

Walking by

# FAITH

and Not by Sight

2 Corinthians 5:7



Living Faith Christian Center  
"Reaching the World"  
Teaching...Preaching...Healing

March 2022 - Volume 5 – Issue 3

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## Calendar of Events

Singles Retreat  
Before You Say "I Do"  
Postponed Date TBD

**May 12-13, 2022**  
Joint Coalition Prayer Conference  
Speaker: Dr. Tony Evans  
May 12th @ 7pm  
May 13th @ 11am & 7pm  
Columbia Convention Center  
Columbia, SC 29201

## Living Faith Christian Center Mission Statement

Our mission is to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom throughout the world, and train Believers how to live independent of this world's system and have dominion over it. To provide Believers a word of encouragement, hope and to aide in the development of their faith. Also, to teach Christians who they are in Christ Jesus and how to live a victorious life in their covenant rights and privileges.

## Service Times & Contact Information

Sunday Morning Worship Service @ 8:30am

Tuesday Noon Day Bible Study @ 12:00pm

Tuesday Night Bible Study @ 7:00pm

Web Address: aldowningministries.org and livingfaithsc.com

Phone: (803) 609-5714

## Social Media

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.. NIV*



## Speaking Engagement Request

If you would like to invite Bishop Downing for a speaking engagement, the contact info is:  
A.L. Downing Ministries  
P.O. Box 291808  
Columbia, SC 29229  
Ph: (803) 609-5714



**Bishop A. L. Downing and Lady Inza Downing**

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and the recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord" Luke 4:18-19

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# **Words of Encouragement**

## **“Just Do It”**

First Lady Inza Downing

We all have heard some catchy slogans on television that stick in our minds like: J G Wentworth 877CASH NOW, Give me a Break, Give me a Break, Break me off a piece of that Kit Kat Bar, and of course that old school jingle Plop Plop Fizz Fizz oh what a relief it is. You notice today I am wearing a t shirt with a very familiar saying. All of us have seen the Nike logo that says “Just Do It”. Today we are going to talk about this slogan...Just Do It...You may say “Do what First Lady?” Well I’m glad you asked that question.

Today I encourage you to follow that desire, that dream that is in you. That dream that God has given you and only you. I am here to encourage you today that if God has given you a desire or dream, take that first step and “Just Do It”!!!

Let’s talk about the Nike company for a moment and how this slogan came to be. You might say well First Lady that’s them, they are professional advertisers and they have help, but let me tell you how the slogan or brand “Just Do It” came to be. Nike was struggling in 1987 and failing to keep up with Adidas and Reebok. Dan Weiden, an advertising executive, had to come up with an idea to keep the business a float. He came up with the slogan “Just Do It”. Everyone that heard the slogan hated it. He went to the Nike co-founder and he really hated it. In 1988, Weiden went to Dezen magazine to have the first publication of the slogan without the CEO knowing that he had gone to the magazine, and “Just Do It” was published in the magazine. And should I say that brand turned into a multibillion dollar giant. Mr. Weiden could have stopped pursuing the brand when no one encouraged him and told him they hated the brand. But that desire in him kept him going. Regardless to the naysayers he kept pursuing the desire that this brand could get them out of the hole. And now when ever we see the brand “Just Do It”, we know it is a Nike product and millions of products have been sold using this brand.

God has given many of us dreams and aspirations. It may be writing a book, going back to school, opening a restaurant or opening your daycare, but for some reason we never take that first step to make that dream come true. Perhaps it’s the fear of the unknown or maybe we are leaning to our own understanding. We want to come back to the dreams that God has given us, because inside that dream lies our purpose and inside that purpose lies our potential. Myles Monroe tells us in his book “Understanding Your Potential”, that graveyards are full of potential, because for some reason we never fulfill the dreams that God gave us.

God tells us in Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV) that I know the plans I have for you. Jeremiah was a timid man but his commitment to God enabled him by God’s grace to overcome his timidity and live courageously in the

## Words of Encouragement cont...

face of opposition. If God puts a desire in you, He will guide you and give you the wisdom you need to accomplish your dream. 2 Tim1:7 (KJV) tells us that God has not given us the spirit of fear. The hardest part of fulfilling that dream is taking the first step. You start leaning to your own understanding and start making excuses:

“How will I do it”?

“I can’t leave this job, I’ll lose all my benefits”.

“I don’t have the finances to start”.

Whenever someone comes to me and tells me they can’t do something, I immediately ask them, why not? I am your biggest cheerleader to encourage you and to help you reach your goal. Because I know we can do all things because we have Christ inside of us. How do I know? Because God has put so many dreams inside of me that I thought were totally impossible...but God. I prayed for His wisdom and guidance and He saw me through.

**Stop making excuses and Just Do It!!!**

What if Pastor had not followed the dreams that God has given him? He’s a visionary and has quadruple faith. There would be no Living Faith Christian Center. There would be no School of Theology and hold on, big dreams are yet to be fulfilled with the building of our new church.

For years I knew I had a calling on my life to be in the ministry, but I always thought I couldn’t stand in front of people, that I had to pray a certain way, had to speak in tongues in a certain way and had to speak in a certain way. But God said you be you “Just Do It” I’ll be with you.

This leads me to our second point...don’t tell everyone about your dreams. We all know the story of Joseph. He had a dream that his family would bow down to him and his brothers resented it. They were like, “Bow down to You...we think not”. Joseph telling his dream got him thrown into a pit, sold into slavery, thrown in jail. Sometimes we just need to be quiet and focus on God and let him guide us. We don’t need everybody’s approval, because small minds will try to convince you that your dreams are too big. Don’t allow dream stealers to steal what God has given you. When God has given you a dream, you can see what other people cannot see. Just be silent and **Just Do It**. If you have to speak, speak positive words to yourself. For there is power in your words. Job 22:28 says decree a thing and it shall be established. Speak positively and tune out the naysayers and Just Do It.

Our final point, have faith and trust God. Prov 3:5 (KJV) tells us to trust the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path. What does it mean to trust? Trust means to have a firm belief or strength in someone or something. Do we not believe or trust in the word that God has left us? If we read and meditate on His word, we have no excuse in not believing that God can fulfill that dream that we have. We can make all kinds of excuses. We can listen to the naysayers.

## **Words of Encouragement cont...**

We can talk ourselves out of taking that first step toward our destiny. God would not have put a dream or desire in your spirit and not have the provisions for you to accomplish your dream. It always seems impossible until it's done. But, have faith and trust God.

Joseph had to trust God being put in a pit, sold into slavery, lied on, but look at God. He became second in command in Egypt.

We may have some stumbles along the way, but know God is with you, if we don't lose focus.

### **Just Do It!**

Jeremiah didn't have confidence in himself but remember God told him I knew you before you were in your mother's womb. Have faith. I know the plans I have for you.

### **Just Do It!**

Joel Osteen wanted to stay behind the camera when his father died. He didn't have the confidence in himself. But look at him now.

### **Just Do It!**

Look at me I didn't have the confidence in myself. But I've gone back to school in my 60's. I now stand in front of people. I pray in front of people. I lay hands on people. I counsel with people. What a mighty God we serve !!!

### **Just Do It!**

In conclusion, like Nike when the critics tell you what you shouldn't be doing, be like David when he was in battle and his men were tired and weak. God told David to pursue. God is saying to you today, just like he told David, to pursue and to go after your dream, your vision. God has BIG plans for you. Make up your mind to "Just Do It".

I pray that I have encouraged you today. Remember don't tell everyone your dream. You don't need their approval. Know that God is with you. Have faith, trust Him and pursue your dream.

Remember we here at Living Faith walk by faith and not by sight. Don't let anything deter you from what God has for you. Just Do It.

Amen

## **Words of Encouragement cont...**

*Testimonials:*

*Hi Bishop and First Lady GUESS WHAT!!! I just got a surprise check in the mail for \$750.00!!! That's the BIGGEST CHECK I have ever got!!! I told mom and dad! I gave my tithes on it as soon as I deposited it!!!*

*M.J.X.*

*Good Morning! I couldn't hold this any longer! I received a surprise check in the mail, over \$7,000! God is sooooo awesome!!!*

*G.M.M.*

*Bishop Downing In January I logged onto my USAA account to pay my car insurance bill and it said that my monthly bill was already paid. I said thank you Lord, alright now. In February I logged into my account to pay insurance bill and it said my monthly bill was already paid. I clicked on the additional information box and it said that there was an error on their part that dated back to 2017 and the money was being refunded back to my account in the form of a credit. I said thank you God. Won't He do it...Yes He Will...EVERYTIME!.*

*D.L.*

*Bishop Downing and First Lady Downing my daughter was recently in a very bad car accident. Her car flipped over several times on the interstate and slid down the highway on its head. My daughter crawled out of the car by herself and walked away with only cuts and bruises, no concussion, no broken bones, clothed in her right mind. Her car was totaled but my daughter was fine. I thank God for His Grace and His Mercy, for the covering of protection that is over her life. Thank you Father.*

*L.R.D.*

We love to hear your testimonies. Send your testimonies to:

A.L. Downing Ministries

P.O. Box 291808

Columbia, SC 29229 or call (803) 609-5714

If you desire prayer please call: (803) 609-5714 and you will be put in touch with an intercessor who will pray with you.

*I want you to know that Inza and I love you and are so thankful for your support and that you're a part of this ministry.*

### **How You Can Get Involved...**

- Pray about our upcoming events and that we will pay the remaining mortgage off quickly.
- Become a faithful partner and contributor of the Ministry.  
Make contributions payable to: [A. L. Downing Ministries, P.O. Box 291808, Columbia, SC 29229](#) or go to the ministry's website: [aldowningministries.org](http://aldowningministries.org). All contributions are tax deductible.

# *Lady Downing Thoughts for the Month*

**“If GOD can get over your past you should too. Learn from it and keep it moving!**

**“Remember, when you've done all you can. GOD will do all you can't. Hold on  
things will get better!”**

**“There are no shortcuts in life. Sometimes we have to go thru to get Through! No  
matter what, GOD will always be there for us!”**

**“Never let people who are sitting still in life make you feel bad for moving for-  
ward.”**

**“Protect the soil your seed is in. Keep negativity out of the soil.”**

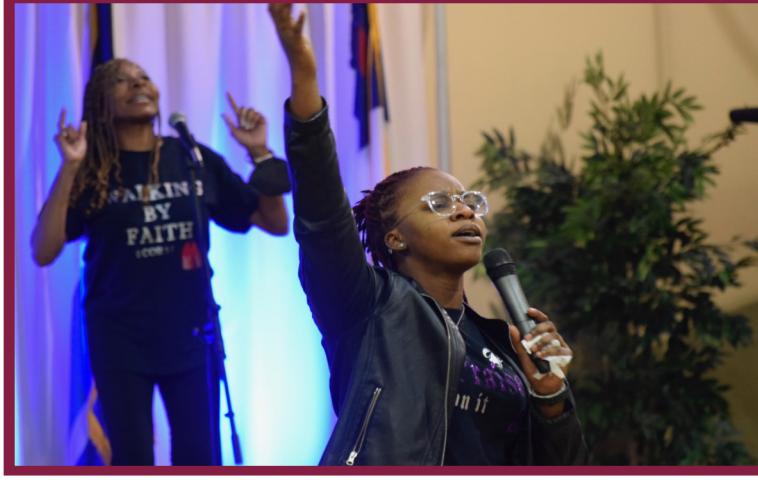
**“We have to watch what we say and do out of frustration because we can't go back  
and undo or unsay it later, there is no delete button.”**

**“Nothing and no one can upset God's plans for you.  
God always causes you to triumph.”**

**“God did not say that the weapon would not offend, hurt, disappoint, or cause  
frustration. He said that it would not prosper. Stay focused in all situations.”**

**Be Blessed,  
‘First Lady Downing’**

# Bishop Butler & Pastor Gloria Butler



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## Celebration



# JOINT COALITION PRAYER CONFERENCE

Columbia Convention Center  
1101 Lincoln Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

May 12-13, 2022

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 12, 2022 @ 7pm

Friday, May 13, 2022 @ 11am and 7pm

## HOTELS NEAR CONVENTION CENTER

ALOFT: (803) 445-1900

Hilton Downton: (803) 744-7800

Hampton Inn: (803) 231-2000

Sheraton: (803) 988-1400



Guest Speaker  
**Dr. Tony Evans**

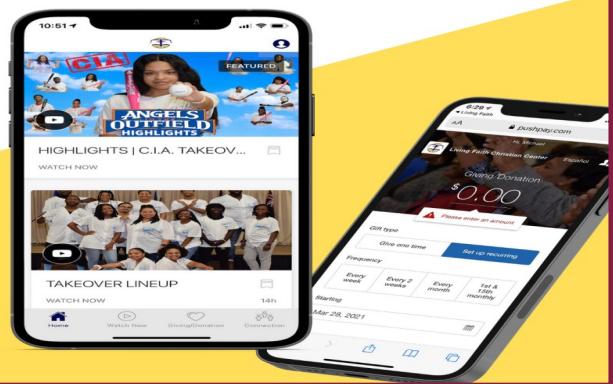


FMI Call: (803) 609-5714

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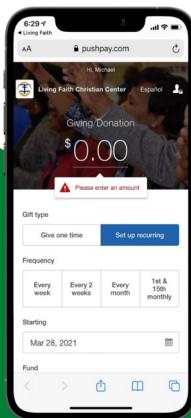
**text# 833-245-6220  
word: livingfaithcc app**



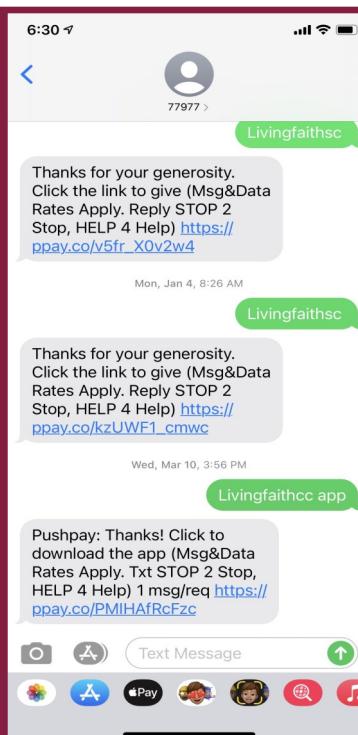
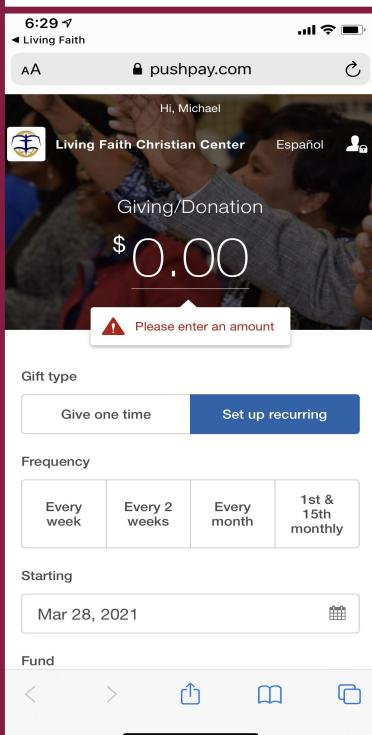
**Watch Live...Download the Living Faith SC App Today**

## Text To Give

**TEXT: LIVINGFAITHSC  
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## Web Address

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# SCHOOL *of* THEOLOGY

# Living Faith Ministries

## “Reaching the World”

TEACHING

PREACHING

HEALING

### OUR PROGRAM

Living Faith Ministries School of Theology (LFMSOT) offers the following types of Certificates, Diplomas, and Degrees.

#### AUDIT CERTIFICATE

The Audit Program is for those individuals attending for their own personal spiritual growth. Audit students must attend all lectures and read all text books. Audit students will receive a Certificate of Attendance for each 30-credit hour program completed.

#### DIPLOMA PROGRAM

A Diploma in Theology is awarded to students who successfully complete their designated first-year program for academic credit (30 credit-hours total).

#### ASSOCIATES DEGREE PROGRAM

An Associates Degree is awarded to students who successfully complete their designated second year program for academic credit (60 credit-hours total).

#### BACHELORS DEGREE

A Bachelors Degree is awarded to a student who successfully complete their designated fourth-year program for academic credit (120 credit-hours total)

#### MASTERS DEGREE

A Masters Degree is awarded to students who successfully complete a minimum of 36 credit-hours above the Bachelors Degree Program for academic credit.

#### DOCTORAL DEGREE

A Doctor of Ministry (D. Min) is awarded to students who successfully complete 45 credit hours above the Masters Degree program for academic credit.

Classes are held at the main campus of

Living Faith Christian Center

1536 Frye Road

Columbia, SC 29203

For more information call 803-609-5714