

SPRING 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



EVERY TRIBE & TONGUE

- 01 Pastor's Corner
- 02 Women's Day
- 03 Holy Week
- 04 Black History Month
- 04 Interview of Minister Bernice Ogunsemore
- 05 Missionary Travels: India
- 06 Missionary Travels: Chile
- 07 Proverbs and Sayings



PASTOR'S

C
O
R
N
E
R

As we publish this edition of Koinonia, we find ourselves in quite surreal times. The Novel Coronavirus that developed in late 2019 bloomed into a full-blown global pandemic. As of the time of this writing a little less than 2,000,000 people have contracted the disease worldwide; 120,914 have died. In New York State alone, the national epicenter for this pandemic, 195,031 people have tested positive and over 10,000 souls perished. Not only has the Coronavirus had an adverse effect on our health and healthcare systems, it has ground our economy to a standstill, put our government institutions in crisis, and our way of life severely altered as we practice new behaviors such as “social distancing” and “shelter-in-place”. Life as we know it has been changed in ways we are only beginning to appreciate. It is enough to leave the strongest among us anxious and paralyzed. But there is more.

For the church, the unspeakable happened: the doors of the church in many places were shuttered—including our own. We were forced to stream our service online as an alternative to worship. During this period, The Church grapples with what it means to be a church, as we endeavor to stay connected to God and one another. In the face of this unprecedented situation we are learning the church’s identity is not grounded in a building. The Church is in fact the people and although the doors closed, the community that makes up the church opened up in the face of an unimaginable crisis.

Our church has come alive through the power of prayer and the ministry of intercession. We pray as a local church, and have become a “house of prayer” for many sisters and brothers in the Lord--far and near. What began as a desire to intercede for health care and essential workers on the “front line”, soon became prayer that ministered to us; easing our anxiety and giving us spiritual fortitude, as we endure this time of crisis. We would need it as we soon became aware of our own sick and dying among the sheer numbers in the media. In the midst of the crisis we found the words of Psalm 46 to be true, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble...The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.” In the weeks and months ahead, we will begin a new normal. I am confident, the God that kept us through the pandemic, will be the God who leads into an uncertain future. God is faithful. May HE bless you.

Rev. Heraclio John Wyatt Jr.
PASTOR



WOMEN'S DAY



What a wonderful time of fellowship we had for our 2019 Annual Women's Day Weekend. Our weekend commenced on Saturday (October 26th) with an open forum where a panel consisting of some of our sisters shared scriptures and personal experiences as they endeavored to answer various questions pertaining to women's issues and concerns. Our Sunday morning service (October 27th) was filled with praise and worship, a portion of time emphasizing the importance of breast cancer awareness and special recognition to two of our beloved sisters (Martha Huggins and Jeanette Leonard) for their steadfastness and diligence in the work of the Lord. Our guest speaker for the weekend, Pastor Bernice Pinney (Houston, TX), admonished the congregation to accept Jesus' everlasting and unconditional gift of grace. We thank God for the gift of grace and for the blood that Jesus shed on Calvary that we may have access to everlasting life.



OUR VIRTUAL ONLINE HOLY WEEK EXPERIENCE

This year's Holy Week services proved to be an experience like none other that Christians around the world will never forget. Due to the Coronavirus-19 pandemic and the social distancing restrictions, our Holy Week worship services were transitioned from our brick and mortar church edifice to a virtual online worship experience. But thank God for His faithfulness, the use of technology and the resiliency of the body of Christ. In the midst of the pandemic we were still able to commemorate the death and celebrate the life of our Lord and Savior during Holy Week.

Our virtual online worship experience began on Palm Sunday (April 5, 2020) with songs of praise, worship, and Hosannas to our King that reigns forever! Our Pastor Rev. Heraclio Wyatt, Jr. delivered a message entitled, "Seeing Jesus Through the Crisis" (Matthew 21:1-11).

Our online Maundy Thursday service included two guest speakers in a panel discussion. Reverend Ron Gaddis, pastor of our Apostolic Faith Church (AFC) in Richmond, Virginia, and Reverend Bill McKibben, pastor of our AFC church in Seattle, Washington joined our pastor, Rev. Heraclio John Wyatt, Jr., who moderated their discussion about "Authentic Discipleship in the time of COVID-19."

The pastors talked about the meaning of passion week and its significance to believers today as well as what Christ's passion reveals about authentic discipleship. Pastor Ron described how as the disciples began to gravitate to Jesus, they began to find out that He was worth following and they learned what it meant to be a true follower — to deny themselves. Pastor Bill mentioned that "we should not be too surprised if we are called to be participants in the work of the cross." Pastor Johnny followed up with the idea that we should ask ourselves, "Am I more of a nominal Christian or am I truly engaged in discipleship, following Christ?"

"When given an opportunity to talk about which disciple they most admired, empathized with, and/or identified with, Pastor Bill's voice choked with emotion as he described how he empathized with Peter and imagined how he must have felt when Jesus looked back at him after his betrayal. Pastor Ron pointed out that Peter was "gutsy" and said, "the Lord saw something in Peter that He would probably like to see in all of us." Pastor Johnny spoke about how his heart broke for Judas and related his story to that of those who used to be in church and are struggling to find their way back.

When Pastor Johnny poignantly asked why Jesus does not give up on us since we are so flawed, Pastor Ron reminded us that God has a purpose for us that He will not allow to go to waste. "God doesn't make us to waste us," he said. Pastor Bill reminded us that God has a mission that involves all of us but is bigger than us. He said we should rejoice because we are included in God's narrative but remind ourselves that we are not usually the main character.

Pastor Johnny also asked the panelists to talk to viewers worldwide about how we should respond to the challenges of COVID-19. Pastor Ron responded by emphasizing our need to ask God for guidance and admonished us all to learn the Word of God and to rely on it. Pastor Bill afterwards reminded us to dwell in the secret place of the Almighty as described in Psalm 91 and told us that while we may be helpless, we are not hopeless. We have hope because of what Jesus did during Passion Week.

Our online Good Friday service commemorated the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. Seven speakers expounded on the 'Seven Last Sayings of Christ'. We eagerly awaited for Resurrection Sunday and what a beautiful service it was! The spirit-filled message entitled, "Discovering the Resurrection" (Matthew 28:1-10) highlighted the radical change that Jesus has made for us that we may become the sons of God. Our Holy Week online experience was a blessing that will forever be etched in our hearts.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"One God, One People"

On February 28, 2020 the Black History Month Program entitled, "Movers of the Movement" was presented to the congregation by our Youth Ministry. The program included rich history sessions featuring hidden figures from the black community, a small fun questionnaire for saints of all ages to participate in, a video presentation depicting art within black history, a spoken word presentation about "The Black Christian", and a presentation on famous African-Americans by our Children's Ministry.



Interview of Minister Bernice Ogunsemore

HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU FIRST HEARD THE WORD OF GOD?

I was born into a religious family. I always heard the Word of God, but I did not come to salvation and accept the Lord as my personal Savior until I was 24 years old.

WAS IT EASY TO COME TO CHRIST AND TO STAY ON THE RIGHT PATH?

Coming to Christ was the only way for me. I was going through some issues at the time and hearing that Christ was a solution was what led me to become saved. I was not in the church when I accepted Christ as my Savior. I received the words that led me to salvation through letters and the Higher Way magazine. I got saved by confessing my sins to the Lord in my own private room.

TELL ME ABOUT A TIME WHEN YOU FELT UNWORTHY OF GOD AND WHAT KEPT YOU GOING WITH HIM?

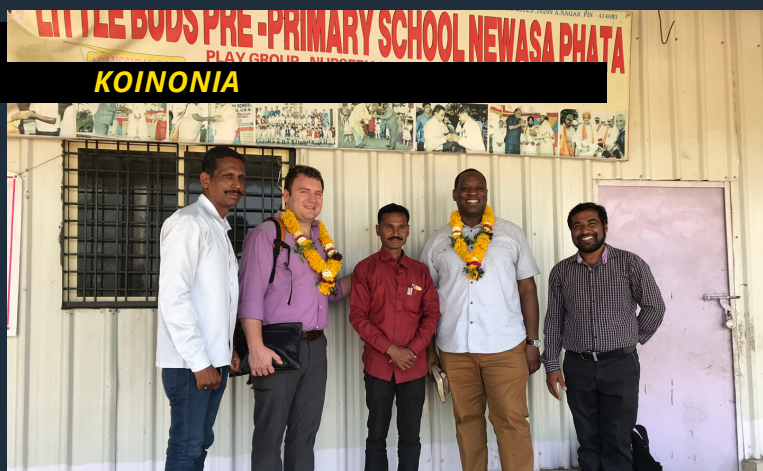
Everyday, I feel unworthy of God. I don't know what I have given to Christ that God has brought me to Him. We are unworthy, but God still brings us to Christ. God's Holy Spirit comforts and directs us. I have no regret with Christ. My only regret is that I did not know Christ when I got married.

Bonus Advice: God is good. Everything that you need is in God.

WHAT ADVICE/ ENCOURAGEMENT AS A YOUNG CHRISTIAN WOULD YOU HAVE WANTED TO RECEIVE BUT NEVER HEARD?

My biggest regret was not accepting the Lord as my Savior and getting saved earlier on in life. If I had been saved earlier, many of the problems I faced could have been avoided. As parents, we have to let our children know about the way of the Lord. You can help save them from going through many problems.





Missionary Travels

Rev. Heraclio John Wyatt Jr. In India

Brother Clark Wolfe, Bro. Joel Anderson, and I were privileged to go on mission together to India. Although it was the first time in India for Bro. Joel and I, Bro. Clark has been there more than 15 times. I landed in Mumbai, on Monday evening, February 10th. After an overnight stay, we flew to Aurangabad, India where we met Rev. Surya Gajbhiv, the lead pastor in Maharashtra State, India. Although I knew that India's population is over a billion people, I was still surprised at how many people I saw. There were people everywhere, seemingly all the time. Most of our stay was in rural parts of India, unlike in America, even the rural parts of India was heavily populated. There were cars, and motorcycles seemingly moving in every direction; numerous people walking to and fro. There are many souls in India in need of the gospel message. One of the first things I saw when I landed in Aurangabad was McDonald's! Yes, there was a McDonald's as soon as you pulled out of the airport. But right next to the McDonald's, was the sight of overwhelming poverty. The poor were everywhere — even next to signs of economic development. The first part of our journey began on Wednesday, February 12th. We spent our first three days in Nevasa a town 35 miles outside of Aurangabad, India where we held a pastor's conference. One hundred twenty people attended the conference in Nevasa: they were pastors and leaders; their wives and families. Bro Clark spent most of the first day introducing the Apostolic Faith Church doctrines. The following day I taught "biblical preaching" concepts; including how to study the Bible, preparing and delivering sermons. It was an interactive teaching; there was an opportunity to work together developing a sermon from Psalm 100. The audience was receptive of the teaching and jumped right in.



Afterward, Bro. Clark took some time to teach the pastor's how we pray over the sick by using oil that is consecrated by pastors and ministers. At the end of the day on Thursday, Bro Clark and I had the privilege to pray over Rev. Surya, who was ordained as the new District Superintendent for the work in the Maharashtra State in India. On Friday, the end of the conference, we baptized 26 new believers in water. Before we ended we prayed with the pastors as they headed back to their stations throughout India. During the following days we had the opportunity to worship with the saints in many different settings and locations. The saints that we met have a deep and sincere faith in God. I enjoyed their worship. They didn't possess instruments like we do in New York. There was no piano or organ. Many times an acoustic guitar or a small tribal drum set was all they had. The services were simple, yet filled with songs sung in Hindi, testimonies and preaching, but the joy of the Lord and the spirit of worship was present. What struck me was the deep need for prayer. Between breaks during the teachings and after services the saints in India would constantly come forward for prayer--especially for healing. Our missionary journey also afforded us some time off where we got a chance to visit the Ajanta caves — a very popular tourist destination in the area and to Goa for a day of relaxation. My missionary journey to India was truly a blessing and I am thankful to the Lord that he kept us safe throughout our daily travels. May the Lord bless our efforts and enrich the lives of those we came in contact with. Only heaven will reveal in time the number of souls that were added to the kingdom of God and may the seeds that were planted yield a hundred fold in Jesus name!

Missionary Travels

The Wyatts In Chile

On Sunday, February 9th – Sunday, February 16th Reverends Heraclio John Wyatt Sr. (HJW) and Ana Wyatt (AW) traveled to Chimborongo, Chile to participate in the 2020 Apostolic Faith Church Camp Meeting along with Reverend Elvido Ortiz from our neighboring church in the Bronx, NY. Rev. Ortiz has made multiple missionary trips to the country alongside the district superintendent of the work, Reverend Samuel Ajayi who was unable to attend this year. Rev. Wyatt previously traveled to Chile over 40 years ago, but this was his first time visiting the Chimborongo region. The Wyatts departed NY on Friday, February 7th at 5pm and arrived at their hotel in San Fernando, Chile on Saturday ~4pm. From San Fernando, they made twice daily trips to attend services in Chimborongo. Read below to learn more about their experiences in Chile.



CAN YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE CONGREGATION AND SERVICE?

HJW: This is a newer work affiliated with the Apostolic Faith. There are two licensed ordained pastors that teach and preach. Their (worship) structure is almost identical to Portland and they adhere to the standards and doctrines. They have a little choir backed up by two guitars and two mandolins. The pastor's wife leads the service. Instead of a hymnal they used a compilation of native choruses and songs.

AW: The pastor's wife played the music with two or three others. She also led the devotional part of the services and led the choir as well. The saints sang happily to the glory of God. (The congregation primarily consisted of native Chileans but also included a few Haitians. The altars were filled most of the time with predominantly men. It was a joy to see them crying out to God every night as they lingered at the altars as well as to see some of the ladies persistently seeking their sanctification.

WHAT WAS THE CAMPSITE AND LODGING LIKE?

HJW: Everyone stayed on the campsite for 10 days.

AW: The lodging was very comfortable. There was a ladies dorm and a men's dorm.



HOW WAS THE FOOD IN CHILE?



HJW: We had soup for lunch every day and sometimes for dinner, a lot of vegetables, a lot of tomatoes - that was a staple. We didn't eat too much rice.

AW: The food was very healthy. There were about five faithful sisters who did all the cooking, providing hot lunches and dinners after each service.

WAS CHILE LIKE YOU IMAGINED IT?

AW: It was not as strenuous as I thought it would be. It went rather smoothly.



HOW WAS THE ATTENDANCE FOR CHURCH?



AW: Altogether the congregation averaged about 30-35 adults, most of whom were men. At any given service there were 3 to 5 times more men than women - singing, worshipping the Lord and testifying about their changed lives, while committing themselves to serve Him with a greater degree of faithfulness

WHAT DID YOU ENJOY THE MOST ABOUT YOUR TIME WORSHIPPING WITH THE SAINTS IN CHILE?

AW: The fellowship

HJW: The prayer after service. I enjoyed the openness and the hunger they had for the Word and their sincerity for what they're doing. They are very humble, sincere, and hungry for the Word. They are very united.



HOW WERE THE WYATTS INVOLVED IN CAMP MEETING?

Bro. Wyatt gave a teaching on Walking in Sanctification (Psalm 51), preached about the 10 virgins, and also sang during the concert. Sis. Ana preached about foot washing, gave multiple testimonies, prayed on several occasions, and sang one of the specials before the message.

Let us pray that the Lord meets these needs of our brothers and sisters in Chile. May they be strengthened in the Word and encouraged. Let us also pray for wisdom for the leaders of the work in Chile. Pray also for the Wyatts, Rev. Ortiz, and for Rev. Ajayi - that the Lord will continue using each of them for His glory.



PROVERBS AND SAYINGS

Can you match all of the proverbs and sayings to their definitions?

Write the letter of the correct match next to each saying.

___ 1. Adversity and loss make a man wise

Submitted by Sis. Sherry Adebajo

a. If you are dealing with someone dishonest, watch them very close, they have not changed. Stay far enough so that you can run.

___ 2. Yitso taashi ni kanto abu fai

Submitted by Sis. Janet Clotley

b. If you don't listen to your mother, you will be in trouble

___ 3. Pwan douvan avan douvan pwan ou

Translation: Take in front before in front takes you

Submitted by Bro. Silvanus Jankie

c. Do not judge a book by its cover

___ 4. Laugh so no laugh so

Submitted by Sis. Barry

d. Since they all made excuses, there is no one to blame

___ 5. If you dine with the devil, use a very long spoon

Submitted by Sis. Sharon Allen

e. If someone is laughing at you, their time is coming

___ 6. Pickney no hear wa mooma say drinks pepperwater and salt

Submitted by Sis. Perry

f. The elderly cannot sit for the youth to make decisions. Hence, respect has to be given to the elderly when they are around

___ 7. Desde que hicieron las excusas nadie queda mal

Translation: Since they made the excuses no one is wrong

Submitted by Bro. Huggins

g. Make preparations for the "storm" before the "storm" catches you out.

___ 8. Ino ikoko dudu ni eko funfun ti jade.

Translation: White corn paste comes out of the black pot.

Submitted by Sis. Mercy Oyadiran

h. We gain wisdom faster in difficult times than in prosperous time



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

Service Times

Wednesday

12:00 pm - Noonday Prayer and Bible Study

6:30 pm - Prayer and Bible Study

Friday

7:30 pm - Youth Night

Sunday

9:30 am - Sunday School

11:00 am - Morning Worship Service

