



AEA Ministry *Spotlight*

AEA on the web: www.aeaministries.org

COVID-19, SPRING 2020



Kerry L. Fink,
President

President's Letter

Greetings!

We are praying without ceasing for all in our Land – and across the globe – specifically God's promise in the Prayer of Psalm 91:10:

No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;– NKJV

In fact, Psalm 91 pretty well covers it all and comes swinging - out of the gate:

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.[a]
- 2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."
- 3 Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.

Staying SAFE is GOOD and TRUSTING IN THE LORD is our ultimate Protection and we also know and understand that the Blood of Jesus covers ALL circumstances and ALL situations perfectly.

Nothing takes HIM by surprise. He has already seen the End from the Beginning. He is Jehovah-Jireh, Jehovah-Nissi, Jehovah-Rapha. He is the Alpha and the Omega. He sits on the Great Circle of the Earth – "Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool" and beside Him, there IS NO OTHER. There is nothing too big for our God!

He promises us that He cares for us. He knows exactly where we are, what the situation looks like from our perspective, and He is for us. The Bible is clear about His attention to our detail. He doesn't just count the hairs on our head, He has NUMBERED them. He is the all-knowing God and while world systems might get overwhelmed, He is NEVER caught off-foot.

We have a God who cares for us. A God that is "touched with the feeling of our infirmities" and knows and understands what we move through. John 11:35 says "Jesus wept", and in that particular passage, we see that it was not because he couldn't solve the situation – (he did, in just 3 words, "Lazarus, Come Forth") - but because He understood, with compassion, the grief that Lazarus' friends and relatives felt in their temporal situation.

He understands our situation now too. He knows the worry, anxiety, the concerns



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER cont. _____

we often feel, but, well beyond His comforting presence and compassion, He is MORE THAN ABLE to solve our situation by just His Word.

When the disciples were on board the boat and fearing the calamitous storm that threatened to kill them, they started panicking. They woke Jesus, who was PRESENT ALWAYS but PEACEFULLY RESTING and fussed with him "Lord, save us, we are going to drown." And, yet, once again, with just 3 Words, He said "Peace Be Still", the disciples were reminded, yet again, that "Even the winds and the waves obey Him."

There is nothing that is not under God's authority and, even in times when EVERYTHING feels unstable and rocking, He reminds us that He has a GOOD PLAN for those of us that love the LORD and are called according to His Purpose.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11

It is our moment, and our responsibility to be sure that we rise to the occasion of doing all that we can to share our Hope in Jesus Christ to a world. The world that has finally turned everything OFF to hunker down and stay safe, but are left questioning where all the things that had previously been "gods" in our lives have left them.

Quickly, and almost overnight, we have a stark reminder that it is not our money, not our jobs, not our government, not our sports or entertainment heroes, not our positions of power and prestige, not our personal comfort that can save us from the "enemy". It is solely the Grace and Mercy of our Father through Jesus Christ.

Certainly, we will all follow the practical and wise precautions concerning Social Distancing, hand-washing, etc., but we will also recognize the unprecedented opportunity to share the Good

News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ at this time, and be excellent at using all technology tools the Lord has afforded us with Social Media, Facetime, and other creative ways.

Let's get busy and be about our Father's business! We DO have the answer to Covid-19, and any other ill in the world. IT IS JESUS. We need to be creative in sharing and "evangelizing" through whatever means we have available to us at this time. It needs to be an "it is well with my soul" time. His Peace and Comfort is what we have and must share with the world right now.

Jesus accomplished it all in just 3 days – and while today it might look like we are on Day 2 Covid-19, is it the same as with the shaking and quaking on that day before His resurrection? Jesus was crucified and in the tomb. It looked like it was over and Jesus' ministry was a fraud. It looked bad and it looked hopeless. It looked like nothing would ever be the same – let alone ever be better!

But, rest assured, that VERY next morning on that 3rd day, they found an empty tomb! Jesus had Risen! He is Alive! That settled the matter once and for all and covers everything Past, Present and Future.

And, just like that, this too will be finished. Our Day 3 is coming with this

Covid-19 and let us have the audacity to believe the Promises of God. Resurrection day came to remind us that the Blood covers!

As we go through this time together – and rest assured we are going THROUGH – which means we DO come out the other side – we travel with our eyes on the Lord, our Trust in Jesus, and our Prayers continually upon our lips.

Keeping you continuously lifted in prayer – in Jesus' mighty name!

May you all be blessed as we dwell close with Him.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kerry Fink

President, American Evangelistic Association

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11



Chesapeake Bible College & Seminary Graduation

Congratulations to the November 9, 2019 Chesapeake Bible College and Seminary Graduates!

Doreen C. E. Hunte, Michael Dimuccio, Tammy Fink, Marguerite Vincent, Ruth Anne Strait, Bishop Martin Kathurima Muchena, Seth Fink, Anna Fink

CBCS Distant Learning Center at Community Gospel Truth Church
Melbourne, Florida

Tell Me Something Good!

Words of Encouragement, Comfort and Commitment

The Lord also will be a Refuge for the oppressed. A Refuge in times of trouble (Psalm 9:9). This scripture has been not only a foundation but a comfort for over 30 years to the Refuge of Hope Disciple Center Church and The American Evangelistic Association (AEA). In times like this, we need a Savior, in times like this, we need a friend. We have been attacked by the devil-satan - the enemy. For GOD has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind (2nd Timothy 1:7). We must keep our minds on the Lord Jesus (Isaiah 26:3-4). You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You Because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD, forever, For in the LORD, there is everlasting strength.

We must encourage, comfort, support, and PRAY, PRAY, PRAY for each other, our Leaders, and receive the VICTORY over the adversary. The **AEA Founder, the late Dr. John E. Douglas, Jr. commissioned us to be "Intimidators to the devil-satan, the enemy." Dr. Douglas also shared that the Ministry of the American Evangelistic Association would be needed in the end times like never before.**

As believers in our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ, we have been commissioned according to (Mark 16:15-18), "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel (the good news of Jesus) to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe; "In My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Now is the time to Position ourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with us. Do not fear or be dismayed; for the LORD is with you. (2 Chronicles 20:17). Jehoshaphat sent the Praise Team out to sing to the LORD, who showed the beauty of holiness saying, "Praise the LORD, for His mercy endures forever." (2 Chronicles 20:21) Read the entire chapter

Believers in the Army of the LORD get up, pray up and dress for the VICTORY. Put on the Whole Armor of God daily (Ephesians 6: 10-18).

The late AEA Pastor Joyce Brooks, missionary to Haiti, shared a strong spiritual warfare prayer with us entitled, "**Loosing Confusion on the Enemy**".

In the name of Jesus, I/we loose upon Satan, his hierarchy, all strongholds, orders, plans, and demons, the judgments of the Midianites (Judges 7:22), Ammonites, Moabites and Edomites

(2 Chronicles 20) Let panic, frustration, havoc, confusion, pandemonium, disasters, chaos, destruction, and the hornets of the LORD descend upon them (Exodus 23:28; Deuteronomy 7:20).

May the wrath, hatred, anger, terror fear, burning judgment, and finger of God (Luke 11:20) prevent Satan's orders from being carried out.

Remember, Believe in the Lord your God, so shall you be established; believe His prophets, so shall you prosper. II Chronicles 20:20.

In the Master's Service,

Dr. Charles E. Farmer, Bishop
AEA and Refuge of Hope Disciple Center

Victory in Jesus!

It is hard for many people, at this time, to comprehend the current state of our nation, due to the Corona Virus. Reflecting back on the past couple of weeks I started thinking about when Mary arrived at the tomb of Jesus on the morning of his resurrection. In Luke 24, we find that the angels were waiting with a question: "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" The question the angels asked was as much for us today as it was for Mary 2,000 years ago. Up to this point, the grave had held all power and authority over humanity. But when God raised His son Jesus Christ from the dead, that power and authority was finally defeated.

This is true for us today as well. We look into the "Tomb" of our troubles, with the mindset of consenting to the authority of our defeat. Yet the words "He is not here, He has risen!" tell us this truth: That we need to stop bringing Jesus to the Authority of our problems and start bringing our problems to the Authority of Jesus. We know that the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ is not a child's fable, so let us not live like it is.

The empty tomb is our promise of victory over sin, death, and the grave. We, the Bride of Christ, The Church of the Living God are called to manifest this supernatural victory to the world, both seen and unseen.

"However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?" – Luke 18:8

Dr. Ed Connatser, President
Chesapeake Bible College and Seminary

A Ready Remedy: Countering Stress with Self-Care



Ministers of the Gospel know and realize that there are many forms of ministry found within the four walls of the church as well as outbound in our communities. Fast-paced and ever-changing trends in various ministry settings have broadened many leaders' horizons with attempts to keep up with the latest-and-greatest. Outwardly, many ministers worldwide see an increased need to seek new forms of church programming, networking opportunities, and digital technologies. Bi-vocational ministry is on the increase, with many facing challenges for balance of life, vocation, and family. These scenarios are compounded as ministers strive to work effectively among today's cultural worldview. This brings to light a need to pay close attention to an inward focus that empowers an outward balance toward sustainability, resiliency, and endurance for the long haul in ministry.

Thom S. Rainer, President of LifeWay Christian Resources in a prior article from Ministry Today noted various trends, cultures, and challenges affecting the American church today. Unfortunately, many church leaders and church members will elect not to change anything. The Barna Group reported on vital research in their book entitled, "The State of Pastors." Research showed that many need to connect with one another and their communities. Released statistics showed that one-in-nine pastors self-report as being at high risk to burnout; only one-in-five have excellent or good satisfaction with having true friends; and seven-of-ten of these high-risk ministers meet less than once a month with peers or a mentor. Turning the corner on 2020 and with the new norms surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, I continue to ask the question to many in collaboration, "At what cost will it take for you to commit to a serious focus upon your inward health and well-being which grounds one firmly toward onward success and vitality in ministry?"

Through a greater revelation in practicing the spiritual disciplines as outlined in Scripture, I continue to seek a deeper value of who I am in Christ. There is no lack of understanding in knowing that leaders spend endless hours meeting the needs of others. Many sacrifice self as they continue to strive to be present, responsive, informed, and effective. So,

other than taking breaks from the Lord's work, how can we as leaders prevent burnout? How can those of us who care for others best care for ourselves?

The pulse of change within our greater Church culture starts first with ourselves as leaders. Today, I urge you to action – To take a pause for an authentic and transparent inventory of self with an inner assessment designed to provide you with the forward-thinking stewardship that will sustain your mission. We know the mission remains for us to always love God and people via the vein of care and compassion regardless of time, location, culture or trend. But amidst life's challenges and the balancing act, how can we better care for ourselves? Can today's effective minister withstand the odds of ministry burnout and all that life throws at us? Do we as ministers and leaders value ourselves enough to take our own healthy dose of our own loving and compassionate medicine? I say yes! We can!

Dr. Loretta Iannicelli
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West Melbourne, FL 32912-1000
888•526•3751
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