



Sunday, December 5, 2021

Volume 1: Issue 32



### NOT FOR ANGELS

Excerpt from "Compelled" by  
Dudley Rutherford

If God were to ask me, "Dudley, who do you think should carry this message of salvation to the world?" my answer would be an easy one. "Angels!" I'd say. Why not? Angels have been used by God throughout the Bible to bring very important messages to people. In fact, the Greek word for *angel* can also mean "messenger." Look at some of the messages angels have delivered:

- An angel told Zechariah that his wife, Elizabeth, would give birth to John the Baptist, even in their old age (Luke 1:13).
- An angel told Mary she was going to conceive

and bring forth a Child (Luke 1:35).

- In the Old Testament, angels also took care of Elijah (1Kings 19:5-7), mustered Gideon's courage (Judges 6), and rescued Lot from Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:1-17).

I think there are two very important reasons why God has chosen *us*—not angels—to share the gospel with the world. First, angels are very busy with their own tasks. Eph.6:12 reveals that there is a spiritual battle going on in the heavenly realms...God's angels are very likely involved in this battle (Jude 1:9). Angels serve God (Psalm 103:20). They are also busy praising and worshiping Him (Psalm 148:1-2; Rev. 5:8-13).

Perhaps the greater reason angels are not modern-day messengers of the gospel is because angels do not have a testimony. God has chosen *us*, not angels, to be His

ambassadors of the good news because angels have never experienced the weight or consequences of sin. An angel could never sing, "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me." Why? Because they have never been a "wretch." They're angels—not humans who live in a fallen world.

We, on the other hand, have a testimony and an ability to say to others, "Hey, my life used to be a wreck. I was trapped in sin just like you. Then one day I met Jesus Christ, and He changed my life. The same way He changed me, He can change you too." This is important because people tend to be more receptive to someone they can relate to—someone who has been in their shoes. This is empathy, and it serves as an amazing bridge between people.

We have a song that the angels cannot sing! We have a message they are not qualified to deliver. The Bible says God

has given *us*—not angels—the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18). God deemed it our responsibility to deliver His message to the world. You and I are called to be the spokesperson on His behalf. The world is waiting to hear *your* testimony of God's grace!



### **BUDGET MEETING**

Our annual budget meeting will take place on Saturday, December 11th at 10:00am via conference call. (1.717.908.1972, access # 875378) .

The purpose of this meeting is to present the projected revenues and expenses for the coming year, answer any submitted questions, and seek the church's approval.

**A quorum of 45 persons is required for this to be an official meeting.**

Your attendance is vitally important.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

### **2022 OFFICERS**

All ministries are asked to submit the names of your ministry leadership nominees for calendar year 2022 to the

church office no later than **December 12, 2021.**

### **COVENANT PARTNER NEWS**

We are considering making improvements to our Covenant Partner News. Please send in ideas on style, format, content, etc., that you would like to see incorporated. You can send your ideas to [btaylor@bethesdaweb.org](mailto:btaylor@bethesdaweb.org) **no later than December 20.**

### **THANKSGIVING SPECIAL OFFERING**

Praise the Lord Saints, the Thanksgiving Gift Certificates were located and are being distributed as planned. Nevertheless, your continued giving is needed to help those in need, so special offerings will be taken for this purpose on Sundays November 28<sup>th</sup> and December 5<sup>th</sup>. Remember paying tithes and offerings are our commitment to the Lord, so please do not give the Thanksgiving Offering in place of those commitments! Also, please use a separate check for the Thanksgiving offering. Thanksgiving envelopes are available on the table outside of the church office and Sanctuary vestibule.

### **PRAISE REPORT** New Members

Praise the Lord for new members: SisTER Serita Bailey, Bro. Donnie Amis and Sister Shirley Gwynn who united with Bethesda Baptist Church during the month of November! Please pray for them as they complete the new

members class and become grafted into Bethesda.



The next question and answer period will take place on December 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Please submit your questions by December 5<sup>th</sup>.



### **Prayer Meeting & Bible Study**

Tuesday December 7<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

EOU Ministry Meeting  
Conference call in

6:00 p.m.-8:00 pm  
Conference call-in

**1-717-908-1972**

**Access Code: 875378#**

### **Men's Prayer Hour**

Wednesdays, December 8<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 p.m.

Voices Business Meeting  
Conference call-in

10:00 p.m.

Conference call-in

**1-717-908-1972**

**Access Code: 875378#**

### **Bible Study**

Thursday

12:00 Noon

Conference Call-in

**1-717-908-1972**

**Access Code: 875378#**

Good News Club  
Friday, December 10  
6:00pm  
contact  
[gncbethesda1@gmail.com](mailto:gncbethesda1@gmail.com)

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Saturday, December 11  
10:00am  
Budget Meeting  
Conference Call-in  
**1-717-908-1972**  
**Access Code: 875378#**

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**Girl Scouts**  
10:30am  
Contact:  
[BethesdaTroop44006@gmail.com](mailto:BethesdaTroop44006@gmail.com)

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**Holiday Caroling**  
11:00am

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12:00 Noon  
**PRESENTATION ON  
BONE HEALTH**  
By  
**H.E.A.L**



Dear Bethesda, please find below the link for next Saturday's 12 noon educational seminar being sponsored by Bethesda's Health Ministry and H.E..A.L. Collaborative. You'll recall that H.E.A.L. under the direction of Sis. Karen Kelly conducted a Health Assessment of Bethesda as well as an education program on Lupus. Next Saturday's education program will focus on Minority Participation in Bone Health Clinical Trials. H.E.A.L. has assembled an awesome group of presenters representing the Faith Community, Medical/

Research, and Patient Advocacy.

The Dec. 11th, Save-the-Date flyer is below. H.E.A.L. will provide a special gift to the first 50 members who register for this program. You can register at <http://ow.ly/YqIR50H2bmy>



[www.healcollaborative.org](http://www.healcollaborative.org)



**FOOD & CLOTHING  
DISTRIBUTION**

Saturday, December 18th  
10:30 a.m.

We need canned meats, vegetables, beans, soup, vienna sausage, potted meat, (all with the pop top, if possible) also crackers and canned fruit or fruit cups. We are also in need of men's winter clothing, blankets, socks, gloves, hats, sweaters, and long johns. Also, if you have any Christmas items you would like to give away, please send them our way. **The items are due by December 17<sup>th</sup>**, and you can place them outside of room 118. Thank you so much!!

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS**

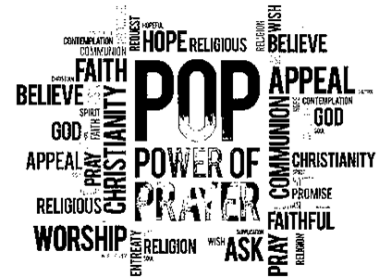
On Sunday, December 19, during the Sunday school hour, we will have a happy birthday celebration for Jesus. The children will recite some poems and songs and we will also play games that will involve the adults. There will be congregational singing and cupcake treats at the end. Please plan to attend.



*During such a difficult time, your kindness meant so much. Thank you for all your thoughtfulness and caring.*

*Dorothy Serious & Family*

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Please continue to be in prayer for those identified on our prayer request listing as well as those individuals on our sick and shut-in list.

- Deacon Marshall Brown
- Deacon CD Thompson
- Trustee Daryl Daniels
- Sister Beverly Daaku
- Brother Carrington Miller
- Sister Bonnie Banks
- Sister Barbara Henderson
- Sister Rose Holbert
- Brother Norman Fisher
- Brother Willie Green
- Brother Eric Hughes

- Sister Maygi Downtin
- Sister Delaine Dobson
- Sister Lenora Watlington
- Sister Christine Calhoun
- Sister Evelyn Brown
- Sister Sandra Gainer
- Sister Frances McCannon
- Sister Muriel Atkins
- Brother Tommie Holley
- Brother Tony Buie
- Sister Virginia Siebert
- Sister Lena Davis
- Family of Josh McLaughlin  
(IT Vendor)
- Venessa Colston (*family  
friend of Deacon  
Rogers*)



*Ms. Shelia Wooten, cousin of  
Brother Andrew Davis went home  
to be with the Lord. Services will  
be held on Saturday, November 27  
in Fountain, North Carolina.*

