



the Informer *newsletter*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF PARAGON CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE
INTERNATIONAL & PCAI CLERGY ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 2024 | ISSUE 2

GOD WILL NEVER FAIL YOU

By Dr. Henry Harbuck, PCAI Int'l General Overseer

Perhaps you had a good year in 2023 or on the other hand you may have had a bad year. The Bible says in I Samuel 7:12: "In the past the Lord helped us." But you may say, "Yes, this may be true, but what about tomorrow?" Sometimes, we forget how wonderful our God really is, thus we fail to remember the numerous times He sustained and rescued us time and time again. But this is what happens: when we face a new mountain (or obstacle) we forget that He did [indeed] remove the last one we faced. Now that yesterday is past, let us pray and expect great things to happen in 2024.

Remember that God will never fail you, because one of His divine attributes is "faithfulness." The New Living Translation says "Not a single one of all the good promises the Lord has given [us] was left unfulfilled; everything He [has] spoken came true" (Joshua 21:45). This is something for us to rejoice about, because only God has a [perfect] record like this.

It is a known fact that Paul the Apostle suffered more than all the other apostles; sometimes he was beaten and stoned and left for dead. In some instances, the churches he established did not support him financially, so he went to work in the highly respected art of tent-making to make money to feed himself and his co-workers. It isn't clear as to exactly what he did in the diverse field of tent-making, but some scholars believe he made the beautiful custom-made veils that adorned the entrance to each room that separated tents into various sections. The art of making such veils for tents during this period so that family members would have some privacy was always in great demand.

In some cities where Paul preached he was ordered to be beaten by rods and then thrown into jail. He was so well known that the city magistrates were warned of his arrival

time, so they instructed their henchmen (city police) to find Paul and beat him. Yet when Paul was beaten, hungry and homeless, and sometimes betrayed and deserted by his own friends, who had promised to work alongside him in the ministry, he stood firm in his conviction that God was "faithful."



Sometimes Paul had to work with his hands when money was short. Some may surmise this was demeaning for a famous apostle to earn a living in this trade, but Bible history tells us that many rabbis were engaged in the art of tent-making, and it was a trade that was highly respected by the people of Palestine. Now with all things considered, Paul was glad that he was a master of this trade so he could help himself and friends. Regardless of how bad things were, Paul never complained, but rejoiced in the Lord. Acts 26:22 tells us what Paul thought about the bad things he endured when he said "Therefore, [since I have] obtained help from God up until this day, I stand [firm]."

As you consider last year's failures, remember what Paul said in Acts 26:22. Now permit me to paraphrase Paul's statement when he said: "I stand firm, because God has always helped me even until today." A similar expression is found in the words of Jeremiah who said, "Because of the Lords' great love [for us],

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"Not a single one of all the good promises the Lord had given to the family of Israel was left unfulfilled; everything he had spoken came true."

Joshua 21:45 (NLT)

NARRATIVE OF PERSISTENCY IN PURPOSE

By Dr. Daniel O.C., Senior Pastor of DLCC

“Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”

Psalm 126:5-6

As we sow in tears we shall reap in joy and singing. He who goes forth bearing seed and weeping at needing his precious supply of grain for sowing shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. As we look forward to the coming of the Lord Jesus, we should dedicate and commit ourselves to reach out to the unreached, touching the untouched, loving the unloved, teaching the untaught and preaching to the unpreached. This is being fruitful for the kingdom of God.

A river cuts through rock not because of its power, but because of its persistence. If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. The best way to predict the future is to create it but not by hypothesis. The only true wisdom is in knowing you

know nothing but God. Dirty water does not stop plants from growing, so do not let negative words stop your progress.



Sometimes we overthink happiness. Keep it simple. There is something good in every moment, find it and keep your focus there. Happiness is a choice, not a result. Nothing outside of you will make you happy. You must choose to be happy, feel grateful and then share that with the world.

The world is a great book; he who never leaves his home reads only one page. The greatest glory does not lie in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.

A wise man learns by the experience of others; a fool by his own. The heart of a fool is in his mouth, but the mouth of a wise man is in his heart. Remember, weak people get revenge. Strong people forgive. Intelligent people ignore. ♥

THE FORGOTTEN GENERATION

Excerpt from CLA Magazine

How to care for the elderly in a world that values youth.

Humanity has long pined for the power to stay young. Folklore is full of heroes seeking springs of immortality or a fountain of youth, but these fantasies are not confined to the pages of literature. In modern life, our lust for youth takes the form of everything from Botox to cryonics. In our anti-aging pursuits, we are inadvertently relegating our elders to a second-class status and ignoring the many benefits of honoring the elderly among us. The 2020 National Poll on Healthy Aging found that 82 percent of adults aged 50–80 experience ageism in their day-to-day lives. The World Health Organization reports that up to a third of older citizens report feeling lonely.

Prejudice against aging doesn't just hurt feelings or harm social relationships. Ageism can also lead to worse outcomes in both mental and physical health conditions, even leading to shorter life expectancy. Cultural disdain for aging harms individuals, families, and society as a whole.

The Christian faith calls for another way. Throughout the Bible, God casts a vision for including the elderly in all aspects of community life. Experts in elder care are finding that the biblical vision not only benefits the elderly, but young people as well. “It goes both ways,” says David Phillips, CEO of Ebenezer Senior Citizen's Home in Israel. “Listening to the elderly serves them in a spiritual way. And the young listeners can learn from them.”

Learning to Listen

More than one in three American adults aged 50–80 report feeling a lack of companionship. As their ability to be productive diminishes, the world often leaves them behind. But the scriptural vision for the elderly is not one that reduces humans to their utility but to their essence as image bearers of God.

In other words, the reason people matter is not because they have something to contribute. They matter because they are created to reflect God in the world. Proverbs 16:31 says that “gray hair is a crown of splendor.” Behind those gray hairs are decades of stories and experiences, the telling of which can be mutually beneficial. Take Larissa Suabashi, a resident at Ebenezer, for example. A Holocaust survivor, Subashi has stories that are heartbreaking and harrowing. But she also tells stories of hope and plays the violin in a way that brings God's beauty to mind.

For the elderly, telling stories about their lives is linked to improvements in overall well-being, higher quality of life, and reduction of loneliness. Young people who learn to ask good questions and listen patiently to the stories of the elderly benefit from building intergenerational social connections and have the opportunity to play a role in preserving history and culture.

In America, perhaps working toward well-being could be as simple as driving an elderly neighbor to a doctor's appointment, mowing a lawn, or running a few errands. It may look like occasional evenings around the dinner table, in which stories are repeated as memory fails. In many ways, caring for the elderly is simply loving our neighbors as we love ourselves: paying attention to them and acting on their behalf.

When encouraging volunteers at Ebenezer Senior Citizen's Home in Haifa, Israel, Phillips emphasizes the power of listening. Many of the residents have experienced severe

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FROM THE HEART OF AN EVANGELIST

By Rev. David Copeland, Revival Now Ministries Int'l Director



“You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?”
Matthew 7:16 (NLT)

I believe in the fivefold ministry. I have always believed in the fivefold ministry, even before I entered the Spirit-filled movement. No scripture in the Bible states explicitly any of the five-fold ministry gifts have passed away. All five gifts were given for the edification of the Church and the maturing of the body of Christ. And unless you are just completely blind it is obvious the body of Christ has not reached the maturity level Ephesians 4 is talking about.

As I was pondering the role of apostles and prophets in the Body of Christ recently, I began to see four categories of prophets in the New Testament:

1. False prophets. A false prophet is someone who prophesies with the intent to deliberately lure you away from a single-hearted devotion to Jesus Christ. Jesus speaks about false prophets this way:

Matthew 7:15-20 *“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.”*

The fruit of a false prophet: are they leading you to a closer walk with Jesus or are they luring you away from the Father.

2. Wrong prophet. A wrong prophet simply gets the Word of the Lord wrong. They are not trying to draw you away from Jesus, they are simply getting it wrong. When many people speak a prophetic word over you, their motives are pure, but they do not hear correctly. The best thing to do, when that happens, is to pray a prayer breaking all authority of that word off your life.

3. Developing prophet. A developing prophet is not yet mature in the prophetic gifting and is still learning to hear from the Lord and declare what He is saying.

We must always focus on the truth that, as New Testament believers, we can all prophesy. We simply declare what we are sensing from the Holy Spirit the Father is speaking to His children. Also, if all judgment was placed on the Son for our sins at Calvary (and it was), then Jesus has carried all the judgment when we get a prophetic word wrong or we have not developed enough to “get it right.” We are not under the judgment of Old Testament prophets. Paul stated it this way:

1 Corinthians 14:29 *“Let two or three prophets speak, and let*

the others judge.”

There is a HUGE need in the Body of Christ for us to allow mature, seasoned prophets to help those who are developing accomplish two things:

- To not get in pride thinking we are infallible when a word we speak is right on target, and show people how to stay teachable;
- To not give up and quit when we get a word wrong. Just admit it, repent, and keep seeking the Lord for Him to use you in that anointing.

4. True prophets. This one needs no explanation. A true prophet will call you to repent before the One True God and draw you to a living relationship with the Father. He or she will not draw attention to themselves, nor take glory for themselves but will always draw attention and bring all glory to the King of Kings. By their fruit, we will know them. ♥

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trauma in their lives, and telling stories to a listening ear is a powerful processing tool.

“We still have eight Holocaust survivors,” explains Phillips. “And we have a second generation of traumatized people of the Holocaust.” Phillips says that listening “brings back the central vision of dignity” for the people telling their stories. Those stories do not end with pain and trauma—many of Ebenezer’s residents have also shared their personal histories as accomplished artists and musicians. In sharing those passions, they have found new purpose in the twilight years of their life—like Subashi, or Juan Onassis who draws and paints stunning pieces despite a disability, or Antoinette Bermond, who has published two books since entering the Ebenezer Home.

Working Toward Well-Being

As we seek ways to honor the elderly, it is likely needs will arise. Maybe they can no longer maintain yardwork or housekeeping. Perhaps a trip to the grocery store feels daunting. Christians can find meaningful, tangible opportunities for offering help and support to our elderly neighbors.

Phillips points to Exodus 22:22–23, in which God says, “Do not take advantage of the widow or the fatherless. If you do and they cry out to me, I will certainly hear their cry.”

Phillips, who has been known to enter homes filled with filth, and even dumpsters, to rescue people in need, thinks of it like this: “When we accept someone into Ebenezer, sometimes I

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we are not destroyed, for His compassion never fails. It is new every morning—[O Lord], great is your faithfulness!" (Lam. 3:22-23). Yes, you and I both may have failed God, and we may even believe He has failed us. But has God ever [really] failed you or me? Of course not! So, I promise you that He will not fail you in 2024. Why not take your failures of last year and learn from them. If you made mistakes and stumbled, ask yourself, "What did I learn that I don't wish to repeat again?" Let your passion come alive again. Rise up from the ashes of defeat and claim the promises of God. Get up each morning and thank God for His "faithfulness" and take a step toward reaching your goals in 2024, that you failed to reach in 2023. ♥

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see widows who have nothing. They have nothing left. We take them in, and...it's about doing the will of God and what he intended for his people."

At Ebenezer, the opportunity to work toward well-being covers all aspects of life—from the physical and mental to the emotional and relational. As the only senior home run by and for Christians in Israel, Ebenezer houses both Jewish and Arab people. Their backgrounds are filled with memories of strife between the two ethnic groups. And yet, Phillips says that at Ebenezer, there is a "peace agreement in the blood of Christ between Arab and Jewish believers."

Faithful to the Forgotten

In Paul's letters to Timothy, we read an invitation for young people to treat their elders with kindness, respect, and dignity. While honoring the elderly with our time may not seem intuitive or take priority in our busy lives, God's heart is that Christians honor all of humanity. Creating community among those with strength and those with wisdom is a beautiful picture of heaven on earth. □

**ANNOUNCEMENT
CHARTER RENEWAL
DEADLINE MARCH 28TH**



ATTENTION:

ONLY for those who have 501 (c)(3) Chartered Ministries & Churches under PCAI Group Exemption...

They should have received their **Charter Renewal Yearly Report Packet** mailed last month OR, Forms are also available in our website: <https://www.paragonchristianalliance.org> under "Resources" tab in a PDF file.

It is important that your report be received in our office no later than **March 28th**.

These renewals are **necessary to remain in compliance** with the IRS code and maintain your charter's tax-exempt status under the PCAI Group Exemption.

PLEASE REVIEW: This is a good time to review your monthly giving obligation to ensure you are up-to-date on your ministerial and charter giving. These must be current in order for your 501(c)(3) to be renewed in 2024.

PCAI Ministries Fellowship extends the warmest welcome to the newly added Ministers, Churches and Ministries worldwide since last month. Thank you for partnering with us in expanding God's kingdom. We love you all!!!

A Warm Welcome

"The Informer Newsletter" is a FREE monthly publication of Paragon Christian Alliance Int'l

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IMPORTANT LEGAL INFO

ANNUAL CHARTER RENEWAL

Have you renewed your state incorporation and have confirmation that it is active? Without a current state incorporation your federal incorporation (501 c 3) becomes void. You may not receive notice from your Secretary of State that it is due since it is your responsibility.

Check with your Secretary of State office to verify that your state incorporation is current and active. Some states vary from needing renewal every year or like Texas every four (4) years. Without valid state incorporation your federal incorporation (501 c 3) becomes invalid. You may not receive notice from your Secretary of State that it is due as it is your responsibility to handle this.

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