

FALL 2020

KOINONIA

"Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" --Jude 3

Apostolic Faith Church - 265 Lafayette Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11238 - (718) 622-2295 - Rev. Heraclio J. Wyatt, Jr, Pastor

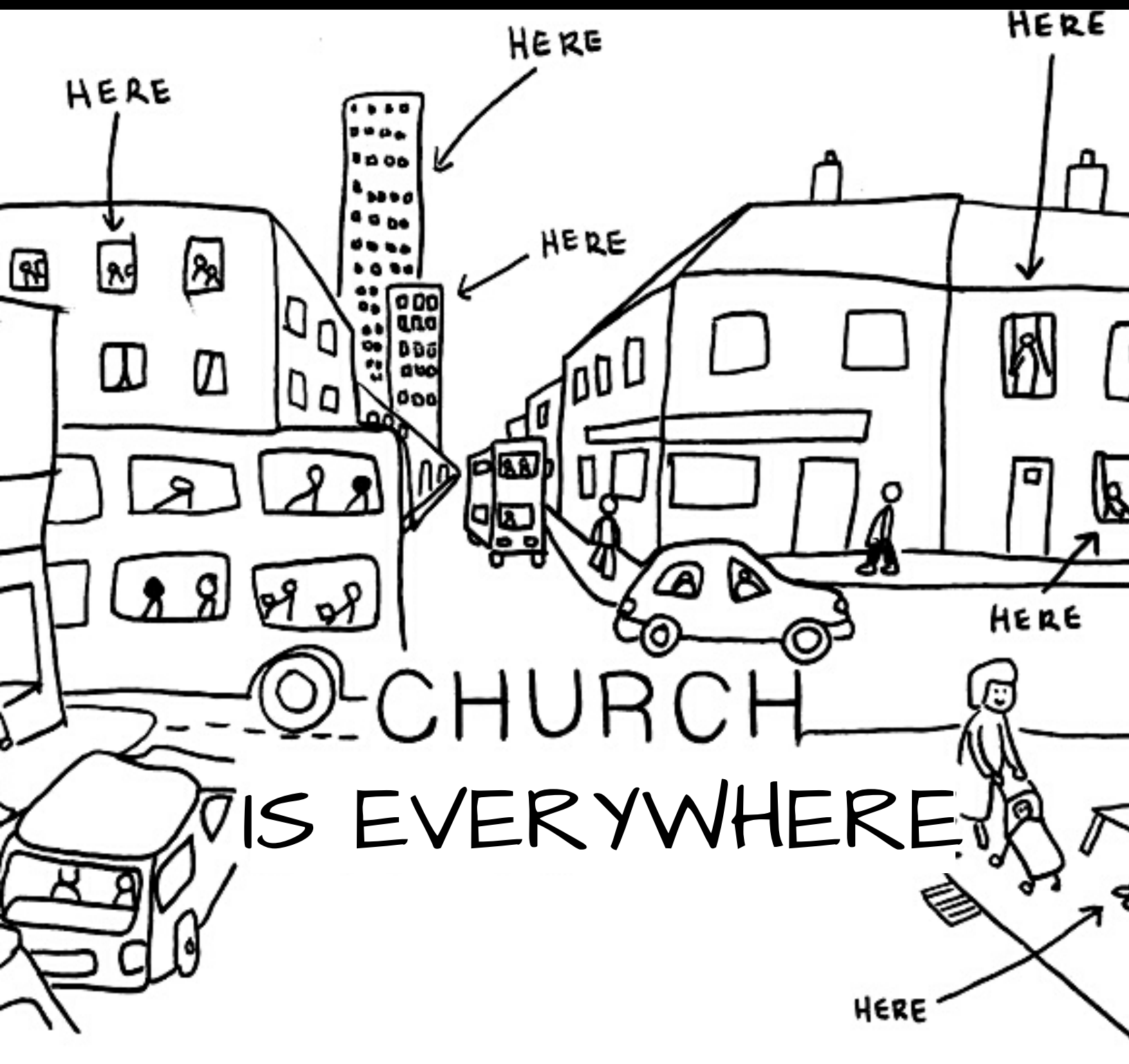


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PASTOR'S

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This season has brought many changes. We change the way we work, people now work from home using Zoom and similar apps to connect to the office. Others continue to go out to work each day. Other aspects to the way we conduct our daily activities have changed as well, from the way we "attend" school, to our eating habits. One of the more profound changes is the way we worship and fellowship as the Church. In COVID-19 times, gathering in the traditional fashion come with risk. Singing, testimonies, preaching, and prayer in a corporate space make spreading a respiratory illness much more efficient. If we are not careful, Church can be a super spreader event.

In response to the pandemic The Church went "viral" (pun intended). Instead of gathering together in the building we hold dear, we have learned to gather around our devices. Our phones, laptops, tablets and our television screens now bring us into the presence of The Lord. I thank God that he has met and blessed us in our virtual space. To be sure, I miss all of you so deeply. I miss your faces, greeting each of you with Christian affection--with hugs, and holy kisses, as we do in the black community. And yet, because of the advent of the age of social media we have been able to remain spiritually connected while practicing social distancing. In addition to learning new church habits like telephone conference prayer, virtual revivals, online Bible studies, and Zoom town hall meetings we learned something even more profound: The God we meet in the sanctuary each Sunday morning is present with us in our homes, on our jobs, and in our schools in the same way. We remain connected to Him and one another as we meet in a virtual space.

God is Everywhere!

We need God to be everywhere now more than ever. As we continue to navigate this challenging season let us be ever mindful that God is everywhere. Perhaps more importantly, when life returns to normal--and it eventually will--let us not forget one of the major lessons of this season: God's presence is only limited by our ability to imagine that "the whole earth is full of his glory!" Isaiah 6:3b (ESV). We should be able to worship him, recognize him, honor him, and most of all acknowledge him in every area of our lives as much as we do when we gather together in the sanctuary to worship.

This edition of Koinonia looks to celebrate the **Omnipresence of our Lord**. Enjoy and be blessed.

Rev. Heraclio John Wyatt Jr.
PASTOR

HOW HAS PARTICIPATING ON THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH (THE REACHING CHURCH) PRAYER LINE BEEN AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO YOU DURING THE PANDEMIC?



What stands out the most to me about this prayer line is the variety of saints from far and near who join together to petition the Throne of Grace. The Scripture that comes to mind is Psalm 133:1 that says, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Even though we cannot see each other, there is a bond in the Spirit that can be felt. Although the pandemic closed the buildings, it has literally opened up an opportunity for the saints of God to continue to hold on in prayer like never before. I pray that this prayer line continues even after this crisis is past. It is said "PRAYER is the best weapon to win our unseen battles."

Bro. Wilburn and I have been encouraged just by being a part of the many voices crying out to the Lord with the assurance that God hears our prayers and will answer as we hold on in faith

~ Bro. Wilburn & Sis. Sylvina Thomas - St. Thomas, VI

The prayer line has been a source of joy and encouragement to me and to other Chicago Saints who have joined on the line. We thank the Brooklyn Saints for giving us the privilege to join in prayer with you and with others from various locations. There's something special and strengthening in our voices rising up to God at one time and in one accord. May God continue to bless and strengthen His family everywhere and help us to be ready for His soon coming.

~Pastor Karen Storey, Apostolic Faith Church - Chicago, IL



The prayer group was introduced to me at a very dark period in my life (high risk for Coronavirus and social distancing since March 2nd), but God is faithful! He led me to this prayer group and it has been very encouraging to me. I thank God for it!

~ Sis. Barbara A. Holt - Mt. Dora, FL



COVID-19 and quarantine has been a time of spiritual refreshing for me. A couple of weeks into the national shut down, I recall wishing there were more virtual services because I wanted to fellowship and get closer to God. A few days later I received an early morning text from Sister Paulette Wyatt inviting me to join the saints in Brooklyn for early morning prayer. I immediately dialed the number and enjoyed a time of prayer and praise. Not long after that, I learned the prayer group met daily, mornings and evenings. These times of collective prayer have sustained and kept me focused on the author and finisher of my faith. Not only have I been able to join with the saints in prayer, I have attended revival services as well as other programs which did not conflict with my local church schedule. I can say of a surety that this pause has brought me closer to my Lord, Savior and soon coming King. I pray that God richly blesses “The Reaching Church” because indeed they reached all the way down to Atlanta, Georgia and made a difference in my spiritual life.

~ Sis. Veda Robinson Ojo - Atlanta, GA

A POWERFUL DREAM



During the pandemic, Brother Trayvon Daniel experienced a very powerful dream that he wanted to share:

In my dream, I woke up and something didn't feel right. Usually, there's a lot of noise in my house, but when I woke up I heard nothing - not a peep. You could hear a pin drop. I went downstairs and looked around and saw no one so I started knocking on bedroom doors. I then went upstairs and knocked on my brothers' doors, my sisters' doors, and my parent's door. I found their clothes on the bed. I'm not sure if I thought it was a prank or if I was dreaming in my dream.

When I went outside to look for everybody, I saw someone run past me screaming, “It happened, it happened! The rapture happened!” The girl that ran past me said that she saw her parent's clothes on their bed. As I looked up, I saw bodies going up. I saw my parents, my brothers, and my sisters - everyone except me. I saw someone from the church, they were still there with me. I can't say any names. I asked them why they didn't go with them and they replied, “We weren't ready.” I woke up after that. I woke up scared - really scared. I was sweating in my dream and I was sweating when I woke up. I was drenched. I woke up looking around and then I heard Noelani and Naomi (my nieces) running around. I realized it was just a dream. I thought about the dream the whole day.

~Brother Trayvon Daniel, New York

HOW HAS THE LORD BEEN FAITHFUL TO YOU DURING THIS PANDEMIC?

The Lord has been mighty, mighty good to my family and I. One day, I was talking to the Lord and he replied, "Behold I am doing a new thing, have you not seen, have you not understood it?" He has been keeping my family and I by providing for us. He undertook for us when my family and I got sick with COVID-19. I thank God that none of us were hospitalized. During the time we were sick, I felt the presence of the Holy Spirit very strongly. I have not felt him like that in a long time. I thank God so much!

~Brother Silvanus Jankie, New York



God Bless you all! I thank God for saving me, keeping me saved, and blessing me within the years of my life. I can confidently say today without a doubt that God will never give up on you, and his love is boundless.

Even in the midst of this pandemic, God has revealed much more of Himself to me than I ever had come to know. He has shown and manifested his love and endurance, as well as His patience towards me. I've had a hard time growing deeper with the Lord this year, but during these past few months I have developed a new love for Christ and His mercies towards me. No matter how many times I have made mistakes and strayed away, His loving kindness found me and has helped me come to myself. I pray that everyone finds a greater meaning within the gospel, and learns to grow deeper with our God who never fails.

~ Sister Marisa Morrison, New York



To God be the glory! God has been my ALL during this pandemic. I felt seriously sick almost to the point of death, but the Lord delivered me and my family. The enemy came in like a flood but the Lord raised up a standard against it. I didn't know what was going on in my body, but Psalm 32:8 came alive for me. The Lord was leading, directing and guiding me every day. He was showing me how to overcome the ailment. The Lord directed me to scriptures, especially Psalm 20. My husband and two of my children also fell sick, but the Lord showed mercy. The Lord also came to me as a mighty provider. Right after the school system shut down, many of us were temporarily terminated. The Lord provided a way for me to work remotely. I will forever glorify my Lord for He is worthy to be praised! He saw me at my point of need and immediately provided.

~ Sister Modupe Iroko, New York



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We can truly agree with the scripture in 2 Thessalonians 3:3, "But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil." We are thankful to God for His love, grace and faithfulness towards us during this pandemic. The Children's Ministry Team is grateful to God for the opportunity to stay connected to the Angelic Eagles during this difficult time. We know that as adults we can have feelings of frustration during difficult times, so we can only imagine the many feelings of anxiety and frustration children may have as well.

Since April, the Children's Ministry Team has scheduled virtual "Play Dates" (video calls) with the children using Google Hangouts. We have "Play Dates" twice a month on Saturdays for an hour. We enjoy our time meeting with both the children and the parents. During our time on the video calls we have many fun activities for both the children and the parents such as: Bible, musical, and educational games. We even had the privilege to have "Special Guests" join us for our virtual Play Dates" as well. During the Father's Day weekend we enjoyed having our Pastor, Rev. Johnny Wyatt Jr. read a few books to the children during "Story Time"; it was a real treat for the kids. Sis. Charnicia Huggins, one of the Teachers from our Sunday School Primary Dept. joined us as a "Surprise Guest" to do a special activity with the children. We also had a special musical treat when Sis. Nicole Miller joined us to have a guitar "Sing-a-Long" with the children.

We are so grateful for our special guests for taking out the time to join us as we ministered to the children. We also appreciate ALL the parents for their support since the month of April for joining the Children's Ministry Team to make this connection possible. Last but not least we also thank God for the great team work by the Children's Ministry Team members. It is our prayer that God will continue to cover us with His feathers.

AS AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE, HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE SOMEONE IN THE MIDST OF THESE TRYING TIMES OF CIVIL UNREST?



ENCOURAGEMENT TO A BLACK MAN BY REV. LORENZO L. DICKS

I have seen many marches during my lifetime. I distinctly recall the March in Selma, AL in 1965, and the famous march in Washington, DC during 1963. I've witnessed many movements that brought about change; however, civil unrest, constant violence, police brutality, and injustice are still very much alive today. While many presently fear for their lives, we must remember with all that's happening the civil unrest touches us as human beings; but, as Christian black men, we must remember these things would come. We must realize that we can not fall back on our human feelings, but we must look to God for help. I know this is a difficult period, but we have been down this road, we have seen civil unrest before and God has brought us through.

First, remember everything that is happening was spoken of in the Bible which is described as the end times. Read Mark 13: 3 -12. The reason I start here is because the disciples wanted to know when Jesus would come back. The Bible says Peter, James, John, and Andrew wanted a sign for Christ's return. One verse of that text that stands out in particular is verse 12 that says, "Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father his child; and children shall rise up against their parents and shall cause them to be put to death."

As people of color it is disheartening that this cycle has come back full circle in our communities, but the Bible remains true that these things must come to past. As a senior, I listen to the news and can feel the pressures of this time. Recently, I wanted to join the marches, but I began to look to God and realize that these things must come. I remember the warnings that was given to us during Biblical times. I would have never believed many of us would be here today to see this season. There are times I felt angry with what is taking place. The Lord's Prayer has prompted me to be mindful that God is still in control, and he doesn't put more on us than we can bear. God always gives us a way of escape when difficulties come.

Christian man of color, Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world." We must be a reflector of the light which comes from Christ. "A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." Spread the Love of God that is within you to the world. We cannot hide. As men, we must be loud and intentional in sharing Christ and his saving Grace. So brothers, in these unprecedented times I would quote the words found in II Corinthians 12: 9, "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." May the Lord God keep us during these trying times as we continue to look up because our redemption draws nigh.

THEY MARCHED

A Poem by Minister Luella Williams Stuart (April 2020)

They heard the call to arms, it was a call from the sick and dying.
 They knew the enemy was powerful, showing no mercy.
 Its purpose was to destroy and kill, yet they marched towards the front of the battle.
 Armed with medical knowledge and skills - they united.
 Doctors, Nurses, Respiratory Therapists, Pharmacists, and EMT workers.
 Covered in their protective armor from head to toe, they were ready to engage in the battle.
 Only their eyes were visible and in those eyes we saw compassion, love, hope, and
 determination.
 Long hours of fighting for human lives now started to wear on their bodies, souls and minds;
 their tired bodies drained.
 Their eyes now filled with tears after witnessing the loss of many precious souls in the battle
 despite all their efforts.
 Then a glimpse of hope - fresh new skills!
 Knowledgeable comrades in arms just arrived from neighboring states.
 Some bringing much needed supplies; some setting up tents to identify the virus and
 quarantine.
 Then I saw another group of people circling the entire camp; they were from every nation on
 earth.
 They were carrying a banner before them which read, "There is a Balm in Gilead."
 This army was clothed in sackcloth and were marching on their knees.
 They each carried a flaming sword in their hands, and their voices together sounded like
 mighty claps of thunder as they continued to circle the battle field day and night.
 Many souls were ushered into the presence of God, and many were healed.
 Covid-19 pandemic controlled because there is a Balm in Gilead...

Because They Marched



MEET OUR 2020 LEON C. DICKS GRADUATES:

Pre-K

Ian Wilson
Shamar Vassell

Elementary School

Trinity Gray
Kyah L. McKinley

Middle School

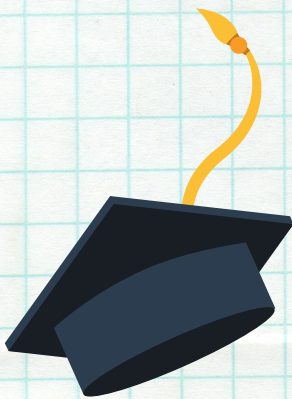
Ameea Daniel
Jahsen Forsythe
Kaliyah Ottley
Guye Wattley, Jr.

High School

Heraclio Wyatt III
Quavon Daniel

College

Abigail Oyadiran
Khristian Brooks
Elizabeth Nicole Miller
Kechea Brown
Tunesha Bartlett
Monique Watson
Stacey Noezil
Fabian Best



In Gratitude

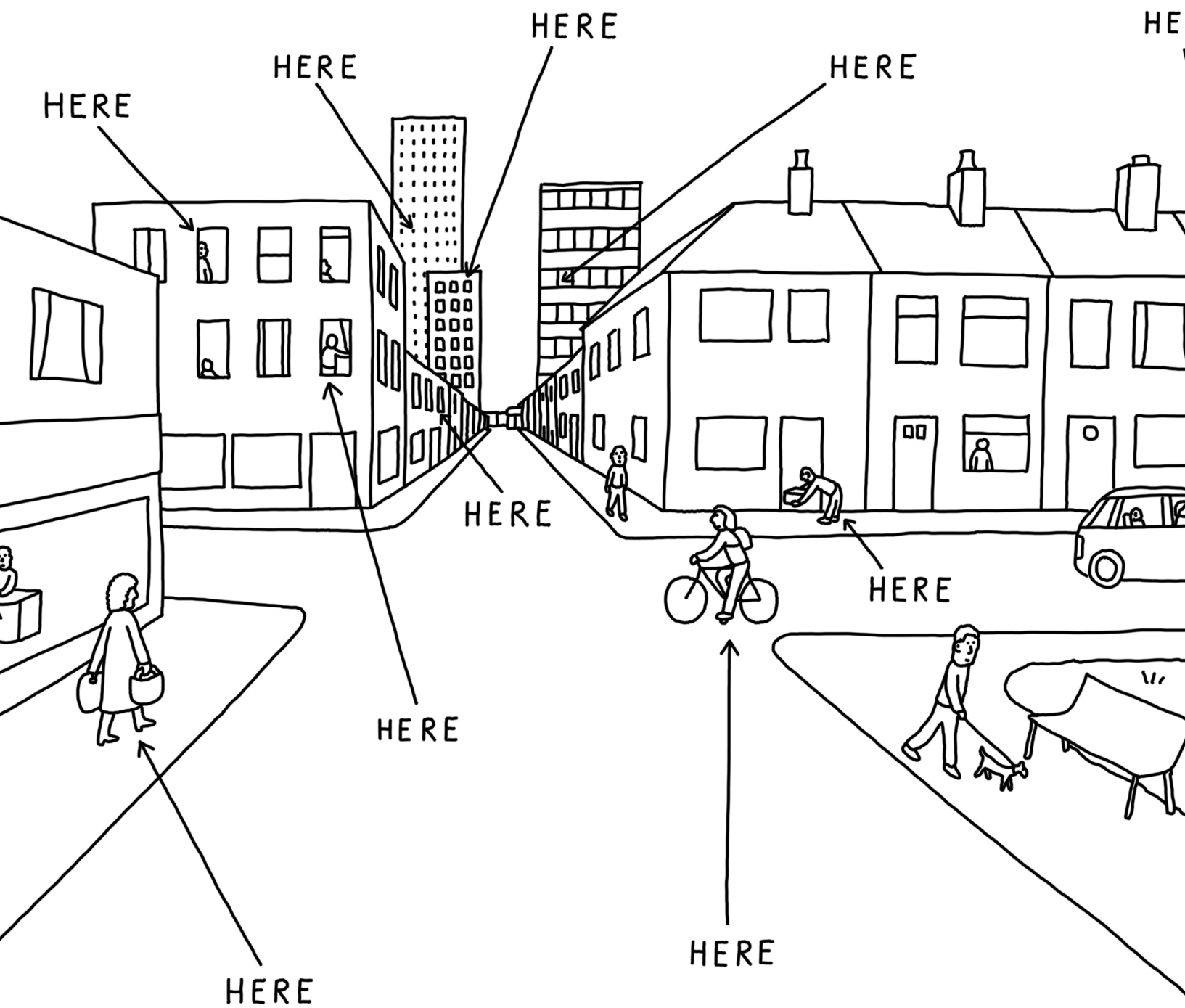


During this global pandemic, we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to Brother John Morrison for enabling the saints near and far to continue to be connected virtually to our weekly Sunday worship services, online Bible studies, revivals and annual Century, FL camp meeting services. We got a chance to sit down with Bro. Morrison to learn more about him and how he got started in technology:

At the age of 4 years old I was interested in my father's sound system as well as the early Star Trek television series. As a child I used to like to take apart my toys to see how they worked; I even tried to put my toys back together again to make them into something else. I also used to take apart old telephones to then reconnect them together to enable friends in my building to talk together - I liked making wires 'talk' and using equipment past its design limits.

I had no formal training in technology until I entered the 10th grade at George Westinghouse HS where I decided to pursue my interests in technology. While in high school, I pursued electronics - specifically computers in the 11th and 12th grade. I later pursued electrical engineering at New York Technical College.

This ministry of technology has been a blessing to me because God not only enabled me to apply my early childhood knowledge in audio / video at my church, but to also use the technical skills that I learned in my secular workplace back to the church in a more advanced way. By using more advanced equipment at work, I gained more knowledge and was able to refine my skills to apply in ministry at the church. I truly thank God for giving me skills that can be used to be a blessing to others.



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Virtual Service Times

Monday-Saturday

Daily Intercessory Prayer

6am - 7am & 7pm - 8pm

Wednesday: 12 noon

Friday

Online Bible Study at 7pm

Sunday

9:30 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Morning Worship Service



Check on afcbrooklyn.org for the prayer line and Sunday School telephone conference numbers. Services can be watched on afcbrooklyn.org, YouTube & Facebook