

Walking by

# FAITH

and Not by Sight

2 Corinthians 5:7

Living Faith Christian Center Newsletter



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

June 2022 - Volume 5 – Issue 6

### In This Issue...

- Calendar of Events
- Words of Encouragement
- Thoughts for the Month
- Joint Coalition Prayer Conference Highlights

### Calendar of Events

June 11, 2022

Clothing Giveaway 10am to 12 noon  
and Family Fun Day 12 noon to 3pm  
Both events will be held on the same day  
at Living Faith Christian Center  
1540 Frye Road  
Columbia, SC 29203



*"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me."*  
Philippians 4:13



### 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

### 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](http://aldowningministries.org) and [livingfaithsc.com](http://livingfaithsc.com)

Phone: (803) 609-5714

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**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

# Words of Encouragement

## “WANDERING IN THE WILDERNESS”

Exodus 3:7-8

Proverbs 3:5

By Lisa Dula

*Exodus 3: 7-8 <sup>7</sup>“The Lord said, I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.”*

*<sup>8</sup>“So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey- the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites.”*

*Proverbs 3:5 <sup>5</sup>“Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And lean not to your own understanding.”*

Have you ever seen those movies where people are lost and they are wandering through a wooded area that is thick with trees and brush and they have their hands out in front of them trying to push their way through to see their way out of it? And it's so dark that they can't even see the sunlight through the tops of the trees. They are wandering in a wilderness. The wilderness I want you to focus on today is the wilderness of life. That wilderness of life could be made up of many different things. It could be the wilderness of sadness. The wilderness of disappointment. The wilderness of heartache. The wilderness of sorrow. The wilderness of bitterness. The wilderness of jealousy. The wilderness of loss. The wilderness of worry. The wilderness of financial debt. The wilderness of doubt. The wilderness of fear. The wilderness of loneliness. A wilderness of trials and tribulations. Whatever your wilderness is that you are wandering in today, my question to you is this...did you forget about God? What wilderness are you wandering in today?

One of the most prominent stories about wandering in the wilderness that we know about is the story of the Children of Israel. The Bible tells us that the Israelites were enslaved in Egypt for many years and in Exodus 3:7-8 it tells us that God had indeed seen their suffering and He was going to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians and take them to the promise land. It was the land of milk and honey. During that time Pharaoh continued to bring trouble down on the Israelites. In Exodus 6:1-6 we see that Moses goes before the Lord on behalf of the Israelites. And God reaffirms his commitment to bring them out from under the yoke of the Egyptians and free them from being slaves. We also know that there were many plagues to occur before the Israelites were freed from the Egyptians. But in the midst of it all God was still with them even before Moses led them to the Red Sea. But what I found interesting as I was reading this passage was that I realized that the Children of Israel were wandering in the wilderness way before they reached the land of milk and honey that God had promised them. They had begun to allow the wilderness of doubt and fear to succumb them. Where was their faith? What happens to your faith when you are wandering in the wilderness? Why do you allow the wilderness

## Words of Encouragement cont...

of worry to seep in? Why have you allowed the wilderness of doubt to seep in? You have prayed and asked God for help but because it is not happening in your time and the deadline is fast approaching you begin to stress and have doubt and fear. Let me show you in the Word where this happened to the Israelites. In Exodus 14:10-12 it says <sup>10</sup> ***“As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord.”*** <sup>11</sup> ***“They said to Moses, Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt?”*** <sup>12</sup> ***“Didn’t we say to you in Egypt, Leave us alone, let us serve the Egyptians? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!”*** How many of us have been at that point where we are ready to just accept whatever fate we feel has been planned for us because we feel it is easier than going thru the process God has laid out for us. We feel it is too hard, it is too painful for us to go through. We just can’t do it. Some may even blame God or the person that was put in place to help us. Asking why did you bring me to this if I’m still going to have what we feel is the same outcome? I could have stayed where I was. You see the Israelites were wandering way before they reached the promise land. Because they would rather feel the wrath of Pharaoh than to go through the process that God had planned for their lives to free them. Did they forget it was God providing them manna in the wilderness? Where is your faith today? God reacts in His time not ours. You have to have faith and believe in Him and take Him at His Word. You have to step out on faith. Trust God. I’m here to tell you that God is still in control even in the midst of your wilderness. You just got to trust him. What Wilderness are you wandering in today? Where is your faith?

My next point is this. Who do you want to be wandering in the wilderness with Pharaoh or God? Some of us got us a posse that we hang around with and it’s the wrong one. Your posse needs to be the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost. You are surrounded by the wrong people. For some of you, that’s your wilderness right there. The Bible tells us in the book of Numbers Chapter 13 that God had Moses to send twelve spies to search the land and bring back a report. They were gone for forty days. They found that the land was beautiful and fruitful and they also found that the people were big and powerful giants. Now two of the twelve spies felt that they should go and take the land. They had faith that they could conquer the land and win. But the other ten had doubt they did not believe. They felt that the people there were stronger and bigger than them and that there was no way they could conquer the land. They forgot who was with them. They forgot it was God who had given them the assignment. Just like the Israelites listening to the ten spies, we go ask one of our girlfriends or we have to go ask one of our boys instead of talking to God about our situation. They tell you man you better not do that. Or girl uh huh I wouldn’t do that. How many times have you let the opinion of others or the advice of others dictate your outcome or your way of thinking instead of listening to God? People and circumstances can have you wandering in the wilderness. Have you forgotten who holds your hand? Have you forgotten who your Father is? Have you forgotten what the Word says in Psalms 121: 1-2 <sup>1</sup>***“I lift up my eyes to the mountains where does my help come from?”*** <sup>2</sup> ***“My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and earth.”*** He is your Father in heaven He holds everything you need in the palm of His hand! all you have to do is trust and believe. Ask Him and you shall receive. Stop wandering in the wilderness. Stop wandering in the wilderness of fear and doubt and unbelief. At

## Words of Encouragement cont..

the first sign of trouble, we are ready to run for the hills. We are ready to listen to anyone ready to give advice even if they don't even know what they are talking about. Let me tell you something else, Newsflash... everybody is not your friend. Everybody is not cheering you on. Everybody, does not want you to succeed. Sometimes your wilderness is the friends you keep. God is trying to get you out of the wilderness today. Stop wandering in wilderness.

My last and final point is one in which you have to be truly accountable for your own actions. Are you wandering in the wilderness by choices you have made? It's time to examine your life. Some of you may have been wandering in a wilderness for a long time. Your faith has wavered. You have made some wrong choices and decisions. You have made some wrong turns. Your pride has also gotten in the way. And for some of us, pride can truly be a downfall if we don't swallow it and allow God to take control. You are listening to everyone but God. You have forgotten who is in control. You have forgotten who holds your hand, who protects you, who loves you. You have forgotten who can make the impossible possible. You are wandering in the wilderness. The wilderness of financial debt. The wilderness of marital struggles. Maybe, it is a wilderness of wrong choices that you have made that God is trying to guide you through but you're not listening. Some of you are wandering right now. You are feeling the darkness overtaking you. You are succumbing to your wilderness. Allow God to help you. Stop wandering in the wilderness.

I have to tell you, I've been wandering in the wilderness. The wilderness of self-doubt, wilderness of loneliness, the wilderness of uncertainty, the wilderness of unworthiness, the wilderness of low self-worth, the wilderness of not good enough. I could go on and on. I put on a show like I'm holding it all together but deep inside I am falling part. And yes there is the wilderness of doubt, is God going to get me through this? It's been a rough three years and 2021 was by far the worst year of all. That was the year I lost my mother to COVID. The wilderness of grief took over and my wilderness was thick with trees everywhere. Someone is feeling that way right now like life is just taking you over and you cannot see the light of day. Where you just can't see your way out. That's your wilderness, it's taking you over. That was my wilderness. In the midst of my wilderness I began to talk to my Heavenly Father. You know there is a song that says ***"Now let us have a little talk with Jesus. Let us tell Him all about our troubles. He will hear our faintest cry. And He will answer by and by."*** All you have to do is call on the Lord and tell Him all about your troubles. He's waiting on you to call on Him. Call on Him and stop wandering in the wilderness. I did and He said to me ***"Lisa I know the plans I have for your life. There is nothing that can occur that I cannot bring you through. It will only make you stronger. Remember who holds your hand. Come out of the wilderness. Let it go, name that mountain and throw it out into the sea and believe that it is done. Stand on my Word."*** As I heard him speaking to me, I began to breathe easier. He said ***"Know that I am here. Stop wandering in the wilderness."***

So I'm saying to you now, whoever you are stop wandering in the wilderness. Stop worrying about your situation. Stop worrying about your marriage. Stop worrying about your husband. Stop worrying about your wife. Stop worrying about your child. Stop worrying about your bills. Stop worrying about your job. Stop

## Words of Encouragement cont...

worrying about your business. Stop worrying about your mortgage. Whatever your wilderness is right now, you can speak to your wilderness. Pick up your bible and speak the Word over your situation right now. Jesus spoke to that fig tree, did He not? Yes, He did. You have the same authority, speak to your wilderness. Speak to your situation. Speak to your mountain. Mark 11:22-23 says <sup>22</sup> *“Have faith in God, Jesus answered. <sup>23</sup> Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, Go throw yourself into the sea, and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.”* Psalm 121:1-2 says <sup>1</sup> *I lift up my eyes to the mountains where does my help come from?* <sup>2</sup> *My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.* **DON'T YOU FORGET ABOUT GOD. YOU CAN'T GIVE UP NOW. YOU'VE COME TOO FAR.** The Children of Israel began to give up. Their faith waivered. Don't you be like the Children of Israel. Don't you give up on God. Stop wandering in the Wilderness. Stop wandering in the wilderness of loneliness. Stop wandering in the wilderness of doubt. Stop wandering in the wilderness of self-pity. Stop wandering in the wilderness of grief. Stop wandering in the wilderness of I'm just not good enough. Stop wandering in the wilderness of marital struggles. Stop wandering in the wilderness of low self-esteem. Stop wandering in the wilderness of financial struggles. Stop wandering in the wilderness of what am I going to do now God. Stop wandering in the wilderness and remember who holds your hand. And when you have to go through **STOP** taking everybody with you. Take God with you. Take God at His Word and **USE YOUR WEAPON**. Speak the Word over your situation and keep the Faith. Stop wandering in the wilderness and trust God.

God Bless You

Lisa Dula

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](mailto:ALDowning@downingministries.org) or go to the ministry's website: [aldowningministries.org](http://aldowningministries.org). All contributions are tax deductible.



## *Lady Downing Thoughts for the Month*

**“Sometimes things happen in life that shake us. Man may disappoint us, but Thank God we have a Father that will never leave us or forsake us.”**

**“When the enemy can’t destroy, he’ll distract. When he can’t distract, he’ll discourage.”**

**“In this season you can’t be offended by people who don’t like you. What you don’t know is they don’t like your anointing not necessarily you. Refuse to walk in anger in this season.”**

**“Never forget the goodness of the Lord because He never forgets to be good!”**

**“Stir up the gift that you have and not the gift that you wish you had. God gave it to you for a reason.”**

**“Have a vision and remain focused regardless of the obstacles.”**

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

# JOINT COALITION PRAYER CONFERENCE

Guest Speaker: Dr. Tony Evans

*"A Stopper... to the Problem"*

*"Being a Christian"*

*"The Church"*

*"Having the Authority"*

*"The Preview"*

*"Being a Disciple"*



# FIJI

There is a lot of excitement about the upcoming conference this year in Nadi, especially after two years. In order for them to get to the conference they will have to travel by bus, then by boat and then by bus again. It will take them from nine hours to two days to arrive. There will also be a group coming from Sydney, Australia with Pastor Jim Newton.



Water baptisms being done by Pastor Samu. All were baptized and are planning to attend the upcoming conference at Nakurakura, Nadi.



The expansion of Pastor Naituku's church due to the preparation for the upcoming conference this year.

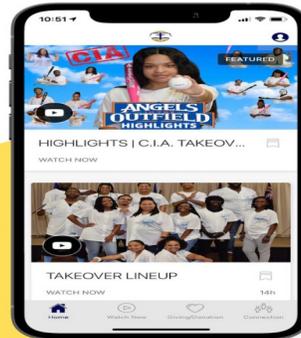


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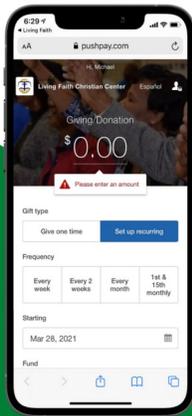
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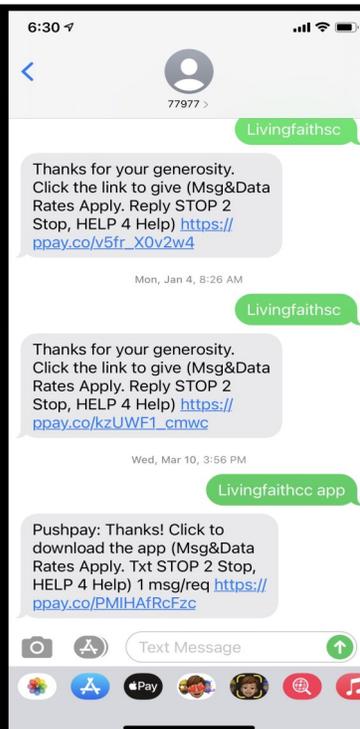
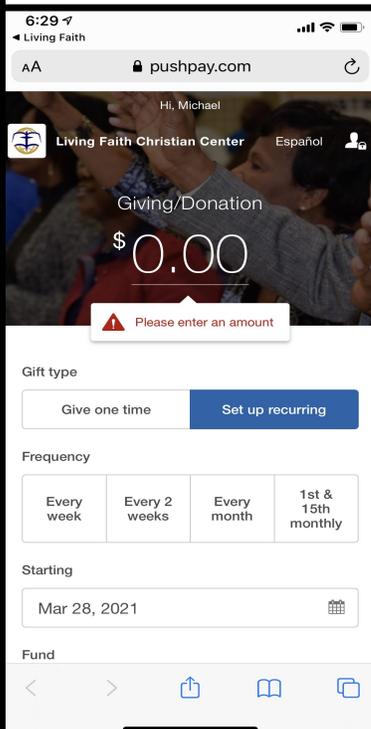
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# SCHOOL *of* THEOLOGY

## Living Faith Ministries

“Reaching the World”

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### 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