



Capital Baptist Newsletter

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A Publication of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention

June 2018 - VOLUME 6



ENGAGING COMMUNITIES

In This Edition...

COVER STORY:

Winning or Reconciliation

INCLUSION:
Spiritual Convictions Social
Segregation

Engaging Communities Update



From the Desk of the Executive Director/Minister

What makes D.C. Baptists so effective in the city of Washington and within the surrounding suburbs? Many evangelical groups find it difficult, if not impossible, to work in urban environments, but D.C. Baptists have done so for more than 100 years. The District once had a growing, suburban edge, but that time is long past. D.C. Baptists thrive in urban life and have done so for many years.

Our readiness to change is one critical factor. Perhaps we learned such readiness by our observation of Christ Jesus, who changed forms to become human. D.C. Baptists recognize we must change some of our former ways in order to relate to those not yet known. Some struggle, coming later to change, finally embracing their environment and those within it. D.C. Baptists do change, however, trusting not tradition but God to sustain life.

Secondly, D.C. Baptists work to engage people and communities that make up our city. Our diversity is well-known, by some cherished. Residents in Washington gather together here from across the country, indeed from across the globe; our diversity surprises no one. So, we pass the hospitality once received on, as we in turn offer acceptance to

others.

I believe the most important characteristic of D.C. Baptists is the **compassion** we show. My travels and ministry across the globe confirm it; people always receive compassion warmly, once it is fully understood. Compassion is **the way** that those outside the Kingdom of God first recognize and later come to embrace the work of our Messiah. Such always has been true, and it will continue to be so, for God's Truthundershadows it. Humans respond to compassion whenever and wherever it is sincerely expressed.

And so, let us go on joyfully into the future, expressing compassion to communities not yet like us, ready to change for the sake of God's Kingdom.



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June

CALENDAR

1

Church
Administration
Colloquium
Session 3

2

Safe Sanctuaries :
Sunday School
Training

17

Father's Day



6

Chapel and
Staff Meeting

19

Pastors
Luncheon
BOD Meeting

8

OAM Team
Meeting

23

JBCC Meals for Kids
Ministry on the Mall

16

Church Clerk and
Trustee Workshop



HAPPY
FATHER'S
DAY



Editor's Note

about this month's edition....

Welcome to June!

This month we are excited to engage you in our local and global communities. The Office of Engaging Communities continues to massage the issues of the community as well as examine all of its genuine jewels to uplift, educate and empower the community as a whole.

I employ you to share this edition with others as we seek to find more ways to help OUR surrounding communities.



Blessings to you and Enjoy!

Kimberly Anne

<https://www.tricentis.com/community/>

THE GIVING STATEMENTS



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resources and
services that multiply
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do this because
month after month,
year after year,
generation after
generation, your
hands have been
open.

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in a myriad of ways.

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**THE GIVING
STATEMENTS!**

Fix Our Eyes on Jesus

By LeeAnn Carrera



April was come and gone so quickly. Starting Easter Sunday on April 1st, we had an Easter service at the multipurpose room. It was a wide –community event. This year our theme is worth it?” based on Hebrew 9:22, “In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleaned with blood, and without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness. Afterwards, the luncheon was provided. A sponsor for Easter Service delivered the food and drinks from Quires restaurant. The students were enjoyed the fellowship along with some visitors. Some students went to the service for first time and stayed with us after the service. We had the opportunity to talk and get to know each other. It was a good ministry!

We are returning to the normal schedule as we had the discipleship and the bible study. Well-attended and participated in the discussion are always good. We received a surprise from the visitors who went to the Museum of the Bible for their 3 days meeting stopped by and joined us. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to share the experience with the stu-

dents. The students learned a lot from them and asked many questions. We had stayed up late!! They did not mind it!

Other event we attended to the wide-deaf community revival in Clinton, MD. I met a few American – Africa students from Gallaudet that attend the Missionary Baptist churches. They were voluntary in assisting and serving. They asked me to share the testimony which I did. Again, we had stayed up late! It was a wonderful spiritual revival!

We had the worship service regularly. On April 22nd, we had the end of year party after the service. We provided the pizza and the wings. The students who will be graduated in a few weeks and I had talked about the International Mission Board. One of them is so interested and wanted to join in it. So she will go home for the summer since she spend so little time with her family for last four years and wanted to spend a quality of time with her family. Her home state is California. Then she will start to apply for it! I encouraged her to sign up for two year journey men

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfect of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)

The last service we had last Sunday. I taught about Paul and Timothy and assigned them the responsibility for the summer mission. I made the list so they will follow them. I encouraged them to look for the opportunity to involve in the church or camp, and invite the high school students for the outing day. Also, they will set up and spend a prayer time and a devotional time regularly. We had a farewell fellowship afterward.

The first week of April 30-May 3rd will be a final examination week. When the students are done with their exams, they will leave for home. The dorms will be closed by Sunday at noon.

For this year, it was a little bit of odd that we closed the semester early. For past, it is usually after 1st week of May!



Evangelism:

Two students who attended the Easter service came to us. They wanted to ask some questions regarding different between one denominational and other one denominational (i.e. Baptist VS Assembly of God). We explained about the different prescriptive of the faith and values in each denominational. We came to the point to Jesus.

They listened literally and asked a few more questions. We replied it carefully and offered the God's salvation plan. Other students were supporting this message and shared their first-life changing experience with them. I allowed them to talk with them.

They were doing it amazingly! They did not bring the bible but used the bible in their cell-text! Indeed, they live in the cyber world doing all technical things! I am still learning! So they showed the scriptures to them. When the students cannot remember or recall which the verse they are looking for so I opened the bible, looked for them and found them. That is my old school!

The two students caught most of them and opened their heart. Again I emphasized them not leaning on the denominational but leaning on Jesus. The Holy Spirit will guide them to find a bible-belt church.

They wanted to meet with our students at the dorm and they did so.

Over the last two years, DCBC's Baptist Men's Ministry (BMM) has visited over 80 DCBC member churches sharing its Holy Spirit inspired vision to "Connect the Body of Christ through Men's Ministry." Unity and Fellowship continues to be the driving force behind BMM's ability to thrive within the multi-cultural makeup of DCBC.

In March 2017, BMM was blessed with an opportunity to sponsor and help facilitate six different DCBC member senior pastors coming together for a dialogue on diversity. During this powerful dialogue of discussions and perspectives shared from different cultures, nationalities, and backgrounds, it was made apparent that we have a lot to do to connect the Body of Christ. God fearing men are needed now more than ever to unite our efforts towards Kingdom Building.

Over the remainder of this year, BMM will continue to pray and seek God's guidance on ways to bring men together in ministry. Serving under the Engaging Communities initiative of DCBC, BMM is committed to become more engaged in community focused ministry to further demonstrate our love and concern for our neighbors. This approach will seek to engage and equip more men to join us in this marvelous movement of

ministry. One of our late and admired senior pastors would always quote, "more must do some, and some must do more."

As we continue to allow the leading of the Holy Spirit, our focus to encourage and strengthen men's ministry will not faint. Opportunities to serve and work alongside us is available to anyone with a willingness to serve. BMM is represented by all men who have accepted Jesus Christ as the personal Lord and Savior. We're striving to ensure all DCBC member churches are aware that we serve to represent the best interest of all men's ministries. Prayer, evangelism, mentoring, and training are the core disciplines that fuel this ministry on the move.

Throughout our experiences and visits with our member churches, we're seeing first hand that events will attract men but relationships make them stick. We pray as we embark on a new set of blessings and opportunities that more men might be encouraged and led to demonstrate their faith by building new relationships.

A man that has friends, must show himself friendly (Proverbs 18:24a).



MINISTRY ON THE MOVE

DCBC Baptist Men's Ministry
By Ronald Greenfield

SUNDAY SCHOOL TRAINING



District of Columbia Baptist Convention

Office of Empowering Congregations

SAFE SANCTUARIES

Jesus said, "My house will be a house of prayer" (Matthew 21.13). With stories of child sexual abuse becoming more public and church shootings more frequent, many see it as a house of horrors.

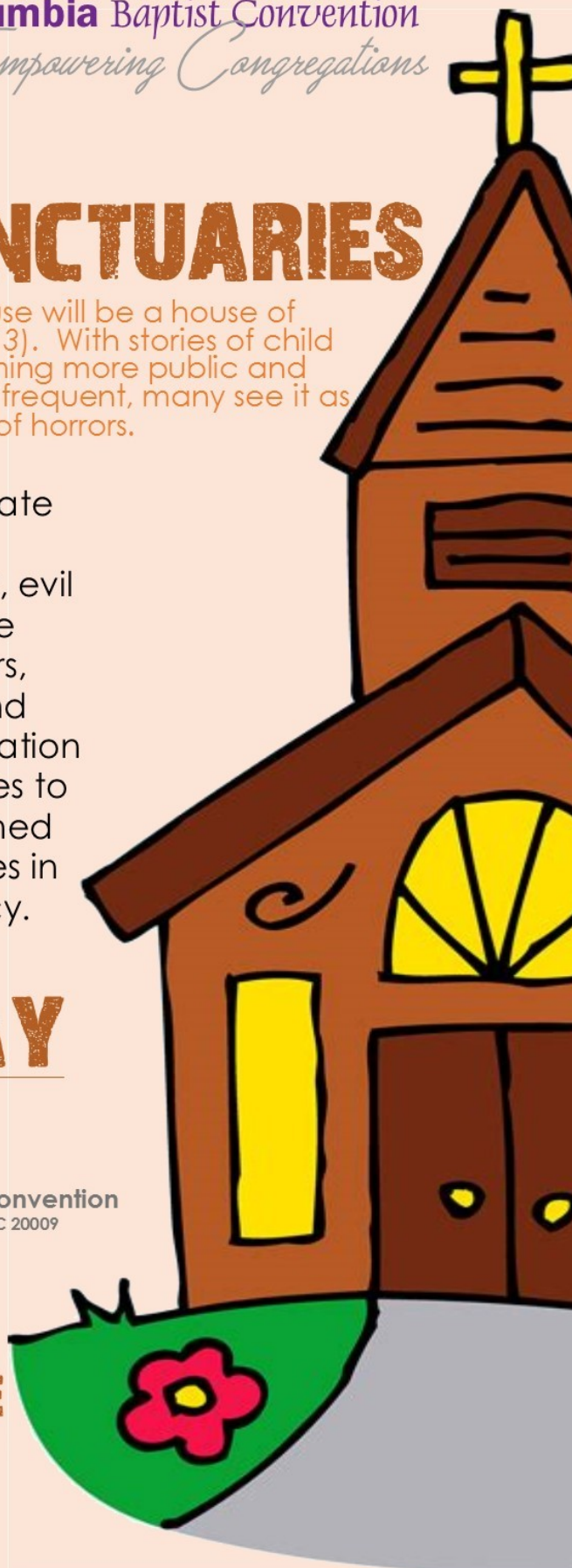
We covenant to create safe space for conversations on fear, evil and darkness while equipping directors, superintendents and teachers with conversation partners and resources to equip churches to shed light on best practices in cases of emergency.

SATURDAY

June 2, 2018
9:30AM - 3PM

District of Columbia Baptist Convention
1628 16th Street, NW Washington, DC 20009

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DCBAPTIST.ORG





District of Columbia Baptist Convention
BAPTIST MEN'S MINISTRY

2018 BMM Men's Leadership Retreat

RESTORING *the* *Creator* - CREATURE Relationship

Three-day "FREE" Retreat for men to re-focus and embrace Men's Ministry Leadership

Parchment Valley Conference Center

1715 Lower Parchment Valley
Ripley, West Virginia 25271

JUNE
8-10
2018

Retreat begins @
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This three-day Retreat includes all lodging
and meals at **NO** cost.

Transportation to and from the Retreat is
\$20 per person.

Register online today!
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2018 Church Clerk and Trustee Workshops



Church Clerks

The **Church Clerk** is responsible for recording, processing and maintaining accurate church records. In this workshop we will discuss your role, membership records, church meetings, the proper way to prepare meeting minutes, records retention, reporting requirement and more.

&

TRUSTEES

The role of the **Trustee** is to be "Keepers of God's House." In this workshop we will discuss; the purpose and role of the trustee; Non-Disclosure and Confidentiality Agreements; document review (AOI, bylaws, meeting minutes, insurances, etc.); facility oversight, repairs and safety issues; and how to be proactive against legal liabilities.

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2018 - 10:00AM - 12:00PM

D.C. BAPTIST CONVENTION 1628 16TH STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20009

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.DCBAPTIST.ORG



Mount Carmel Baptist Church of Washington, DC seeks a visionary leader, sent by God, to serve as its 11th Pastor. The position is full-time and will require a dynamic individual with both spiritual and managerial gifts.

<https://www.themcbc.org/jobs/>

View all employment opportunities at
www.dcbaptist.org

NEWS YOU CAN GO SEE



Rev. Larrin Robertson
Pastor & Conference Host

WORD For Life Church Ministries

PRESENTS: "Coming to the Table to Change the World"

Family Conference 2018

for married and single Men, Women, and Children/Youth

Saturday, June 2, 2018 | 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Register online: wordforlifechurch.org/calendar

\$25⁰⁰ per guest includes:

Breakfast & On-site Registration | 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Family Meeting | 10:00 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.

Breakout Sessions | 11:00 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.

Family Prayer | 1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch | 1:30 p.m.

Tonya Robertson, Conference Contact
tbellamy06@hotmail.com | (301) 292-2066



Rev. Melvin M. Maxwell
Pastor, East Friendship Baptist Church



Rev. Dr. Cynthia Turner
Pastor, Dayspring Community Church



Baba Jamal Koram
Griot/Storyteller

WORD For Life Church Ministries
11519 Fort Washington Rd. | Fort Washington, MD 20744



Winning *Or* Reconciliation?

By Andre Towner

I was almost unable to write this article.

Several weeks ago I found myself in a terrifying encounter with a law enforcement officer in Mississippi. The day before the incident, I had conducted funeral services for my father-in-law who was a retired Mississippi law enforcement officer. While the family slept the following morning I gathered framed photographs of the recently

deceased family patriarch to have them scanned by a local photography shop. As I arrived at the nearby strip mall where the shop was located I was greeted by a rain shower. Wanting to keep the photographs dry, I parked in front of the shop and asked a store employee to help me unload the photos.

After we finished and I was in my car getting ready to pull off a police officer stopped next to me and informed me I couldn't park there. After I told him I was leaving, the police officer began to lecture me about my parking. After quietly listening to his lecture I eventually offered to leave but only received more lecturing. I eventually asked the officer if I was being detained or free to leave, to which I got no initial response. Assumedly frustrated with my questions the officer got out of his car, slammed the door and began yelling at me. I began recording our encounter, asked for his name and badge number and eventually his supervisor. This seemed to enrage him. At this point I rolled up my windows, locked my doors and called 911 requesting assistance. While on the phone with the 911 operator the officer continued yelling at me while repeatedly banging on my car. Eventually the shift supervisor arrived, saw I was recording and helped the officer calm down. Thankfully I left the encounter with my life and only a \$41 parking citation. After the fear subsided I became angry and became determined that the officer be held accountable for his behavior. I began reviewing my video recording, researching lawyers, and developing a media strategy to hold this officer and the police department accountable. Un/fortunately in the midst of my brainstorming I began to hear the pesky words of my Middle Eastern Mentor that are recorded in the 18th chapter of Matthew, encouraging his followers to first go to the offending person prior to lodging complaints in a wider forum. Therefore, I reluctantly stopped working on my complaint and wrote a personal letter to the officer expressing my willingness to enter a personal or mediated dialogue instead of proceeding with my complaint. I am still waiting for a reply from the officer but I believe the choice to initially seek dialogue and understanding instead of filing, an anger-filled complaint can be instructive for the ways we seek justice in our fractured and fallen world.

The words of my before mentioned mentor should be the moral foundation for the Church's work of being the conscience and moral guide for movements and communities seeking justice through agitation, legislation, and/or deliberation. Unfortunately the church's morality has too often focused on the politics of respectability that says



if you are a member of certain communities, if you have a criminal record, if you don't dress right, talk right, act right....you deserve what you get. I submit that the most valuable gifts faith communities can give to justice movements are spaces and resources for reconciliation instead of winning. This small but significant shift towards a reconciled community has profound consequences.

When the Biblical writers mentioned a world where lions and lambs peacefully coexist, I don't think they believed that God would divinely turn lions in to vegetarians. Rather I believe the lion and lamb symbology represents a world where formerly oppressed and marginalized people live in true community with those responsible for their former oppression and marginalization. I believe the Church and all communities of faith are vital to ensuring our movement towards justice is aimed towards community, where scales are rebalanced, rather than producing a world filled with winners and losers. I am experienced enough to know that some people will misuse and take advantage of our choosing reconciliation and community over vengeance and winning. My Middle Eastern mentor also knew this but still consistently chose the path towards reconciliation and redemption; all the way to the cross. In the same way let us put on the mind and Spirit of Christ as we journey along life's highway.



Project Restoration

Project Restoration repairs homes of senior adults with limited or decreasing physical ability and/or income. Organizations such as the DC Baptist Foundation, American Baptist Churches USA, and the Edes Home Foundation have graciously purchased materials while local congregations and outside organizations such as Mission Serve have supplied volunteers to conduct the work at no charge to the homeowners.

www.dcbaptist.org

Departments/Engaging Communities/Project Restoration



Communities of Calling

Up to **14 congregations** will be accepted to participate in this **ecumenical** program.

Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox churches from North America are encouraged to apply.

Each congregational team will include a **pastor, a staff member, and a lay leader** who can each commit to leading their community through the **5-year initiative**.

We will also provide resources with a wide network of interested congregations beyond the participant teams.

The **Communities of Calling Initiative** invites congregations to design new projects or enhance existing ministries to help Christians discover and deepen their sense of God's calling in their lives.

The **Collegeville Institute** will serve as a hub where these congregations will gather to learn from each other.

Through an opening **retreat**, annual summer **meetings**, interactive **online gatherings**, and a pilgrimage opportunity to **Israel**, participants will learn to open their eyes and ears to **stories of calling**: from Scripture, from their lives, and from their congregations.

The Initiative is a **five-year project** funded by Lilly Endowment, Inc

The Collegeville Institute is offering grants up to \$30,000 to congregations who consider themselves "communities of calling." Here's the link for more information and to apply:

<https://www.communitiesofcalling.org/project-details/>.



April 16-19 Baptist-Muslim Dialogue

We joined other Baptists and their Islamic counterparts in Green Lake Wisconsin for the third national dialogue between Baptists and Muslims. Participants paired with others to build long-term relationships, foster mutual understanding, and participate in joint projects to enhance the welfare of their communities. Participants agreed to hold a follow on event in 2020 with the idea of pairing Baptist Congregations and Muslim Mosques for one year during which each community will teach the other about the faith tradition. At the conclusion of the year, the communities would host seminary students of the other's faith tradition for one or two semesters. The hope is these efforts will contribute to deeper relationships and interfaith collaboration, increased understanding of and support for religious liberty, and help each community become more knowledgeable of their own and other faith traditions.

Event sponsors included:

- Alliance of Baptists
- American Baptist Churches USA
- Canadian Baptist Ministries
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- Islamic Society of North America
- Lott Carey
- National Baptist Convention of America
- Progressive National Baptist Convention

April 20-23 Ecumenical Advocacy Days

The theme for the 2018 National Gathering of the Ecumenical Advocacy Days for Global Peace With Justice (EAD) was "A World Uprooted: Responding to Migrants, Refugees and Displaced People." The multi-day event focused on the uprootedness of our world. It analyzed current policy and envisioned ways to more fully and justly respond to the global and local needs of displaced communities. Through prayer, worship, advocacy training, and networking, EAD prepared and advocated for policy changes that advance hope and overcome the devastating impacts of conflict, climate change and corruption on God's people. This event was sponsored in part by the DC Baptist Convention. There is plenty of time and space for DCBC affiliated congregations and individuals to participate in planning the theme and scope of the next National Gathering scheduled to take place on April 5 – 8, 2019.

May 15: Anti-Human Trafficking

The Convention collaborated with the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd to host a one-day anti-human trafficking conference at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center. The event was designed to help "Shine the Light" on the fact that slavery/human trafficking still exists around the world; including all 50 American States. Conference participants received an overview of human trafficking (both sex and labor) in the U.S. and overseas. This was followed by two panels that separately focused on sex trafficking and labor trafficking and included survivors of trafficking, policy experts, and advocates. The conference concluded with remarks from Members of Congress who spoke on what participants - as people of faith and the members of the public - could do in their communities and neighborhoods. Afterwards conference participants met with their member(s) of congress to discuss ways to assist victims and hold perpetrators accountable. Conference bi-partisan congressional co-sponsors were Representative Ann Wagner (R-MO) and Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD). Baptist and Catholics working together, who could have imagined?



District of Columbia Baptist Convention

142nd ANNUAL GATHERING OF CHURCHES AND CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES

UNITED IN CHRIST

EPHESIANS 4:4-6

OCTOBER 25-27, 2018

PATHWAYS BAPTIST CHURCH, GAITHERSBURG, MD

INCLUSION

Spiritual Convictions Social Segregation

By O. Jermaine Bego

The story in the Gospel of John tells of an unusual encounter between Jesus and a blind man. In John 9:1-12, the writer speaks of a man blind from birth, conditioned this way because of his sin, or his parents' sin. Jesus shows up, puts mud on the man's eyes, thereby giving him new sight. However, for most of the narrative, the man is left to his own. After the miraculous healing, he now finds himself dealing with a situation, which although wonderful, has turned his life upside down. He does not have a clue how it worked; and isn't it odd how in the barrage of questions that follows, no one thinks to express thanksgiving with "Praise God"? Instead, the queries are laced with interrogatories of who, what and why.

The assumption behind all the questioning is that the man is involved in something scandalous. Everyone around him is worried if what happened is right or wrong, yet the only categories that ascribed to him are “blind” and “not blind.” If the people around him are going to insist that blind is right and not blind is wrong, then, for him, he is okay with being wrong.

The Netflix release of the 2018 movie entitled “Come Sunday” takes a pointed look into the life and ministry of Bishop Carlton Pearson, a prominent Pentecostal pastor who has stated he received divine revelation from God on the nature of Hell. After receiving this revelation, Bishop Pearson takes the position that Christianity’s traditional teaching that eternal hellfire awaited sinners was wrong. God’s eternal nature love could not eternally punish anyone, the vision said, and Jesus had provided for all people to eventually enter heaven, whether or not they were Christians.

Although this movie captures the essence of Bishop Carlson’s assertions on the Gospel of Inclusion, it also provides a more compelling glare into social dynamics driven by personal moral/spiritual convictions. All of Carlton Pearson’s relationships are impacted by what he believes to be an appropriate response to the voice of God. And he is not different than anyone else.

From Martin Luther to you and I, we are driven by our beliefs, by the notion that we have wrestled, much like Jacob (Genesis 32), only to survive our struggles transformed by the encounter with a permanent scar of surrender and sacrifice; however, if we are no longer seeking to enter to an exchange with God, our beliefs risk stagnation in realms of the conscious and sub-conscious. Stagnation becomes the mode, rather than the shift to a view, which is values-based. For Carlton Pearson, and others, it is not easy to make such a shift, because the changing of our beliefs is part of a trusted process of liveness, which makes us individuals with independent thought, rather than the perpetuation of conditioned systems that go without question.

Therefore, we make meaning of our world through our beliefs—and most of these beliefs have to do with our religious and cultural upbringing.

When we let go of these beliefs, we have to replace them with a new set of values that address our current context. Values are the universal human guidance system of the soul. Carlton Pearson’s situation demonstrates the weightiness of those decisions and he pays the ultimate prices when he is abandoned by family, attacked by parishioners and even alienated by colleagues. His only known community, one that nurtured and guided him in life and ministry, is now one of chaos, marred with confusion and shaped by arrogance, as this new insight seeks to disrupt centuries of set practices.

“I discovered,” Pearson writes in his book, *The Gospel of Inclusion*, “that what I had thought was a close, genuine family of brothers and sisters in Christ was really a power-mad cabal that would not tolerate any deviation from the intellectually, spiritually bankrupt mantra that has brought them so much money and power.”

So where does one discover a new community of acceptance? The blind man in John’s Gospel was safe as long as his condition [belief] was non-threatening to religious traditions that no longer considered a divine manifestation possible in the present day, that is, a break from normative practices. As we seek to discover God in our own lives, the question that rises to the realm of inquisitive discourse is what then speaks to the beloved community or the inclusion of all? This is where we find ourselves in this day and age, wrestling with questions as to who is invited to have a seat at the table, even more damning, who is welcome at the foot of the cross? Dare I say, this is the sin of our blind faith tradition, focusing our attention on the insignificant importance of answering “Who” rather than addressing the “How.” How do we make room at the foot of the cross for all who seek acceptance and how do we value all in the Kingdom of God that is designed to embrace the diversity of thought?



A photograph of an empty church interior. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking down a central aisle formed by two rows of wooden pews. The pews are made of light-colored wood and have simple, curved backs. The floor is also made of wood, showing some wear and grain. At the far end of the church, there is a window with a wooden frame and multiple small panes. Bright light streams in from the window, creating a strong contrast with the darker interior and casting long, soft shadows across the pews and floor. The walls are made of horizontal wooden planks. The overall atmosphere is quiet and contemplative.

Empowering Congregations *in July*