

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

- **April 20th**  
Resurrection Sunday
- **April 25th-27th**  
Youth Weekend
- **April 26th**  
5th Avenue Arts Festival
- **April 27th**  
Dayspring Missionary  
Baptist Church
- **May 10th**  
Mother/Daughter  
Women's Luncheon
- **May 15th-16th**  
Real Men - Real Praise
- **June 19th-21st**  
Women's  
Retreat
- **July 19th**  
Men's One Day  
Get-A-Way

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## Singles Conference 2014: Season of the Impossible

God used Elder Fondrea Lewis in a mighty way to usher his people into the "Season of the Impossible." The very gifted Lewis, who is an Elder at Bethel Church of Love and Praise in Bloomfield, New Jersey, served as the featured guest at the 2014 Compassionate Outreach Ministries Singles Conference. Using the Book of Luke as a foundation with Mary and Elizabeth as examples, Elder Lewis emphasized throughout the 3-day event that NOTHING is impossible with God. Indeed, there is a blessing in believing that God will perform every thing that He has promised. Singles were encouraged to have a strong relationship with God, to be obedient to His word, to focus on Him without distraction, and to carry His glory with the understanding that God can and will unlock every impossibility so that His divine purposes may be fulfilled.

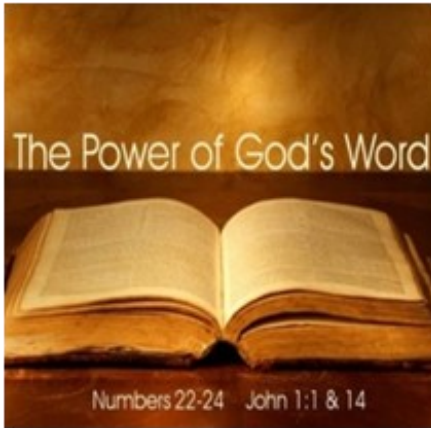
In addition to the three messages ministered by Elder Lewis, the Singles Conference also featured an open Panel Discussion focused on issues relevant to singles, a Singles Fellowship Luncheon, a skit addressing single parenthood from the C.O.M. Singles, ministry in dance from the C.O.M. Praise Dancers and Sister Jasmine McMillan, musical selections from the COM Singles Ensemble, the C.O.M. Singles Choir, Faith Church Praise Ensemble, Landmark Holy Temple of God Ensemble, as well as the Palatka Church of God By Faith, featuring Evangelist Lorraine "Punch" Baldwin.

The C.O.M. Singles are expecting great things in this new season! Many thanks to Bishop & First Lady Dennison for hosting the Conference and to the married couples who served.



## The Power of the Spoken Word

Sister Vondalyn White



Over the last several weeks we've heard a great deal of teaching on the tongue which refers to "our spoken words." All of us probably grew up believing the children's rhyme, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words

can never hurt me." Yet, at a certain point in our lives, we realized that this was completely untrue and that words can and do hurt. Every negative word that we use is potentially a deadly weapon. It has the power to slowly chip away at dreams and ambitions, our energy and our health. It is almost like a form of self-hypnosis whereby negative words begin to program our negative behavior for the future.

But, what if I told you that we also have the power to alter circumstances in a positive way by the words that we speak? I realize that this sounds a bit far-fetched and I can only imagine what some of you are thinking? But the truth is that our words really do have extraordinary power; in fact, the Bible teaches us that life and death are in the power of the tongue (Prov. 18:21), meaning that our very words can either prosper us or harm us. So when we say things that are the opposite of what we desire (i.e. complaining), we are essentially affecting the quality of our lives.

Contrary to what some believe, words are not simply sounds caused by air passing through our vocal cords. They actually have real power to effect change. The Word of the Lord teaches us that our Words are seeds (Luke 8:11). In fact, whatever is in a seed must produce after its own kind. For example, an apple seed will produce apples. This principle is especially true where words are concerned. A situation can worsen when we speak negatively about it. By the same token, when we speak positive words, our circumstances can change for the better. In the book of James, the writer compares our words to the rudder of a ship. James points out that once words are spoken they begin to steer circumstances in a specific direction. James teaches us that our words have the ability to

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## My Brother's Keeper

Sister Brenda Lyons

What Can We Do To Come Together?  
As men of God, we must get better  
We are men of valor  
Do not sit still, we must win the war  
Against the enemy that's plaguing us  
Come on men; In God we trust  
Let's guard our hearts, our minds  
Be real, we do have purpose. It's God's will.  
The enemy is seeking whom he may devour  
So as men of God, this must not be allowed.  
NOW:

Each man take a man—lift him up  
Be as Jesus, drink from each other's cup  
Pray ye one for the other.  
Yes, you can be a keeper of your brother  
Be to your brother a friend indeed  
Be there for a brother that is in need  
And if that brother feels left out  
Assure him that Jesus is there, without a doubt.  
Our Lord Jesus is the keeper of our soul  
Every one of us, as men of God must stand as a whole.

Take your brother by the hand  
Say to your brother: I will take a stand  
'Cause I have your hand inside my hand  
And in Christ, we can do all things – Yes We Can!

**FRIENDLY REMINDER:**  
With God all things are possible.

## God Unveils

Sister Renee' Hall

God has released His love on us in a tremendous way. Through the love of God we get the opportunity to see Him unveil Himself through our lives because greater is He that is in us than he that's in the world. When we thought we couldn't handle another disappointment... When we thought we couldn't handle another let down... When we were misunderstood... When we didn't know where the money was coming from... When our loved ones were at the point of death and the doctors shook their heads and said there is no hope... God unveils his sovereignty and His power. He unveils our position of being the sons of God that possesses the ability of being holy and righteous. God unveils His power!!!

## Tips For College Bound Students: Graduation Requirements

Minister Karen Woods

This is an excellent time to make an appointment and meet with your Guidance Counselor along with your parent or guardian. Your Guidance Counselor knows exactly which courses you have taken, the courses you are currently enrolled in, and the courses you need to finish up to graduate. Get a printout of those courses! If your Guidance counselor does not know these three things, you and your parent (or guardian) should make an appointment with the Assistant Principal to find out what these requirements are. Now is the time! Remember, it's your future and it's time to take responsibility for the next step in your life. As you move forward, please take note of the graduation rates for some of the High Schools in our county and for the county overall for the 2012-2013 school year:

**Table 1. Alachua County 5-Year High School Graduation Rates**

	<b>5-Year White Rate</b>	<b>5-Year Black Rate</b>	<b>5-Year Hispanic/Latino Rate</b>
Gainesville High School	82.46	73.13	69.57
Hawthorne Middle/High School	57.50	46.15	#
Newberry High School	75.00	61.54	78.57
Santa Fe High School	83.74	64.52	90.00
Eastside High School	93.14	78.95	83.33
F. W. Buchholz High School	87.05	68.69	78.05
<b>Alachua County</b>	<b>79.09</b>	<b>57.11</b>	<b>68.15</b>

There are major racial discrepancies in the graduation rates and we want you to be successful. Many of our members are educators who will be happy to assist you with questions about your academic future. Do not hesitate to ask. Be committed to your future!

### Special Recognition

#### HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!!!!

Mr. Douglas & Mrs. Yvonne Bivins	25 years	3/1
Mr. Henry & Mrs. Beatrice Flag	39years	3/8
Mr. Clarence & Mrs. Roberta Graham	33 years	3/1
Mr. David & Mrs. Sadie Holmes	33 years	4/19
Mr. Calvin & Mrs. Cherry Lewis	24 years	3/17
Mr. Bernard & Mrs. Brenda Phillip	21 years	4/30
Mr. Leon & Mrs. Diane Rowe	24 years	4/29
Mr. Kenneth & Mrs. Bridget Stokes	13 years	3/11
Mr. Tyrone & Mrs. Licia Watson	24 years	3/11

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

To everyone born in the months of March & April.  
We love you we do!

### Obey God, Not Men

We ought to obey God rather than men. The fear of men, impatience with God's providence and love of position often serve as the source of people pleasing behavior. Let's check ourselves. The fear of God and trust in God will always protect us from being people pleasers.

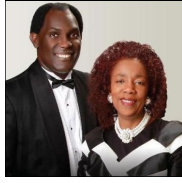
### Your Final Destination



Where are you going to spend eternity? That is the question that was posed in the live drama presentation hosted at Compassionate Outreach Ministries during the 2nd week of April. In "Your Final Destination," men, women and children from COM performed in roles which depicted various human experiences on earth and the eternal consequences that followed. Themes included domestic violence, murder, abortion, sickness, cohabitation, faith, hypocrisy, idolatry and war. In the end, the main characters faced the Lord on Judgment Day with an account of their lives and notification on whether their names were found in the Lamb's Book of Life.

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## Compassionate Outreach Ministries



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## Understand What I Have Been Taught

### Mother Inez McKinnon

When evening comes, I meditate on what the day  
has brought.  
And do my best to understand what lessons I have  
been taught.  
Life isn't just a one-way street where we can't lift  
our voices  
Until the day we die, we're given many choices.  
I have to question did I try to really understand  
The needs that someone else have and lend a help-  
ing hand.  
If I will just remember to light one little spark  
That brightens someone else's life that otherwise is  
dark.  
Then I can find contentment in doing what I can  
Knowing there is a reason I've been chosen for His  
plan.  
I know God watches over me because when I am  
sad  
He always has some special way in which to make  
me glad.  
I know he watches over me throughout each day  
and night  
As long as I do all I can to stay within his sight.  
I love to praise Him and give Him thanks.

## Final Destination

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While the final destination for some involved eternity in heaven, others were doomed for hell. Through the power of God in this amazing presentation, lives were saved and souls were delivered.

## The Power of the Spoken Word

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set the entire course of one's life on fire, further revealing its supernatural power.

If you still have doubts about how powerful words are, think about this for a moment: God created the heavens and the earth by speaking them into existence. In Genesis 1 you will see that God said "Let there be light", "Let there be a firmament", "Let the waters be divided", "Let the earth bring forth grass" and so on. Every one of these cases represents a problem followed by a spoken solution. This is a concept taught in the Bible where God describes as "calling those things that be not as though they were" (Rom 4:17). The concept of calling for what is not seen is exactly what God did in Genesis 1. God saw there was no light and said there was light and then the light came. You can see this principle demonstrated throughout the following verses: Genesis 1:3, 1:6, 1:9, 1:11, 1:14, 1:20 and 1:24. It is a very powerful lesson from God left on record for us. God plainly provides us an example of how we should operate in the world today.

Now, let's look at Genesis 1:26, Here, God said "Let us make man in our image and after our likeness and let them have dominion..." So if God said this, did this happen like the other 7 times God said? You can clearly see that everything God said in Genesis 1 came to pass exactly like he declared it, so these words spoken about us are no different. If we are designed by God to be like God, then we would have to be open to operate like God does. I realize that I have lost many of you, but let me remind you that Jesus said in Mark 9:23 "...all things are possible to him who believes." I have to point out though that our petitions must be in accordance with God's will, and not our own.

So the question we need to ask ourselves is, "What are we creating with our words?" Are our words filled with hate or love, bitterness or blessing, complaining or compliments, defeat or victory? Jesus said in Matthew 12:36 that, "... men will have to give account for every idle word they speak." I personally believe that God will also hold us accountable for the things that we were supposed to accomplish while here and failed to do because of our unbelief or fear. This is the season to dig deep so that the power of God's Word can be revealed in your life.