of life.

Things started to change in the summer of 1944 when 15-year-old MLK left Atlanta to work in the tobacco fields of Simsbury, Connecticut. To his surprise, the black residents in the Northern states were not subjected to the same kind of racial injustice. The young boy expressed his astonishment in a letter he wrote to his father in June saying, "*After we passed Washington there was no discrimination at all. The white people here are very nice. We go to*

any place we want to and sit any where we want to."

In a letter to his mother 3 days after he wrote his father, King marveled over a trip he took to Hartford.

"I never thought that a person of my race could eat anywhere but we ate in one of the finest restaurants in Hartford," King wrote. "And we went to the largest shows there."

He wrote a week earlier of going to the same church in Simsbury as white people. His new calling as a religious leader was emerging, too.

"I have to speak on some text every Sunday to 107 boys. We really have good meetings."

By the end of the summer, the seeds of what would transform MLK into America's most influential civil rights leader had been firmly planted.

In 1954, MLK, who by now was

married and serving as an ordained Minister, chose to become pastor of a church in Montgomery, Alabama, a city that was notorious for its racial discrimination. His foray into activism began gradually - by encouraging Montgomery residents to register to vote and join the NAACP, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization.

His passive stance changed on December 1st, 1955, after fellow activist, Rosa Parks, was arrested for refusing to vacate her seat on a public bus for a white passenger.

Enraged, MLK asked the black residents of Montgomery to boycott all public transportation.

This was no easy request. The buses were the only commute mode for the residents, whose jobs often entailed traveling long distances. But they took the challenge not for just one day or a month, but a full year!

As the news of the boycott spread, black people from other parts of the nation that had similar laws, joined in leading to the first ever concerted effort against racial discrimination. It took a full year, but in 1956, the Supreme Court of the United States finally passed legislation to abolish segregation on public transportation.

But MLK was just getting started. He decided to

dedicate his life to the cause and spent the next decade traveling around the country, spurring all Americans to stand up to segregation in a non-violent peaceful manner by organizing sit-ins, boycotts, and protest marches. While he gave many inspiring speeches, his most memorable one was delivered on August 28th, 1963.

The events leading to the oft-quoted 'I have a dream' speech began in June of that

"If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."

year when President John F. Kennedy asked the US Congress to pass a civil rights bill - one that would give all Americans equal access to public places. To convince government officials to pass the bill, MLK along with other civil rights leaders asked people to demonstrate their support by staging a peaceful march in Washington D.C.

Over 250,000 Americans from all over the country flew, drove, rode buses and even walked, to participate in what the history books now call the March on Washington! It was at this event while standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, that MLK articulated his dream of living in a country where everyone was treated equally.

The Civil Rights Act, which was passed on July 2, 1964, was the first significant victory in the activist's mission to achieve complete legal equality for all.

MLK's relentless drive to end segregation and racial discrimination did not go unnoticed. In October 1964, the 35-year-old civil rights leader was awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize. He was and remained the youngest recipient until

Pakistani education activist Malala Yousafzai won the award in 2014.

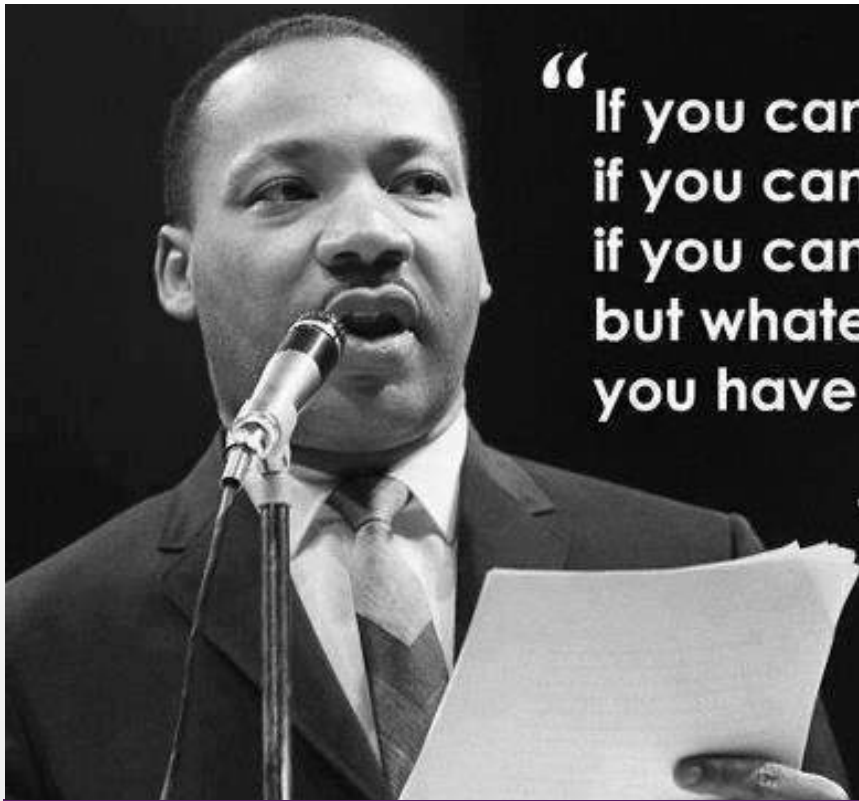
The Voting Rights Act of 1965 that allowed African Americans to cast

votes was another step in the right direction. The 1968 Fair Housing Act that prohibited any discrimination in the sale, rental or financing of property sealed the deal. Finally, all Americans had equal rights.

Unfortunately, the civil rights activist was killed while on a trip to Memphis, Tennessee in 1968, and did not live long enough to see it come true.

As you celebrate the work of Martin Luther King Jr. be sure to reflect upon what you can do to make a difference and create your own legacy.

-excerpts from dogonews.com, newsok.com



“If you can't fly, then run,
if you can't run, then walk,
if you can't walk, then crawl,
but whatever you do,
you have to keep moving forward.

— Martin Luther King Jr.

MLK ARTICLE COMPREHENSION

1. Where was Martin Luther King Jr. born?
2. How old would MLK have been this year?
3. Why did he initially accept discrimination as a way of life?
4. What happened when he went to Simsbury in the summer of 1944?
5. How did MLK initially encourage the people of Montgomery to fight against racial discrimination?
6. What changed on December 1st, 1955?
7. What did MLK do after that?
8. What was the first victory won by the activists?
9. What were the events that led to the famous "I have a dream" speech on August 28th, 1963?
10. What was MLK's dream?
11. Why was he not able to see it come true?
12. How real do you think the dream is now?

You can view a video of the famous "I Have a Dream" speech at <http://www.teachertube.com/video/i-have-a-dream-speech-20916>

*Be sure to watch other short informative video clips at [History.org](http://www.history.org) (click the arrows to move through all the videos.) **I urge you to view the video - Bet You Didn't Know: March on Washington.***

Next month's issue: We will feature information on the Children's Crusade.

*District
Articles*



Elder's Appreciation

On the morning of January 9, 2016, the Charleston District came together to show their love and support for Elder B.P. Raiford and Lady Raiford.

Service began with the hymn "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone". Praise and Worship began with "What A Mighty God We Serve". The service was high with the Lord's presence. If anyone needed anything from the Lord, the atmosphere was right for blessings to rain down from the heavens.

Charleston District showed up in great numbers to honor this great couple. The spoken word was delivered by Elder Keith Smith of the Columbia district. Elder Smith preached from Luke 19:1, subject: "Time For a Change". Elder Smith talked about the scripture text relating it with a personal experience of someone in present day getting their taxes prepared for the year.

After the preached word, Lady Raiford was compelled to share with the district the Lord's voice. She sprang from her seat, threw off her hat, and began expounding God's message.

Lady Raiford told of how the saints going through was not in vain and God hears our cries. Lady Raiford stated they were praying and fasting, the Lord cannot

refuse their calls. She stated that the Lord hears and opens up a blessing to anybody who is living right and calls upon His name.

All district pastors joined in a congregational song to show their appreciation. Macedonia Choir rendered a powerful selection entitled "Lord You Are Mighty". Elder B.P. Raiford and Lady Raiford were showered with monetary and other gifts of love.

The service ended with elevated spirits and the knowledge that with God anything is possible. Each program participant did an outstanding job!

The question may be asked, why are we celebrating this great couple? Well, listen to some important facts:

- Elder Raiford is a man who dedicates his life and his abilities to God.
- Elder Raiford is prepared for the important duties of eldership - the job of directing and guiding Charleston district to higher heights.
- The district loves Elder Raiford because He listens and we acknowledge; he instructs and we support; he institutes and we accept.
- Most of all he, hears from the Lord and we grow higher in Him.

Elder Raiford is a man who knows how to rightly divide the word of God. He is not afraid to let the Lord use him

in mighty ways.

He knows how to go beyond the surface of his district members and extract hidden talents that no one ever thought about or saw before this present time.

He develops helpful plans for the district. He instructs the pastors and shares with the members what the Lord has given him.

He is willing to show and explain why progress and change needs to happen in order to become more effective in our personal and spiritual lives.

Elder Raiford is also an exemplary figure for a positive marriage, not taking all the glory, but allowing his wife, Lady Raiford, to bask in his glory as well.

This united couple makes a dynamic team! When both are in operation, there is no one left standing. Everyone in the building is either speaking in tongues or giving God the praise.

After all of these affirmations there should be no question why we gathered to celebrate this great couple.

Charleston District is in a move of God that nobody has ever seen or heard before! Stay tuned.

- Sister Angela Williams

Deacon Robert Wilson

Deacon Robert Wilson was blessed to see 99 years of age on January 26, 2016.

He is a faithful deacon at Mt. Olive FBH Church in Youngstown, Ohio.

Deacon Wilson still leads devotion. One of his favorite songs is "Lord I'm Running" - trying to make 100, Ninety-nine and a half won't do.

He was honored with a birthday dinner hosted by his daughter-in-law at Mt. Olive.

Happy Birthday, Deacon Wilson!

Sister Betty Carter



*Deacon Robert Wilson
99 Years Young*



*Pastor Mary Kidd
Deacon Robert Wilson
Brother RC Kidd*

Joy Night

Mt. Calvary FBH Church at 1012 South Front Street in Hamilton, Ohio sponsored a Joy Night on Saturday, December 12, 2015.

Mt. Calvary's YPI President, Brother Larry Neal, would like to thank the Cincinnati and local Hamilton area for their support at the Joy Night. The service was not only for the young people, but for everyone to enjoy.

The Spirit of the Lord truly came in. Powerful songs of praise were lifted up to Lord.

Pastor Michelle Hall of Mt. Calvary selected some young people who used their talent to help render service.

Two of the participants were Brother Daniel Sutton and Brother Joseph Sutton. Brother Daniel sang "For Every Mountain" and Brother Joseph played the keyboard during part of the service. They are the sons of Pastor Joseph and First Lady Rosa Sutton from Antioch FBH Church in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Pastor Hall reminded us that "It's time to stop playing church. After the shouting is done and we leave church, what life do we live?" She went on to say, "Don't try to prove yourself to no one but to God."

We thank the Spirit of the Lord for showing up!

-Sister Serena Andrews

Founder's Birthday Celebration

Our district has churches in the greater Cincinnati area, Detroit area, and Chicago area. The average distance between each area is 260 miles. Normally during the Founder's Birthday Celebration, our travelling is hindered due to unfavorable weather conditions. So, each area celebrates individually.

This year, however, the Southwest Ohio District made history! It was the 1st time that the district celebrated our Founder's Birthday as a whole.

Our Founder's Birthday Celebration was held on Saturday, January 23, 2016 at Christian's Temple in Chicago, Illinois. The Lord blessed everyone all day! While the states in the south and on the east coast were experiencing the effects of a massive snow storm, there was no snow, rain, or ice for those of us traveling to Chicago. And.... in all my 45 years travelling back and forth to Chicago, I have never seen Chicago traffic so amiable.

Our DRE, Sister Concetta Lewis, was poised, graceful, and anointed. Sister Lewis gave each of us a Bishop W.E. Fuller Sr. Time-line and a book mark

commemorating the event. Sister Litrea Hunter, our National DRE, gave a heartfelt movie displaying pictures of Bishop W.E. Fuller Sr. and other patriarchs of the church past and present. Most of us were in tears by the end.

Sister Lewis told us about a time when her dad, the late Elder W.D. Davis, was pastoring in Toledo. They were young children and it was snowing so bad that he could not see the road on the way to his church from Detroit. One child sat on the left and another sat on the right looking out the window at the road. Each one would tell him if he should go to the left or to the right and when he needed to stop in either direction (left or right) until they made it to the church.

Sister Lewis began to take a step to the right and stop, then another step to the left and stop... You could feel the Lord in her words....



Sis. C. Lewis (L),, Sis. L. Hunter (R)

"Sometimes in life that's what we have to do. We may not see our way, but we got to keep going...." Oh, Yes! We enjoyed our DRE. We must keep going!

After we collected our Founder's Birthday reports and offering, we were blessed even more with a concert from our magnificent District Choir under the leadership of our Minister of Music, Brother Isaac Harris. We so enjoyed every selection and every director and directress. The tenor section was outstanding. We were delighted to have our newest choir member, Brother Christopher Glaster. The choir sang out of their hearts. It was simply marvelous! Praise God for His continual blessings!

I cannot end without talking

about our drummer, 6 year old DeShawn Harris (aka Dewey). He did a wonderful job! And... his sister, 9 year old Ra'Kiya Harris, was tremendous in the soprano section.

Christian's Temple & the Chicago Area served a delicious dinner: salad, fried chicken, lasagna, baked spaghetti, pasta salad, German potato salad, the best garlic bread (ever), with cake and brownies for dessert....

Thank God for our Founder!
I'm so glad I found my crowd!

-Vernell Turner

You can view a video of our little drummer playing with his dad, Brother Isaac Harris at <https://www.facebook.com/roshena.staffordharris/videos/10153276270028483/>



DeShawn & Ra'Kiya Harris



Watch Night Service 12/41/2015

Our service began at 10:00 p.m. Six churches came together for our New Year's Eve Celebration.

We praised God for bringing us safely another year. The youth played an important part in our service.

We are trying to instill in them the joy and the real meaning of celebrating Watch Night in church.

The District Worship Team opened the service with joy! A'mya Butler and Zamiya Reid gave the History of Watch Night followed by a Candlelight Service.

Twenty-five members of the South Central North Carolina District Youth Choir formed a Candlelight processional. Aleyah Stevenson led the Litnany of Watch Night and Reverend Mrs. Sharon Frazier was the speaker.

We were really blessed.

History of Watch Night Service

Many of you who live or grew up in Black communities in the United States have probably heard of "Watch Night Services", the gathering of the faithful in church on New Year's Eve. The service usually begins anywhere from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and ends at midnight with the entrance of

the New Year. Some folks come to church first, before going out to celebrate. For others, church is the only New Year's Eve event.

Many always assumed that Watch Night was a fairly standard Christian religious service - made a bit more Afro-centric because that's what happens when elements of Christianity become linked with the Black Church. Still, it seemed that predominately White Christian churches did not include Watch Night services on their calendars, but focused instead on Christmas Eve programs. In fact, there were instances where clergy in mainline denominations wondered aloud about the propriety of linking religious services with a secular holiday like New Year's Eve.

However, there is a reason for the importance of New Year's Eve services in African American congregations.

The Watch Night services in Black communities that we celebrate today can be traced back to gatherings on December 31, 1862, also known as "Freedom's Eve". On that night Blacks came together in churches and private homes all across the nation, anxiously awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation actually had become law. Then, at the stroke of midnight, it was January 1, 1863, and all slaves in the Confederate States were declared legally free. When the news was received,

there were prayers, shouts, and songs of joy as people fell to their knees and thanked God.

Black folks have gathered in churches annually on New Year's Eve ever since, praising God for bringing us safely through another year.

It's been 153 years since that 1st Freedom's Eve and many of us were never taught the African American history of Watch Night, but tradition still brings us together at this time every year to celebrate "how we got over".

References:

The African American Desk Reference

Schomburg Center for research in Black Culture

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Related Video:

Watch Night Service, Rev. Dennis Oglesby

Sermon by Rev. Sharon Frazier

Suddenly

1 Corinthians 15:51 - 55

We live in a world where it would seem the idea of "suddenly" is becoming less and less alarming. As a child, perhaps you, like I, can recall that when you heard either "suddenly" or "all of a sudden" a slight feeling of anxiety arose in anticipation

of what would come next. Now a day as the pace of life has accelerated, just about everything seems to operate in an atmosphere of suddenly.

Simply defined *suddenly* is an adverb which describes something that happens in an unexpected manner; quickly; without preparation or premeditation.

Secular songs have been written and even movies made that include the word *suddenly*. The church has also spoken to what the Bible has addressed. The New Birth Choir of Atlanta put out a CD a while back. You may recall the lyrics to the title song which say, "There's been a change in me, once blind but now I see. God gave me the victory and He did it...suddenly." Later it continues, "...My God's changed me, I'm not the same and He did it...suddenly."

According to one Bible resource the word *suddenly* and its root word *sudden* are reference 74 times between the old/new testaments; however, the KJV renders its use 41 times. That in itself adds credence to this word, particularly in the Old Testament where the bulk of its use occurs. Tonight it has become my assignment to analyze *suddenly* for whatever purpose God has in revealing its relevance and what may also be its warning to us though His word.

The scripture reference that immediately comes to mind

surrounds the announcement of the Savior's birth. Luke chapter 2 tells of the shepherds learning about Jesus' birth and where they would find Him. Verse 13 says, "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 'Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, good will toward men!'"

In a biblical search for *suddenly* it is first recorded in the book of Genesis. Chapter 41 in the first 7 verses is generous with this term in retelling an event that brought about Joseph's rise in the Egyptian courts of Pharaoh. As you may recall, Pharaoh had a dream which none could interpret. One man remembered Joseph, a Hebrew prisoner gifted in revealing the secrets of God.

In the dream Pharaoh, who stood on a riverbank said, "suddenly 7 cows came up out of the river, fine looking and fat; ad they fed in the meadow. Then behold 7 other cows came up after them out of the river ugly and gaunt, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the river. And the ugly and gaunt cows ate up the 7 fine looking and fat cows."

Following this was another dream in which, "...suddenly 7 heads came up on 1 stalk, plump and good. Then behold, 7 thin heads blighted by the east wind, sprang up after them. And the 7 thin heads devoured the 7 plump and good heads." Now this event enters into the first season of suddenly; that

of the unexpected which we said earlier helps to define suddenly.

Scripture tells us God used Joseph to warn this Egyptian monarch of the impending 7 years famine that was to take place following 7 bountiful years of harvest as represented in each of the dreams. But at the time Pharaoh had the dreams no expectations of lack abounded in the minds of the Egyptians who were Joseph's captives. After all the longest river in the world, the Nile, played a vital role in the formation of Egypt and was considered to be the source of all life. But God turned *suddenly* from the unexpected into a period of preparation.

We mentioned earlier the New Testament event which caught expectant shepherds by surprise. By night they were greeted by a heavenly host with an announcement of the Savior's birth that forever changed history. Luke tells us that when the angel stood before them and the Lord's glory shone around them they were greatly afraid. *Suddenly* has that propensity to cause fear when something/someone approaches us that we were not expecting. But we are given a warning for His next appearance. Later on in chapter 12 Luke wrote, "Therefore, you also be ready, for the Son of man is coming in an hour you so nor expect."

And then there is another season of *suddenly* that describes events which as stated earlier are without premeditation or preparation. These conditions refer to the recipients of the action as opposed to the causing agents of an action. You see premeditation carries with it a notion that one has given meditation/thought to an idea or action before hand...some planning even, has gone into what is being considered.

The gospel of John chapter 14 opens with an example of preparation as Jesus comforts His troubled disciples before His departure. He says to them, "**Let nor your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.**" He goes on to tell them that in His Father's house are many mansions, that if they were not so He would have told them. He then says, "**I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.**"

Now this is the first New Testament reference of a premeditated plan to be enacted a future time in which the Lord is the **causing agent** of the action.

But in terms of being the recipients of suddenly, we must go to the text as the apostle Paul nears the end of this letter to the saints in Corinth. Although the major thrust of its contents is corrective in nature, the

highlight of its contents features the resurrection. Nowhere else in scripture is the resurrection of both Jesus and the believer treated as thoroughly as we find in chapter 15. Here Paul re-establishes the reality of a *resurrection* from the dead verses the *raising* of individuals who only die again.

But, when Jesus arose as the first-fruits of those who've fallen asleep, we were made aware that death is not the finality to life. In regressive order Paul resolved that if Christ be not risen from the dead then our faith is futile and we are yet in our sins. And those who died in Christ are lost. His conclusion was, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."

Further down Paul approached doubters of the resurrection with questions they would raise to taunt those who did believe, saying in verse 35, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?"

But the writer does not back off from answering their foolish questions. He chooses rather to show the resurrection body of Jesus as the prototype of all who will get up as did He. In Genesis Paul refers to the first man Adam in whose natural body all men face death. The last man Adam is Jesus. His bodily resurrection bridged the gap for us to cross from the natural to the spiritual with bodies fit for heaven. For us

the rapture will occur suddenly. But even as the **recipients** of suddenly, we don't have to be its victims if we've made preparations.

And now comes the point at which, as the recipients of suddenly, we fulfill a final defining moment; that which happens quickly. Paul proceeds to tell them.

"Behold, I show you a **mystery. We will not all sleep, but we all shall be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye/**" (quickly). And then I thought about Paul's account to the Thessalonians. They were sincere in their questions concerning the coming of the Lord in chapter 4 of his first letter. Not only was Jesus coming, but with Him all who had slept in Him.

He picks up in the 15th verse of chapter 4 saying, "**For by this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. But the Lord himself (not Moses or Elijah) shall descend from heaven with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: the we which remain (This could mean us) shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**" And might I add, it will happen...suddenly.

If you will allow me, Isaiah

and Paul taunted death and said, "O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?" You see, now the tables have turned because as Christ got up, sin and the law lost their power to defeat you and me. And I don't know about you, but that right there is my praise report. So, at the end of the day, you and I can be steadfast and unmovable...always abounding in the work of the Lord....knowing that our labor is not in vain in the Lord.

If 2016 is our year to meet the Lord in the air, don't let Him catch you with your work undone. We're not to be as the servant who received his master's investment but refused to deposit it so that it earned a greater reward while awaiting his return. But, as Jesus told the disciples, we are to occupy until He comes. So, let us be like the song that admonishes us to be ready when He come again, For He's coming again...suddenly!

D.R.E. Celebration of Our Founder's Birthday

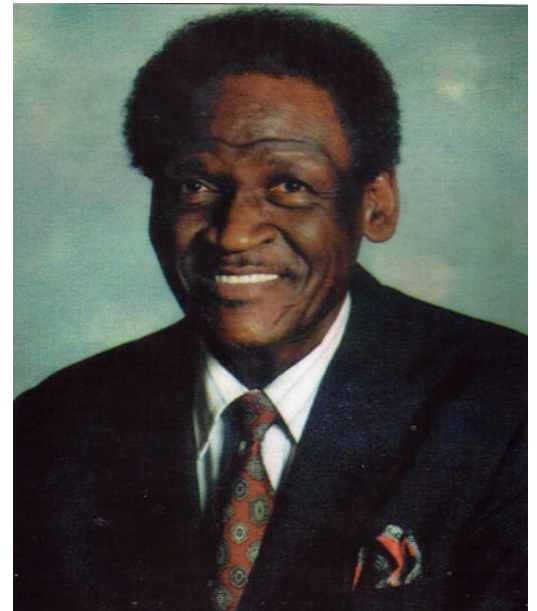
A few years ago, a great teacher and preacher, Elder Jesse Hargrove, planted knowledge about the growth and the development of the Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas. We were blessed to have heard him.

Growth and Development of the Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas

by Elder J.O. Hargrove

Today's message is dedicated to the memory of Bishop W.E. Fuller Str., who organized and led this church for sixty years. Moreover, our hats are off and our heads are bowed to the faithful men and women who toiled with him to make the Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas one of the most outstanding churches of the centuries. Our founder's son, Bishop W.E. Fuller Jr., who carried the torch of leadership very well for 34 years after the demise of his father, shall remain indelibly in our memories.

Evangelism was Brother Fuller's calling and in 1903, he bought an old used tent and began planting churches. Fire Baptized Churches began to pop up like popcorn in South Carolina: Greenwood, St. Paul and Belton in 1903; St. Peter in 1904; 1905, Mt. Zion in Seneca and Greer; 1906 Spartanburg-Bethel. For a long time he thought only about South Carolina; for him it was his world. He then turned to North Carolina and planted a church in Ashville in 1907. From there he turned to Gainesville, Ga. in 1908 and more than 200 souls received Christ. Other churches organized in this year were: Mt. Moriah - Knoxville, Tennessee; New Zion - Greenville, S.C., and churches



in Lake City and Live Oak, Florida.

In 1906 his wife died leaving him a widower with 6 children. But even this could not stop or hinder him in performing his God-given charge. He placed the children with different saints while he continued to plant churches. He remained a widower until 1910 when he united in matrimony with Miss Emma Wright, whom he met in the revival in Ashville in 1907. They honeymooned in Live Oak, Florida. To this union 7 children were born and William Edward Fuller Jr. was one of them.

On May 1, 1908 the Fire Baptized Holiness Association met in Anderson, S.C. and because of the growing prejudice in the south, it was mutually agreed that we would have a separate incorporation.

Growth and Development of the Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas

by Elder J.O. Hargrove (cont'd)

While connected with the F.B.H. Association of America, we accumulated \$25,000.00 worth of property and at separation we were given warranty deeds for the same.

Our 1st General Council convened in Greer, S.C., November 24, 1908, and it was decided that our church should be called the Colored Fire baptized Holiness Church. W.E. Fuller was elected as Overseer; C.C. Chiles was elected secretary & treasurer.

Although Brother Fuller was now the Overseer of the new denomination, the spirit of evangelism burned within his soul and in 1909 he put up a tent on the old show ground at Irwin Street in Atlanta, Georgia. A great revival followed and many souls were saved. In 1910, he planted a church in Columbia, S.C. naming it Apostle.

The year 1909 was also the year that our church paper, "The True Witness", was established. Brother Fuller easof the opinion that every church would have an official organ-- a church paper -- so that every member would be able to read the testimonies of the saints throughout the Fire Baptized Holiness Church. Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:

and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth."

Overseer Fuller was always interested in education. He attended Harbison College in Abbeville and Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta. He always wanted our church to have an informed and trained ministry. In 1910 he organized and held the 1st Sunday School Convention in Greenville, S.C. to raise money to support a school. The second Sunday School Convention was held at Old Fort, N.C. in 1911. The third convention was held in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1912.

Overseer Fuller desired to have a school that would stimulate in the child an intellectual desire for truth and at the same time place emphasis upon spiritual values. On April 12, 1912, Overseer Fuller, being inspired by the Spirit of God, organized and founded Fuller Normal Industrial Institute. This school was located at 240 Irwin Street Atlanta, Georgia. Those present were W.E. Fuller, G.H. Holly, Robert Watt, and Eleanor Thrash. In 1913 about 18 acres of land and 1 small building was purchased in Toccoa, Georgia for the sum of \$12,000.00. Our school formally opened with 1 instructor and 2 students but, grew very rapidly. Soon 1 large building was erected. Elder P.S. McDaniel was the 1st boarding student. Scintillia Fuller, W.A. Barbour, Hattie

Holly Evans, and Nina Young were the first graduates of FNII.

Sister Caroline Williams of Ashville, N.C. desired to have a missionary convention to add to the support of the school. She pleaded with Overseer Fuller to give the women a chance and they would do great things. He finally agreed to let the women have a Saturday in the Annual Convention. Sister Williams was happy to have this little space, but she continued to plead with the General Overseer for a Sisters of Charity Convention. He finally agreed and on May 12, 1916, the 1st Sisters of Charity Convention was held in Abbeville, S.C. Overseer Fuller announced that Sister C. Williams would preach. Officers were elected: Sister L.E. Chiles, president; Sister Etta Merritt, vice-president; Sister M.L. Hatten, secretary; Sister Josie Taylor, assistant secretary; Sister Estella Sanders, treasurer.

The first District Missionary Presidents were: Sister C.L. Williams - Tennessee & Western North Carolina, Sister Agnes Hamilton - South Carolina #1, Sister Estella Sanders - South Carolina #2, Sister Susie Sims - Northeast Georgia, Sister Lillie Knox - Central Georgia, Sister Susie Williams - Florida.

The total amount raised in 1916 was \$554.71. The total disbursement of the 1st Sisters of Charity Convention was: Expenses - \$4.00, President - \$3.00, Vice-President - \$2.00, Secretary - \$3.00, Assistant Secretary - \$1.50, Usher - \$1.00, Sister C.L. Williams - \$6.00, Brother W.E. Fuller - \$6.00, Brother Chappell - \$1.00, Brother Sanders - \$1.00.

The General Council of 1918 passed the resolution setting up the Annual Sisters of Charity Convention.

The General Council of 1922 changed the name of the church from the Colored Fire Baptized Holiness Church to the Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God. From 1922 through 1926, the church operated under this title. On June 8, 1926, the General Council met at Mt. Moriah FBH Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. It was during this Council that a motion was offered and carried that the title of our church would be known as the Fire Baptized Holiness Church of God of the Americas.

The 1st woman delegate and member of the General Council was Mother Pauline Marie Birmingham Fuller.

The Fuller Normal Industrial Institute was moved from Toccoa to Greenville, S.C. on October 2, 1923. We purchased a site on Hampton Avenue - about 3 acres with 2

buildings valued at approximately \$36,000. We purchased the old Allen property on Anderson Road for \$10,000.00 and in 1950, built the Caroline W. Phelps Administration Hall for a cost of \$125,000 with \$25,000 in furnishings.

The title of General Overseer W.E. Fuller was changed from Overseer to Bishop of the Fire Baptized Holiness Church. Two overseers were appointed: Brother C.C. Chiles for the Southern Diocese and Brother G.G. Gary, known as the "Roaring Lion of the North", for the Northern Diocese.

Some of the churches organized by Bishop Fuller in the north were:

1914 - Atens, Cleveland
1916 - Mt. Zion & St. Peter in Philadelphia
1918 - Mt Olive, New York, Zion Chapel, Chicago, St. James, Detroit
1920 - True Vine, Connecticut
1925 - St. John, Brooklyn, Triedstone, Washington
1927 - St. Matthew, Brooklyn
1937 - Amie's Chapel, Brooklyn
1940 - New Zion, Lawrence
1942 - St. Luke, Brooklyn

Other churches organized were Gethsemane - Philadelphia, Mt. Olive - Youngstown, New Jerusalem - Baltimore, Zion - Boston, and many others.

During the 1920's and 40's this grand old church of ours grew by leaps and bounds. In the General Council held in Brooklyn at St. John in the year 1946, Mother Emma C.

Fuller introduced the Young People's Institute which was accepted into the Fire Baptized Holiness Church as an auxiliary.

The 1st Congress was held at Fuller's Tabernacle in Atlanta, Georgia on August 1, 1947. Mother Fuller, our first National Supervisor, said "We have closed the first chapter of the Young People's Institute but the book remains open and the work will go on and on." Today, we can look back over the years and witness that her predictions are true.

We should re-illustrate or be an example of what Bishop Fuller did by continuing to build and replenish the church like Jesus said in "The Great Commissions: using all of our auxiliaries, spiritual gifts, and talents.

Examples in Scripture:

Matthew 28:16-29
Luke 24:36-49
St. John 20:19 - 23
Mark 16:15 - 19
Acts 1:9 - 11

As those of us who are living go into eternity, let others come until the returning of Jesus Christ.

Welcome Celebration Honoring Elder & Mrs. Lester Powell Jr. and Deacon Markell Powell

Reverend Linda Reid was the Mistress of Ceremony for the first family's Welcome Program. We were blessed by her anointed singing. Others took part in prayer, scripture reading, praise & worship, selections, the tribute, and the offering. We felt God's power in a mighty way!

Minister Josephine Hairston warmly presented the speaker of the hour, her husband, Elder Sammie Hairston. Subject: What do you remember about Jesus? He spoke of those in the New Testament that remembered



Jesus as a healer, a deliverer, and a miracle worker. Elder Hairston gave his personal testimony of how he remembered Jesus. "When I was sinking deep in sin, he heard my cry.... He saved my soul." What do you remember about Jesus?

We expressed sincere gratitude to Bishop P.L. Frazier Jr. & Lady Sharon Frazier, Elder & Lady Hairston, The Central North Carolina District, Elder Troy & Lady Antonia Bethune, and all our visitors from South Western

North Carolina District. After the heart-warming Vote of Thanks from Elder & Lady Powell, Minister Corine Brown gave thanks to the members, friends, ushers, musicians, nurses, culinary artists, and the hostesses.

Thank you for being a blessing to our first family.

May God bless you.

Mrs. Corine Brown,
Coordinator
Mrs. Lee E. McCall, District
Editor.



Prayer Gift Baskets/Bags

On December 22, 2015, the Senior Missionaries of St. Matthew F.B.H. Church prepared baskets/bags for the residents of Rosewood Nursing Home. A total of 20 baskets were made (8 female & 12 male).

The Baskets/bags contained socks, toiletries, fruit, snacks, slippers, puzzles, and pens prepared with much love. We included a scripture along with a card from the missionaries too. We didn't stop there, but made 2 more special baskets for 2 mothers of our Church, Mother Rosa Smyre & Mother Louvenia Adams).

The baskets/bags were anointed and prayed over by Elder Troy Bethune and the Missionaries. Oh, what a powerful prayer that went up in behalf of these baskets/bags, so much so, that we all glorified God like we were receiving them.

On December 23, 2015, several missionaries met to distribute these anointed baskets to the residents of Rosewood Nursing Home. We sang a Christmas song and prayed for the residents. They were so excited and happy. They thanked us for being such a blessing to them.

Now, on to Mother Rosa Smyre's home to share some love with her. She too was so joyful and grateful to receive

her lovely baskets of goodies and fellowship with the missionaries. Prayer was made with her along with hugs of love. It brought great joy just to share and be a blessing to others. Thanks to President Angela Surratt for sharing her gift of vision at this season.

Purse with a Purpose

District President Antonia Bethune is on the move. She had 20 or more purses prepared & filled by members of the district with whatever they could hold.

Purses of all types, color, and sizes were also given on December 23, 2015. There was great excitement amid the district to see this project come together. Thank you D.P. Bethune for your ideas.

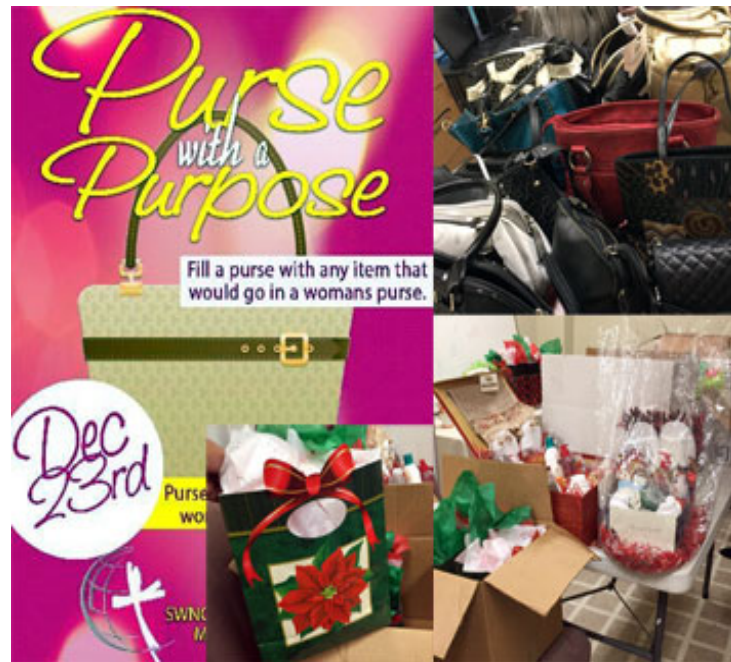
Joint Watch Meeting Service

Our Joint Watch Night Service was hosted by Pastor Judy Robbins & St. Hannah F.B.H. Church at St. Matthew F.B.H. Church.

Oh, how the District came together with a SHOUT of praise before the midnight shifted over into 2016.

WOW! holy Ghost fell like lighting as we gave testimonies and songs of Zion in the Praise House.

A powerful word was given by our Greenfield Pastor, Rev.



Joycelyn S. Adams - 2 Kings 4:25-26. Subject: It Is Well!!! Lord, what a blessing we received from that word which carried us on around the altar! Elder had 3 Prayer Warriors to pray us over into the new year. Thank you, JESUS, for those prayers!

Happy new year plus hugs of love were exchanged once we got up from the altar. But, the Praises weren't over. In came another Holy Ghost wave. Some of the saints were dancing, running, skipping, & leaping under the power of the Holy Ghost even a floor ministry took place in the house. More testimonies of healing were given with excitement for 2016.

This service prepared us for our upcoming Consecration.

Love In Christ,
Sister Ruby Young

GREATER TRUE VINE F.B.H. CHURCH

1439 SPEARING STREET
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32206
Rev. CHARLES E. BEAMER JR.,
PASTOR

3 EVENTS IN ONE DAY

On Saturday, December 5, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Youth Departments (H.Y.P.U., Y.P.I., Junior Mission), and our Greater True Vine's Missionary Department sponsored a 3 Events in One Day function. The events included a Christmas Stop and Shop, a clothes give-a-way, and a Health Fair. Sister Diane Tisdale, Coordinator of the Youth Departments and the North Florida D.R.E., along with Sister Latrelle Sanford, our Missionary Department President, spearheaded the function.

Volunteers (adults & youth) were asked to prepare and work together to make the event a success. A few weeks before the event was held, Sister Diane Tisdale, Sister Gwendolyn Murray, and the youth of the church canvassed several neighborhoods and passed out flyers. Sister Latrelle Sanford had an advertisement banner made and announced the event over the local community radio.

Before the day of the event, the Missionary Department had their tables ready for the clothes' give-a-way and the Junior Missionary Department

packed approximately 20 canisters and 21 bags of red beans (40 lbs). They also prepared the food to issue out to event attendees at the end of the day.

Sister Diane Tisdale set up tables with children toys (mini train sets, mini basketball sets, indoor & outdoor games, stuffed animals, etc.), shoes, women's clothing, items for men, and many other miscellaneous and household items.

All children were given free hot dogs, drinks, and popcorn. The adults enjoyed bowls of chili, chili hot dogs, hot wings, coffee, and other drinks.

Sister Victoria Parker, our Culinary President, manned the kitchen and kept the food ready to serve. Sister Angela Cooper gave the remaining canisters and bags of beans to needy residents in the immediate community.

God blessed us to meet and greet the attendees, to minister to the unsaved and the homeless, and to provide food for the hungry. James 2:15-16 states: If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?

The Hospital Emergency Room Alternatives Program (HERAP) Community Coordinator, Mr. John H. Lee Jr., and his medical staff were on site to provide diabetes risk assessments. They checked the attendees'

A1C and blood pressure free of charge. The representatives also answered any questions concerning health issues, and checked anyone needing medical assistance.

HERAP is a Division of the Florida Department of Health in Duval County. In mid year of 2011, Sister Diane Tisdale saw a medical need for the residents in our church community and made a request to Pastor Doris E. Medlock, who was our Pastor at that time, to start the Community Living Room Partners Program with the Florida Department of Health.

Their purpose is to provide health and wellness presentations and workshops for our local communities in the city of Jacksonville. The presentations and workshops are available to individuals with a chronic illness and designed to educate and assist individuals in setting and maintaining healthy lifestyle goals, while improving their overall health status.

At the first presentation at our church, HERAP representatives conducted a health screening event to help us determine our health and wellness interests. The HERAP Program also assists individuals that are uninsured, and have health concerns for those who may have high blood pressure, high cholesterol, asthma,

diabetes, and those who are connected to a medical home. A medical home will provide the primary care services needed to assist individuals with managing chronic conditions.

Sister Tisdale thought this Health Program would continue to be beneficial to our church members and the community it serves. Our current Pastor, Reverend Charles E. Beamer Jr., agrees that HERAP should continue to provide service to our Eastside Community.

We were especially proud of the youth who helped set up, manned the tables, assisted with the clothes give-a-way, and the work at the end of the event. Thank you to Ja'Shayla King, Joshua King, and Isaiah King for their efforts in making our 3 Events in One Day a success.

We also thank our North Florida District President, Sister Rushon Watson for volunteering her time and supporting us in our efforts to provide for the community, as well as Sister Gwendolyn Murray, Sister Victoria Parker, Sister Angela Cooper, Deacon Cedric Medlock, Brother Sylvester Sanford, and the Deacons and members for their support.

Finally, to our Pastor, Reverend Charles E. Beamer Jr., Thank you for your continued support for True Vine's Y.P.I, H.Y.P.U., Junior Missionary, and Missionary Departments.

Everyone had a blessed day and we look forward to having a similar event next year.

Sister Diane Tisdale, D.R.E

MS WORD TIPS

Paste Special

Have you ever copied some text from a web page (or another document) to use in a Word document you're preparing, but when you paste the Clipboard's contents into your document the formatting messes up?

To control the formatting of the text you paste, use one of the Paste Special options. They're available when you click the arrow beneath the Paste command on the Home ribbon. You can also use a keyboard shortcut to open the Paste Special dialog box:

Press Ctrl+Alt+V to open the Paste Special dialog box.

The exact options in the Paste Special dialog box will vary, depending on what you copied, but for most text you can choose the 'Unformatted Text' option to merge the text into your document using the existing document's

formatting.

Shortcuts to Select Text

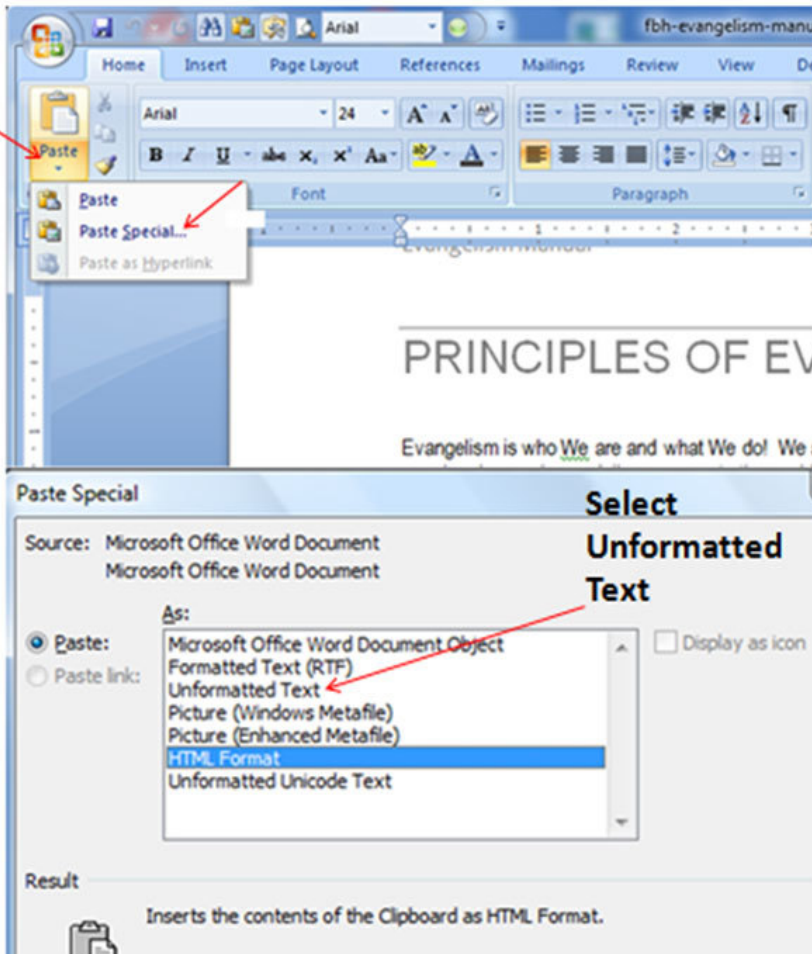
To select a word: double-click the left mouse button on the word

To select a sentence: hold down CTRL and single-click the left mouse button on the sentence.

To select a paragraph: triple-click the left mouse button in the paragraphs

To select the whole document: triple-click the left mouse button in the left margin of the screen.

Click the arrow beneath the Paste command & select Paste Special



TAXES & SOCIAL SECURITY & MILEAGE

Taxes & Social Security

By AARP.org, Bankrate.com, H&R Block, IRS.gov

OH, MY!

Taxes

You have until Monday, April 18, 2016 to file your Federal returns. Taxpayers in Maine and Massachusetts will get one more day -- until April 19 -- to file their federal returns because offices there will be closed on the 18th for Patriots' Day, the holiday in those states that commemorates the first battles in the Revolutionary War.

Tax-favored Savings Accounts

Taxpayers in 2015 were introduced to 2 new tax-favored savings accounts that are designed for individuals who don't make a lot of money.

The starter retirement savings account known as myRA became available to all on Nov. 4, 2015. The myRA is aimed at lower-income earners, allowing them to open a retirement savings plan with minimal contributions and no fees. The accounts are patterned after Roth IRAs, which means there's no immediate tax benefit, but the account grows tax-free.

The Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE, account option became available Jan. 1, 2015. This account resembles popular state-run 529 college savings plans and is designed to help people with disabilities and their families save and pay for disability-related expenses. Contributions to an ABLE account are not tax-deductible, but withdrawals for qualified expenses are free from federal taxation.

Advocates are hopeful that these 2 fledgling savings plans will help underserved tax constituencies and become more widespread as eligible taxpayers learn about them.

Affordable Care Act (ACA) Tax Penalties & Credits

The government provides financial help to lower the monthly cost of health insurance known as the Advance Premium Tax Credit. Tax credits are usually claimed when you file your tax return. The Advance Premium Tax Credit works differently.

After you enroll in a Marketplace health insurance plan and are determined eligible for the Advance Premium Tax Credit, this tax credit is **ADVANCED** to the health insurance company on your behalf and applied directly to your monthly health insurance premium, to lower your monthly cost. This occurs throughout the year, before you file your tax return.

When you enroll in a Marketplace health insurance plan, you are asked to provide an estimate of your household income. This estimate, along with the number of people in your

TAXES & SOCIAL SECURITY & MILEAGE

Taxes & Social Security

By AARP.org, Bankrate.com, H&R Block, IRS.gov

OH, MY!

Taxes (continued)

household, is used to determine your eligibility for the Advance Premium Tax Credit. It's also used to determine how much tax credit you receive.

If you and/or a member of your household receive the Advance Premium Tax Credit, the tax credit must be reconciled when you file your tax return. The Advance Premium Tax Credit amount that you received was based on an estimate of your household income and your expected family size. So, when you file your taxes the amount of Advance Premium Tax Credit you received will be reconciled against what you were actually eligible for based on your actual household income.

If your actual income was less than what you estimated, you may get money back, which could increase your refund amount. However, if your actual income was more than what you estimated, you may need to repay some of your Advance Premium Tax Credit, which could reduce your refund amount. The credit could also be affected by changes in your family size, such as the birth of a child. You will need form 1095-A when you file your taxes. If you don't have 1095-a visit the IRS website www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act/Individuals-and-Families/Health-Insurance-Marketplace-Statements for more information.

The ACA now requires almost everyone to have health insurance. However, some people may choose not to enroll in health insurance. If you choose not to enroll there may be consequences in the form of a tax penalty, unless you qualify for an exemption. A penalty could mean your refund might be reduced, or you could pay more if you owe taxes at the end of the year.

The penalty in 2015 is calculated one of two ways. If you or members of your household don't have insurance that qualifies as minimum essential coverage you'll pay whichever of these amounts is higher:

1. \$325.00 per adult plus \$162.00 per child, up to a maximum of \$975 or
2. 2% of your annual household income

Depending on your circumstances, you may qualify for an exemption to either lower your tax penalty or eliminate it altogether. Many kinds of exemptions can be claimed on your tax return; however, you may need to apply for some

TAXES & SOCIAL SECURITY & MILEAGE

Taxes & Social Security

By AARP.org, Bankrate.com, H&R Block, IRS.gov

OH, MY!

Taxes (continued)

exemptions and get Marketplace approval.

Exemptions are based on factors such as financial hardships, religious affiliations, and gaps in coverage – just to name a few. For more information on exemptions visit HealthCare.gov at <https://www.healthcare.gov/health-coverage-exemptions/exemptions-from-the-fee/>

Social Security

Social Security beneficiaries won't get a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in 2016 because of low inflation. This will be the third time since 2010 that beneficiaries won't get a raise.

TAXES & SOCIAL SECURITY & MILEAGE

Mileage Reimbursement

By Start Church

OH, MY!

Many church leaders assume that when it comes to mileage reimbursement the church can simply fill up the gas tank for the individual in need of reimbursement. However, mileage reimbursement does not quite work that way.

When a church simply fills up the gas tank of an employee or volunteer, then the amount paid to fill up his or her gas tank technically becomes taxable income.

The instance of filling up an employee's or volunteer's gas tank becomes taxable income to that person because the act of filling up his gas tank is technically being done in consideration for a service he provided (i.e. driving somewhere for the church).

There are 2 general methods that can be used to reimburse an employee and/or volunteer for the mileage he drives for church purposes: the actual expense method and the standard mileage rate method.

Actual Expense Method

Using this method will allow drivers to deduct the actual cost of using their vehicle for business or charitable purposes, plus depreciation on their IRS tax returns. It requires more record keeping but, it can result in a large deduction for the driver.

If you choose to reimburse your church employees or volunteers via the actual expense method, then they must keep track of all costs incurred for their vehicle each time they use their vehicle for church purposes. Some items that the employee or volunteer must keep track of includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- gas and oil
- repairs and maintenance
- car repair tools
- tires
- registration fees
- depreciation of the vehicle and improvements
- insurance
- towing charges
- car washes

Mileage Reimbursement (continued)

By Start Church

OH, MY!

Standard Mileage Rate Method

The standard mileage rate method requires that the driver keep track of how many miles he drives for church purposes, not the actual expenses of the vehicle. In addition to keeping track of the mileage, the individual should also keep track of the following:

- the date that the miles were driven,
- the destination to which he drove,
- the purpose for which the miles were driven

The IRS permits employers to reimburse employees and volunteers for miles driven when using their personal vehicles on behalf of the corporation.

The IRS updates or changes the mileage reimbursement rates at the beginning of each year. The following rates went into effect on January 1st, 2016:

54 cents per mile for business miles driven (for employees)

14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations (for volunteers)

Note: The 2016 standard mileage reimbursement rate for employees decreased by 3.5 cents. Much of this drop in the standard mileage reimbursement rate for employees is attributed to the lower gas prices that much of the country has experienced lately.

NEW BREED SCAM ARTISTS

According to a survey by True Link Financial, older Americans are criminally defrauded of \$12.76 billion annually. This includes identity theft and all those crazy scams you hear about but smugly think will never work on you. The next scam victim could be you. Here's what to watch out for in the new year and, most important, how to protect yourself.

Tech Support

This may be the biggest consumer scam in the U.S. right now. According to Microsoft, in 2015 an estimated 3.3 million people — many of them seniors — were victimized by a tech-support con, at a total cost of \$1.5 billion. That's 1 American duped out of an average \$454 nearly every 10 seconds.

Here's how the scam typically unfolds: You get an unsolicited call from someone claiming to be with Microsoft or Windows tech support, who says viruses have been detected on your computer. In order to protect your data, you are told to immediately call up a certain website and follow its instructions. A dummy screen may appear that shows viruses being detected and eliminated, but in reality malware is being installed that allows the

scammer to steal your usernames and passwords, hold your data for ransom or even use the webcam to spy on you.

Your Plan: Hang up the phone. "Neither Microsoft nor our partners make unsolicited

How Scammers Find You

Frank W. Abagnale, a long time FBI consultant whose early life as a con artist was portrayed in the film "Catch Me If You Can," equates it with playing roulette. Sometimes your unlucky number just comes up. But AARP Foundation's Amy Nofziger, who has degrees in criminology and sociology, cites three additional reasons.

1. Data purchases - Scammers buy phone numbers from companies that sell data, then use the same methods legitimate marketing companies do, but for nefarious purposes."
2. Con artists network - If you've been a victim of a fraud or scam, you're put on a so-called sucker list. These lists are bought, sold, traded and stolen among scammers.
3. Volunteered info - Personal info you willingly divulge by entering giveaways and sweepstakes, or when filling out surveys.

phone calls," says Courtney Gregoire, senior attorney at the Microsoft Digital Crimes Unit. Also, don't click any links in unsolicited emails from "Microsoft" or in pop-up ads promising to speed up your computer. "And if you haven't downloaded Windows 10 or the latest version of OS X, do it," says William Woodworth with Best Buy's Geek Squad. "Each update is free and has lots of new security built in." Ditto for any other software programs you're running.

Silent Call

Has this been happening to

you? The phone rings, you pick it up, say "hello," but there's no one on the other line. It's a new type of robocall — an automated computer system making tens of thousands of calls to "build a list of humans to target for theft," according to the Financial Fraud Research Center. It's the first step in opening you up to many phone-based scams.

Your Plan: Use Caller ID. Screen your calls. Don't pick up if the number is unfamiliar. If you don't have Caller ID, ask your phone company to put it on your land line.

IRS Imposter

"It's our number 1 reported fraud right now," says Amy Nofziger with AARP Foundation and Fraud Watch Network, "and I think it'll get more sophisticated." Here's how it works: Someone claiming to be from the IRS either phones or leaves a voice message saying

you owe back taxes and threatening that, unless funds are wired immediately, legal action will be taken or you'll be arrested. (Or they may say you have a refund waiting but need to verify personal info before sending.)

They're very convincing, and often use aggressive language. These scammers are getting more devious: Sometimes "IRS" shows up on caller ID, the con artists supply their "badge numbers,

NEW BREED SCAM ARTISTS (CONTINUED)

and they know the last 4 digits of your Social Security number.

Your Plan: Do not return a call from someone claiming to be with the IRS. The real IRS opens communications with a taxpayer only via the U.S. Postal Service. If you're ever in doubt about an IRS matter, call the agency directly at 800-829-1040. Sometimes for kicks Nofziger actually calls the IRS impostors back. "They usually pick up on the first ring," she says. "The IRS doesn't usually have the staffing capacity to pick up on the first ring, but the scammers do." how to protect yourself.

Cancer Rip-Off

Last spring, in one of the biggest busts of its kind, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) charged four national cancer charities (the Cancer Fund of America, Cancer Support Services, the Children's Cancer Fund of America and the Breast Cancer Society) with defrauding consumers of \$187 million. At the other end of the cancer-scam spectrum, last August a reigning beauty queen (Miss Pennsylvania U.S. International) was arrested after allegedly claiming she had cancer and swindling tens of thousands of dollars from sympathetic supporters. She even shaved her head and staged "Bingo for Brandi" fundraisers, authorities say.

Your Plan: Before contributing to any charity, check out its

rating on charitynavigator.org. Instead of giving cash to door-to-door solicitors or your credit card number to callers, ask for more information about the charity (brochures, websites) so you can investigate the cause first. Also be wary of popular online giving sites such as gofundme.com. The best thing you can do to protect yourself from this or any scam is to be skeptical, says Frank W. Abagnale, a former con artist who became a long time FBI consultant on scams and is now AARP's Fraud Watch Network Ambassador. Ask questions. Trust your gut.

Chip Card

Banks and credit card companies are in the process of issuing customers new "chip" cards. "The data is protected in an integrated circuit [rather than a magnetic strip], and there's a dynamic code that resets after each use," explains Vernon Marshall, senior vice president and functional risk officer for American Express. "They're almost impossible to counterfeit."

But here's the scam. The FTC is warning that con artists are impersonating card issuers and sending emails requesting personal and financial information, or asking that you click on a malware-laced link before being issued a new card. The fraudsters are sending emails — purporting to be from companies such as American Express — that convincingly use the company's logo and

color scheme, and even have footer links such as "View Our Privacy Policy" and "Contact Us."

Your Plan: No credit card company will email or call you to verify personal info it already has on file before mailing a new card. (At most, you'll get a letter in the mail saying it will arrive soon.) If you're ever unsure, simply call the number on the back of your card (not the one supplied by the email) and ask the company if it's trying to contact you.

Medical Identity Theft

When most people hear identity theft, they think of someone stealing their credit card info and buying a big screen TV. You can't legally be held liable for fraudulent purchases like that. It's different, however, with medical identity theft. You can be required to cover the cost for health care services you never received. These can include tests, prescription drugs, and even operations.

Your Plan: Never surrender Social Security, Medicare, or health insurance numbers to anyone you don't know and trust. Be particularly wary of free health checks offered at shopping malls, fitness clubs, and retirement homes (aka rolling labs). If they ask to photocopy your cards or ask you to sign a blank insurance claim form, don't do it! It's also vital to review all statements from your insurance provider. If there are any charges you don't understand, call immediately.

NEW BREED SCAM ARTISTS (CONTINUED)

When shopping online for prescription drugs or other health-related items, remember that if a price seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Counterfeit Apps

Last year, news broke that Apple's normally secure app store had been compromised. Some developers had evidently used a fake version of Xcode (hence dubbed Xcode Ghost) to build their apps, not knowing it contained malware designed to steal passwords and do other devious things.

Your Plan: Apple says it has purged its store of these malicious apps. But that doesn't mean it couldn't happen again. Geek Squad's Woodworth recommends always reading an app's reviews before downloading. Choose proven, popular apps. Be aware, too, that you can limit an app's access to your location by adjusting your device's privacy settings, thus reducing the chance of being spied on..

Grieving Widow

The key to every scammer's success is being able to put you under "emotional ether." "It's when you're not thinking cognitively, but emotionally," Nofziger says. At no time are we more vulnerable than after the loss of a loved one, and con artists know that. A man was arrested last August for allegedly bilking an 89-year-old Wisconsin widow out of nearly \$4,500. Police

say he scanned obituaries for prey, then pretended to be a bank official to trick them out of money. He may have been working the scam across the country for decades.

Your Plan: Ask a trusted family member to temporarily handle your financial responsibilities while you are grieving. Have that person follow up on any suspicious phone calls or emails. And be aware that while you are grieving, you may be more vulnerable to fraud tactics that play on your emotions.

Gift Voucher

This rip-off involves getting an unsolicited email from McDonald's, Subway, or another popular restaurant or retailer offering a free gift card if you click a link to activate it. The pitch looks legit, but it's a phishing scam, meaning the perpetrator is either trying to install malware on your computer or gather personal info by having you complete an online questionnaire.

Your Plan: Repeat after us - Never click a link in an unsolicited email or divulge personal info, no matter how enticing the offer. Do a Google search (such as "McDonald's gift card scam") and see if any warnings come up. In most cases, they will.

Faith-based Dating

Reports are surfacing in AARP's Fraud Watch Network about a new ripple in online dating deceptions. Traditionally, these scams

have involved con artists stealing the hearts of unsuspecting singles (many of them seniors) and then using various ploys to steal money. But now scammers are targeting faith-based sites like BigChurch, ChristianMingle, JDate, and others.

"People are more likely to fall for scams on sites like these because they can't believe somebody of their own faith is a con artist," explains Jane Margesson of AARP's Maine office.

Your Plan: Before getting involved with anyone online, use Google or Spokeo.com to research the person, and even view his or her address on Google Maps. Finding "no results" is a red flag. Do a Google Image search for a profile picture. Keep in mind that people who are legitimately looking for love won't ask for money (unless they're your kids).

- aarp.org

"A Sweet Taste of Home Cook'n" Regina Poellnitz

Regina Poellnitz, also known as Ms. Gigi, is the eldest daughter of Elder Reginald and Pastor Beth Poellnitz. She is a member of Faith Temple FBH Church in Inkster, Michigan and in charge of the YPI Department.

Ms Gigi was inspired to start her business, "A Sweet Taste of Home Cook'n" to make soul food more available. Her menu includes rib tips, meat loaf & gravy, smothered pork chops (learned from her dad), chicken alfredo, bar-b-que chicken, greens, fresh salads, mostaccioli, cakes, cupcakes, cheesecake in a jar, deep fried apple pies, & her specialty, melt-in-your mouth yeast rolls.

When she was a young girl she watched her mama & granny cook. She also remembers watching Sister Frazier & the older saints cooking at St. James.

Ms Gigi is motivated by her dad, Elder R. Poellnitz, & her fiancée to get her business up and running. Of course, her loyal customers keep her encouraged with their requests for food & desserts.

She gives a portion of her sales to the YPI Department of her local church. Please consider ordering some delectable edibles from Ms. Gigi at 313-334-1860.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

In the Spotlight are 2 very talented young women. They grew up in our church and are faithful members.

I'm so proud of them both. And.... I can truthfully say, I love their food.

Sister Vernell Turner



"Williams Home Sweets" Cherilyn Williams

Cherilyn Williams, oldest child of Brother Cecil Williams Jr. & Sister Alice Williams, is co-proprietor of Williams Home Sweets, purveyors of all things related to pies, cobblers, & cakes & even dinners. She is a member of St. Matthew FBH Church in Columbus, Ohio and an accomplished percussionist at her church.

Cooking has always been a passion for her since she was in elementary school. "I would be in the kitchen with my mother or both my grandmothers. They would cook all day and the house always smelled so good with breakfast, dinner, lunch, and even desserts. Always a full course meal."

She watched her mom & grandma cook. They allowed her to be creative with seasonings and sometimes allowed her to make her own dish. These experiences made her very confident. She began to cook for church hosted parties & special occasions.

She is motivated by her parents and teaches her children to memorize recipes & cook from scratch. "God has blessed my hands with the gift of creativity and I give all glory to Him." Please contact Sister Cherilyn at 614-592-3515 or 614-530-919 to order sweets or dinner for any occasion.

ELLIS ISLAND

From 1892 to 1954, over 12 million immigrants entered the United States through the portal of Ellis Island, a small island in New York Harbor. Ellis Island is located in the upper bay just off the New Jersey coast, within the shadow of the Statue of Liberty.

Before being designated as the site of the first Federal immigration station by President Benjamin Harrison in 1890, Ellis Island had a varied history. The local Indian tribes had called it "Kioshk" or Gull Island. It was also known as Oyster Island for many generations during the Dutch and English colonial periods because of its rich and abundant oyster beds.

Over the years Ellis Island developed from a sandy island that barely rose above the high tide mark, into a hanging site for pirates, a harbor fort, ammunition and ordinance depot named Fort Gibson, and finally into an immigration station. In 1808 the Federal government purchased Ellis Island from New York State. It was approved as a site for fortifications and named Fort Gibson in honor of a brave officer killed during the War of 1812.

Throughout the 1800s and intensifying in the latter half of the 19th century, ensuing political instability, restrictive religious laws, and deteriorating economic conditions in Europe began to fuel the largest mass human migration in the history of the world. Realizing the limitations of the current immigration station, the Federal government constructed a new Federally-operated immigration station on Ellis Island.

The new structure on Ellis Island opened on January 1, 1892. Annie Moore, a teen-aged Irish girl, accompanied by her two brothers, entered history and a new country as she was the very first immigrant to be processed at Ellis Island. Over the next 62 years, more than 12 million were to follow through this port of entry.

After 1924, the only people who were detained at Ellis Island were those who had problems with their paperwork (which was completed at American consulates), as well as war refugees and displaced persons. Ellis Island still remained open for many years and served a multitude of purposes. In November of 1954, Ellis Island officially closed.

In 1984, Ellis Island underwent a major restoration. With the completion of the Peopling of America Center® on May 20, 2015, and the entire story of American immigration being told, the museum was renamed the Ellis Island National Museum of Immigration. Today, the museum receives almost 2 million visitors annually.

-excerpts from www.libertyellisfoundation.org



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