



January 2024 - Volume 7 – Issue 1

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Calendar of Events

July 18-20, 2024
Conference in the Philippines
Pastors Bridgette and James Vaught

Living Faith Christian Center Mission Statement

The mission of Living Faith Christian Center is to empower people to live successful lives through the teaching of the Word and Faith principles that will transform their thinking and impact future generations, teaching them to live independent of this world system and to have dominion over it.

Service Times & Contact Information

Sunday Morning Worship Service @ 8:30am

Tuesday Night Bible Study @ 7:00pm

Web Address: aldowningministries.org and livingfaithsc.com

Phone: (803) 609-5714

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Happy New Year

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

Words of Encouragement

“THIS IS YOUR YEAR!!!”

Daniel 1:1-7 and Romans 5:1-8

Bishop A.L. Downing

As we reflect upon the year of 2023, it brought many daunting and challenging situations. As a nation we have seen political scandals and corruption. The same could be said of our state and it's "good ole boy system." However, with the prayers of the righteous we have seen some changes. And as an individual you may have experienced many highs and lows, disappointments and setbacks. The things that confronted you did not and could not destroy you. But somehow out of every adversity I can hear the Lord saying, *"I Am the Lord God and I change not and I will have the final word and give the final verdict"*.

So as we begin the New Year of 2024, there's no doubt we will be faced with many challenges and opportunities. Remember, all that you went THROUGH in 2023 only made you stronger for what you will face in 2024. Therefore, we can take comfort in knowing that just like He delivered us in 2023 and the years passed and gone, He will deliver us in 2024. There are many things about this year that we should be and can get excited about. First of all, you got to know that no matter what you face this year you already have the victory. Secondly, you got to know that God is on your side and finally, no matter what we face in the year 2024 we will not experience the intense pressure that a man named Daniel faced. Though this story is 2,500 years old, the message is as contemporary as today's headlines. In every crisis and trauma Daniel faced, he found opportunity and God used him for good in the world.

Let's look at this man Daniel. What do we know about him?

Daniel was born into a wealthy family. Daniel 3:3 the King told his chief court official, *"get some young men from the royal family and the nobility."* He was part of the elite of his day. Daniel was a "Renaissance man" of his day. If you will, he was valedictorian of his class. He worked hard and studied hard. Chapter one of Daniel says that Daniel had encyclopedic knowledge of many things in the world: scientifically, socially, spiritually and politically. They had to understand the language and literature of the Babylonians for three years and to understand their culture before they could enter the King's service. Daniel was a well-rounded young man. Whenever God does something, He does it well. That's why we should never ever say that's good enough for the church or for church folks. We should always give God our best. The scripture tell us in Colossians 3:23, *"whatever you do work at it with all of your heart as working unto the Lord and not for man.."*. Sing with all your heart. Go to work and give it all your heart. Give your marriage all your heart, both of you...give it everything you got.

“This is Your Year!!!” cont...

Daniel had a high social standing. He was a relative of the king of Judah. He was raised with all the privileges and status of royalty: wealth, power and education. He probably hob-knobbed with kings and dignitaries throughout the Eastern Mediterranean world. He enjoyed a host of servants. With all his wealth and privileges you know he was every young lady and mother-in-law's dream. He was not proud or arrogant. He was a young man of character. He was not lazy or self-indulgent. He was absolutely committed to God and refused to compromise himself in any area.

Daniel was a young man with a future. He would have been voted the most likely to succeed in his class. But Daniel was caught in a world system and culture that forgot God. God repeatedly sent prophets to warn the people of Israel but they continued to rebel and live in sin. In 605BC God allowed the superpower of that day, Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian armies to attack Jerusalem and take over the city.

Before returning to Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar set up a puppet government in Jerusalem and as an insurance policy against further rebellion, he took members of the royal family back to Babylon as captives. Daniel was one of the youngest hostages selected. Nebuchadnezzar's plans called for Daniel and his friends to be rigorously trained and indoctrinated for three years. Then at the age of 17 they would enter the King's service.

I want you for a moment to put yourself in Daniel's sandals. This wasn't the game plan he had planned for his life. In a short period of time his life was turned upside down. From a carefree teenager to a servant of a foreign king. He was taken from his family and would never see his homeland again. He would never worship in the temple in Jerusalem or see his family again. He lost his spiritual mentors and was taken to a land where God was mocked. He was taken 800 miles to a new home on the Euphrates River.

Daniel faced adversity with a true Christian character. I'm sure he had some doubts and concerns. He may have asked, "Why did this happen to me?"

Did God bring judgment on Daniel because of some sin he or his parents committed? Probably not! Daniel and his family were godly people.

Daniel was caught in a culture that forgot God. When a nation forgets God, that nation will suffer even though the word says *"I rain on the just as well as the unjust."* But one thing that I believe is that the righteous know how to get in touch with their God and their God will protect them from that suffering.

“This is Your Year!!!” cont...

Even in adversity things can work for good to all that love the Lord. The Apostle Paul could say in Romans 8:28, *"All things work together for good to those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose."*

Joseph could say to his brothers that sold him to an Egyptian official, *"What you meant for evil God meant for good to save your lives and the lives of our people."*

At the time Daniel probably didn't see the hand of God at work as he traveled the 800 miles walking, riding a horse or in a wagon. But God's ultimate plan was for Daniel to influence the highest leaders of power in the ancient world. That meant relocation. God was at work behind the scenes preparing a young man that was yielded to Him to play a key role in the preservation and restoration of His people. I'm telling you God has plans for you and your life that you don't know about, that you can't see even though you think you do. His plans for you are much BIGGER than what you can think. *"Eyes haven't seen, ears haven't heard, nor has it entered the heart of man the things the Lord have planned for those that love Him".* 1 Cor 2:9

As Daniel was surrounded by dust on the road to Babylon he couldn't foresee that he would advance to the highest positions in the courts of Babylon and Persia. In his later years, he exercised more power than any other member of the Jewish race had ever known. He would also have the privilege of leading his nation in repentance back to God. He turned adversity into opportunities. Don't you let adversity stop you from reaching your destiny. Don't let naysayers stop you from what God is calling you to. Don't allow your circumstances or situation stop you. You're not what your situations and circumstances say about you nor do you look like it. I didn't say people. I said you're not what your circumstances and situation is trying to say about you. You see they're trying to say you're going to stay down. They're trying to say your credit will never improve. They're trying to say you'll never get the car, the house...but I want you to know, THE DEVIL is a LIE. You will get the house. You will rise above what the naysayers are saying. You will overcome, not because of you, but because of what's in you. Don't you give up, not now, you're closer than you think. **THIS IS YOUR YEAR!!!**

From the life of Daniel there are at least five lessons we can learn and apply to our lives as we enter the New Year.

1. You will have some inevitable interruptions in life. They're the In-Between Places.

For many life isn't fair. Bad things happen to good people. The wrong people get robbed and sick. There are many people who would be the first to say: "This is not the way my life is supposed to be!" "This is not the way I planned my life." They're right! As long as we live in a world where Christ is not honored and respected we will have to learn to accept the inevitable interruptions of life. Many of those interruptions are painful. Many are joyful. **William A. Ward says: "Adversity causes some men to break; others to break records."** Helen Keller who

“This is Your Year!!!” cont...

was born blind once said, "Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see the shadows."

2. Don't get hung up about the source of your situation.

When adversity comes it is natural to ask "Why?" We are tempted to play the blame game. "If I had different parents." "If I had better health." "If God hadn't allowed this to happen to me, to my family", on and on. Every time we are faced with adversity we have a choice to make. We can sin and yield to Satan or we can make the choice to live by faith. Adversity provides opportunity to sin or opportunity to live by faith.

In every challenge in life, God offers hope. Paul wrote in I Corinthians 10:13. *"No temptation (or test) has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted (or tested) beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted (tested), he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."*

3. Resist blaming others for the problems you face.

Daniel had every human right to blame Nebuchadnezzar and other leaders for his situation. He refused to blame them but rather chose to honor God and suffer the consequences. Even when put in jail unjustly, Daniel did not become bitter but waited for God's timing. God blessed Daniel for his faithfulness in enduring unjust pain. Someone has said, "A Christian is like a tea bag; it's not much good until it has gone through hot water."

For you to continually blame others for your situation becomes like a crutch to keep you from taking responsibility and your attitude saps your strength to find meaning in life. Did Jesus blame others for the cross? No, he said "Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." It was through the pain Jesus suffered on the cross that provided salvation and forgiveness for the sins of the world.

4. Remember God wants to use you in grander ways than you ever dreamed of being used.

The Apostle Paul continually looked at the big picture. He testifies in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 *"Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*

5. “We have the Promise:

Ephesians 3:20 *"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably **more than all we ask or imagine**, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."*

“This is Your Year!!!” cont...

Because of that verse and many more, I want you to know this is your year and it's filled with opportunities. Opportunities for your vision to come to fruition. Opportunities for your business to grow and expand. Opportunities for you that you never had before. You will walk in favor! As we travel through the New Year we can count on challenging interruptions and adversities. Through faith in Jesus turn every interruption and adversity into opportunities.

LISTEN, THIS IS YOUR YEAR TO OWN YOUR OWN HOME (not have but to OWN)
THIS IS YOUR YEAR FOR A NEW BEGINNING
THIS IS YOUR YEAR TO BE PROMOTED
THIS IS YOUR YEAR TO BE SICK FREE
THIS IS YOUR YEAR TO BE DEBT FREE
THIS IS YOUR YEAR TO SPEAK IT INTO EXISTENCE

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

Blessings
and
Happy New Year

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

How You Can Get Involved...

- Pray for our upcoming events.
 - 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. All contributions are tax deductible.

TESTIMONIALS FROM FIJI

Pastor, when you came to Fiji, I texted you a message on that Saturday morning when you first arrived. I informed you that my baby was sick and wasn't breathing properly. You instantly texted me back and told me you were praying for her NOW. I want you to know my baby is fine, she's eating and getting stronger. The doctors examined her and saw what was wrong and was confused as to how everything cleared up and she was able to breathe.

Pastor, I want to thank you and your team for coming to Fiji. I was having back problems before and during the conference. When Pastor Foster, declared that back problems were being healed, I received my healing. The back problem and pain I was having is all gone.

Pastor, thank you for coming to Fiji. I received my healing. The man of God called out weak ankles, too weak to hold up the body weight. That was me, but now my ankles are strong and I'm able to walk without any issues.

Pastor, as the man of God called out migraines, I received my immediate deliverance from migraines and headaches. Praise God!

Pastor, I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior on Saturday morning during the conference and was baptized the next day which was Sunday. I can already tell a difference in my life.

Pastor, thank you for coming to Fiji and teaching and preaching on Ownership Faith, with a Godship Authority. I remember you saying, how Pastor Bill Winston spoke to the rain as he was leaving your church to get to his airplane and it stopped. Then you said later at a different event, your wife spoke to the rain and told it to go away until your event was over and it did just that. Well we heard that. So when it started to rain on Friday afternoon just before the night service, some of us at the conference in our area spoke to the rain and commanded it to stop and go away and it did!!! Then it tried to rain again on Saturday afternoon. We spoke to it and told it to go away until the conference was completely over. It did and we had clear skies and warm weather for our baptismal services on Sunday as 21 people were baptized. Praise God for your teaching on Godship authority.

Lady Downing

Thoughts for the Month

“You are the head and not the tail. You are more than a conqueror. You are the apple of God's eye!”

“God will never give up on you. So don't give up on yourself.”

“There is always a battle before a breakthrough. Keep pushing because your breakthrough is on the way!”

“Trusting God is more than what you can see. Walk by FAITH not by sight.”

“God let me live the life you have planned for me. Not the one I have planned for myself.”

“You can always hear what others have to say...but listening to God is better.”

“Encourage someone today.”

“Prayer is a powerful weapon.”

**Be Blessed,
‘First Lady Downing’**

WORD OF FAITH YOUTH CONFERENCE

NADI FIJI



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FAITH
POSSESSES
REALITY

WORD OF FAITH

YOUTH CONFERENCE

NADI FIJI



WORD OF FAITH YOUTH CONFERENCE

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2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR

This is Your Year!!!



Ownership Faith With Godship Authority

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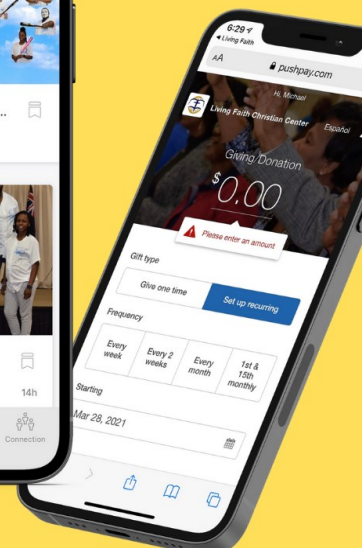
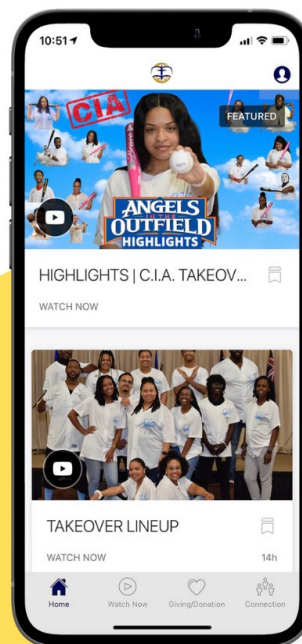
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A Bachelors Degree in Biblical Studies is awarded to students who successfully completes their designated fourth-year program for academic credit (120 credit-hours total).

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

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"We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight"