

**Compassionate
Outreach
Ministries**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **JANUARY 26th**
Faith Bible Institute
- **JANUARY 28th**
Prayer Revival
- **FEBRUARY 13th**
Married Couples Date
Night
- **FEBRUARY 20-22nd**
Children's Choir
Weekend
- **FEBRUARY 22nd**
Mount Olive AME
Church
- **MARCH 7th**
Information Meeting
- **MARCH 20-22nd**
Singles Conference

Coming in 2015 !!
C.O.M. Health Ministry Health
Clinic—Dates TBA

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Heart-To-Heart News

VOLUME XVIII, ISSUE I 2015 NEW YEAR EDITION



*On February 4, 2015,
Bishop & First Lady Dennison
Are celebrating
A Blessed 37 Years of Wedded Bliss!
Happy Anniversary!*

2014 Marriage Retreat—By Mr. & Mrs. Kimball Hubbard

The 2014 marriage retreat was the first of many that my husband & I will experience. Once we arrived at our destination we were nervous, but anxious to see what all the hype was about. We attended several workshops with Bishop and First Lady Dennison that were designed to enhance and strengthen the marriage union. The primary areas of focus were: open communication, mutual respect, and love for one another. Not only did we learn a great deal from our leaders, but the other members provided some invaluable information from their personal experiences. Another exciting experience for my husband and I, was being able to build wholesome relationships with other married couples who decided to invest in their marriages. Our final treat was hearing from the dynamic duo....Dr. Emma and Pastor James McDuffie. They fed us both physical and spiritual manna from On High. While today's highest divorce statistics are amongst Christian marriages, we strongly believe that our investment into the 2014 Marriage Retreat was one of the most beneficial contributions that we have made. Every individual who desires a closer relationship with his or her mate will truly appreciate the refreshing experience of a Compassionate Outreach Ministries Marriage Retreat. Will you make this investment in your marriage as well?

A SEASON OF CELEBRATIONS

November 7th—A Special Surprise for a Very Special First Lady!

Unknown to First Lady Margaret Dennison, Bishop planned a surprise Birthday Party to celebrate his illustrious wife! The COM family, First Lady's Sisters, Mother, Brother & Sister-in-Law were waiting for her to arrive. Escorted by the Bishop, she arrived to a sea of loving applause and song! She was honored with special tributes and the Dance Ministry blessed her! First Lady was delighted to have her Maid of Honor (from her wedding) surprise her, by attending. Shawndria and Jonathan showed pictures of "Sister Margaret, Back in the Day"! Sister Lois Johnson gave a moving tribute to her friend. The First Lady's Adjutants presented her with a Rhinestone studded hat, fit for a Queen! First Lady Dennison expressed her gratitude to all for attending. It was indeed an honor and pleasure to be a part of a loving Church family who celebrate each other.



December 31st—A New Years' Eve Surprise for the Bishop and his Twin!

To honor our Bishop, the men of Compassionate circled the room as Bishop, First Lady and Sister Lillian entered the room. With incredibly obvious Brotherly Love, Master of Ceremonies, Bishop Cleveland Dennison presided over this occasion, as Master of Ceremonies. Superintendent Reginald Williams gave the opening prayer, Deacon Bruce Robinson welcomed guests and presented the occasion. In tribute to her father, Sister Shawndria sang "My God is Awesome" before being joined by her brother Jonathan for a Salute to their Father. The Young Worshipers for Christ performed a mime, and the Men's Ensemble delivered a Winans song, "Draw Me Closer To You". Bishop Vernon Walker delivered a powerful WORD, from The Lord. He came from Jeremiah 1:5, and spoke of Bishop Dennison as Authentic, Holy, Sanctified, Separated for the Master's use, For such a time as this. He is supposed to be different; Not meant to blend in; Will not allow the culture to change him; and is Anointed and Appointed for what he does. Bishop Walker told Bishop Dennison "Don't take your foot off the pedal..." Then, Bishop Walker told us to Value and Treasure the man and woman of God; Keep admonishing him; Keep lifting him up; Appreciate the Man of God; Rebuke any words against this man of God; Value the voice we have in him; He is a real voice in a time when other voices support Adam & Steve; He takes a stance for the WORD of God unapologetically; His convictions speak for him; We have not been the same since we met him; He is one of a few men and we should be proud of him; God will bless us for honoring him; Don't allow anyone or anything to pull you into any mess about your Bishop; We ought to know better when we hear foolishness about our Bishop; Return the mess to sender; Don't be a garbage can for anyone regarding the things related to your pastor; This pastor and preacher will bury you, will marry you and will pray for you; The blessing is in the house in which you have been planted; Serve where you have been planted; The grass on the other side of the fence is artificial turf and it will kill you!; Bless the man of God! A powerful confirmation of Bishops charge, his purpose, and his calling in our lives. Bishops niece sang a song "Still Standing Tall", and the men of the First Family Care Committee blessed him with thanks and praises for his example and for the life he lives. It was moving, it was emotional, it was loving! Then Bishop, First Lady and Sister Lillian Dennison took the microphone and thanked everyone individually for blessing him today. He acknowledged the Pastors in attendance:

Pastor-Elect Samuel Neal III
 Pastor Hugh & Co-Pastor Dorothy Brockington
 Reverend/Pastor Geraldine McClellan
 Pastor Marie & Mr. Lenton Herring (*husband-not a pastor*)
 Pastor Sam & First Lady Margaret Jones
 Co-Pastor Timothy & Mrs. Nona Jones
 Superintendent Reginald & First Lady Rose Williams
 Bishop Vernon Walker (Special Guest Speaker & friend)
 Evangelist Rodney Long
 Pastor Apostle Willie King

What an awesome blessing to be part of a twin—some that is so powerfully blessed of God!



Don't Give Up and Don't Worry by Mother Inez McKinnon

Jesus remembers when others forget, the good times and the bad times. When everything is going well with you, you are happy, but when the good times run out and bad times take control, don't give up. Jesus remembers when others forget! Through the good times and the bad times, God is always there. He can make a way out of no way. He is always on your side, and He is there to carry you through, in the good times and the bad times. You must strive to go through because He will be with you always. He will be your guide. I will pray for you today and hope you remember that God is the Way, the Truth, and the Light. A God who will be with you through the good and the bad times. God loves you when no one else loves you. Others may abandon you and ignore you, but God will love you always, no matter what, through the good times and the bad times. He is a God who will never leave you. The God who reigns above is our Supreme being. He rules both Heaven and Earth. He is a God who has compassion on us in everything we do. God is a good God, one who will never leave you in the good times and the bad times. He is there to carry you through. When you go to the doctor, he is too busy to see you, he just prescribes medicine for you before he knows your problem. Jesus is not like that. He knows your need before you ask Him. Matthew 6:8 says, "Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your heavenly Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him". He is God, and will be with you through the good times and the bad times. So hold on and don't give up. While you are waiting, why don't you just trust Him and give Him the Praise?

The Love of Sisters

Love revealed itself at the Women's Breakfast. Secret Sisters fellowshiped and were obviously touched by the gestures of love shown by their Secret Sister and that they showed to their Secret Sister. Sister Stephanie sang "Millions didn't make it, but I was one of the ones who did". Elder Coon's biological sisters came to surprise her and told everyone in attendance of Elder's faithful love for her family. It was truly an incredible surprise present for Elder Coon. Prophetess Rawls imparted the Word of The Lord to First Lady Margaret Dennison. This was a God-inspired activity that First Lady brought forth, with love for her God-given sisters! Secret Sisters revealed themselves with love, appreciation, gratitude, squeals of delight and a greater appreciation for their COM Sisters! If you don't have a biological sister, God provides a loving, godly, sister that He himself is shaping and molding just for you!

Happy Wedding Anniversary!!!!

Bishop Larry & First Lady Margaret Dennison	2/4	37 Years
Mr. Bruce & Mrs. Kathy Robinson	1/5	25 Years
Mr. Harold & Mrs. Gwendolyn Jenkins	1/8	33 Years
Mr. Keith & Mrs. Patricia Jeter	2/9	25 Years
Mr. John & Mrs. Donna Smith	2/12	15 Years



To Achieve Your Best

How: Attend the **SCHOOL TO COLLEGE PIPELINE CONFERENCE**

When: February 17, 2015 from 6:00—8:00 pm

Where: Eastside High School Auditorium
1201 SE 43rd Street, Gainesville, FL

For: Parents & Students in East Gainesville Schools in Grades 4-11

DINNER WILL BE PROVIDED

What: * Strategies for College Preparedness
* Resources for Families
* Support for 1st Generation College Attenders
* Financial Aid Information

Take advantage of this program to learn more about opportunities available to you!

Happy Birthday!!



To everyone born in the months of January & February!

An Inspirational Nugget for my COM Brothers and Sisters

Don't be weak in faith....believe God! ~Remember Abraham believed God when he was beyond the age of producing a child.... and Sarah was dead in her womb. But because of the spoken Word of God that they shall conceive a child did not fail. It came to pass. The bible said that Abraham did not stagger at the promises of God through unbelief! I want you to remember if God said it, that settles it!!! God has spoken promises in the Word of God and He has kept every promise!~ Sister Renee' Hall

Compassionate Outreach Ministries



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First Lady: Sister Margaret Dennison

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We Are Reaching Out, Not Out Of Reach

Dry Places—Sis Nikita Williams

- ◆ God is and has been calling you & calling you, to come out of your dry places;
- ◆ He's anointed you with gifts and talents which has given you purpose- not to just sit in the pews to take up spaces.
- ◆ The pews are for lost souls waiting to be delivered by your talents.
- ◆ So that when their souls are delivered- they will stand where you and I stand,
- ◆ Giving God's message to every woman, boy, girl, and man.
- ◆ God is COMMANDING you to come out of your dry places,
- ◆ He knows the gifts he's given you- he can call you name by name and put each individual gift with all of your faces.
- ◆ You know God has been talking to you like he's been talking to me,
- ◆ Each of your gifts and talents are your ministry.
- ◆ To some of you God has given you more than one,
- ◆ And God's going to keep calling you (out of your dry places)- until the work is done.
- ◆ God is going to keep sending you messages just like this,
- ◆ Because when you became saved- you became his.
- ◆ So as a vessel and child of God you are to give.
- ◆ Give of your time, talents, and gifts because there is plenty of work- the instructions are in his word;
- ◆ He sent a message to you before in a poem titled "Notice has been served".
- ◆ So don't just SIT there and run from God because you can't outrun the chase,
- ◆ God is going to keep tugging at your heart until you come out of your dry place.
- ◆ God says let me tell you what's going to happen to you,
- ◆ Your gifts and talents are going to be like fire shut up in your bones- and you're going to jump out of those pews.
- ◆ So don't be afraid of the gifts and the work God has for you to do,
- ◆ He created them and he has spiritually equipped you.
- ◆ Don't be afraid of men and their different faces,
- ◆ In 2015 God wants you to come out of your dry places.

**DON'T FORGET TO RECITE YOUR
FIFTEEN I AMs FOR 2015**

Health Literacy by Sis. Wanda Nichols

An elderly woman sent home from the hospital develops a life-threatening infection because she doesn't understand the warning signs listed in the discharge instructions. A man confused an intake form in a doctor's office writes "no" to every question because he doesn't understand what is being asked. A young mother pours a drug that is supposed to be taken by mouth into her baby's ear, perforating the eardrum. And a man in his 70s preparing for his first colonoscopy uses a suppository as directed, but without first removing it from the foil packet.

These are real life examples to illustrate one of the most under-recognized problems in medicine: **Health Literacy**

What is Health Literacy?

- ◆ "a constellation of skills, including the ability to perform basic reading and numerical tasks required to function in the healthcare environment"....AMA (American Medical Association)
- ◆ "the cognitive and social skills which determine the motivation and ability of individuals to gain access to, understand and use information in ways that promote and maintain good health"....WHO (World Health Organization)
- ◆ "the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions"....IOM (Institute Of Medicine)

A 2003 National Assessment of Adult Literacy found:

- ◆ 20% of all adults read below a 5th grade level with most health materials are written at the 10th grade level or above
- ◆ 40% of inner-city minorities read below the 5th grade level, the statistics are worse for those 65 years and older.
- ◆ 12% of adults are proficient in health literacy
- ◆ Low literacy directly costs the healthcare industry over \$73 million each year

Limited health literacy affects people's ability to:

- ◆ Search for and use health information
- ◆ Adopt healthy behaviors
- ◆ Act on important public health alerts
- ◆ Improve health outcomes

What can you do starting TODAY!!

Get organized before your visit: bring a list of your health concerns, bring ALL your medications, bring someone with you to appointments, and bring your data (any home monitoring – glucose levels, blood pressure readings etc.)

"Ask Me 3"

Three questions you should ask when you meet with your health provider :

- ◆ What is my main problem?
- ◆ What do I need to do?
- ◆ Why is it important for me to do this?

References:

National Assessment of Adult Literacy
National Center for Education Statistics

A BLACK HISTORY MOMENT—January 2015

This past Sunday, we recognized the contribution of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to the struggle for justice and equality in our country. Many ministers of the Gospel helped to wake this nation up to the injustice of segregation and racial hatred. It is fitting to recognize the lesser known black ministers who worked shoulder to shoulder with Dr. King. One such Minister was Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy. Andrew Young, Jesse Jackson, and many other Men and Women of God served in supporting roles and made extraordinary contributions to the civil rights movement that Dr. King represents. But they were just men and women, with the same weaknesses that we all share. What made them great was that they allowed themselves to be led by an unshakeable faith in the same God that freed Israel from bondage in Egypt, the same God that hung on the cross for you and me, the same God that enabled a shepherd boy named David to conquer a giant and become a king, the same God who can and wants to free us today from the tyranny of sin, the same God that we worship as our Eternal High Priest, Righteous and Holy, Lord of Lords, King of Kings, You know His name, it's Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!