

FAITH

and Not by Sight

2 Corinthians 5:7



March 2024 - Volume 7 – Issue 3

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Calendar of Events

March 6-8, 2024

Oak Hill Cathedral of Glory
Bassett, VA
Senior Pastor, Dr. Todd Foster

March 29, 2024

Good Friday Service
Start Time 7pm
Living Faith Christian Center
Columbia, SC 29203

March 31, 2024

Sunrise Service
Start Time 7am
Living Faith Christian Center
Columbia, SC 29203

May 3-4, 2024

Newburgh, NY
Apostle Ronnie Fynn and
Pastor April Kenan

July 8-30, 2024

Dates TBD
Various locations in the Philippines

August 9, 2024

White Oak Baptist Church #2
Columbia, SC
Pastor Perry A. Williams

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

Social Media

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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

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

Words of Encouragement

“NEW WINE FOR THIS SEASON”

Bishop A.L. Downing

To understand the parable, we must understand the process of fermenting wine in the skins of goats. After the flesh and bones were removed from the inside of the goat the skin was tanned over fires of acacia wood. Wine was made by treading barefoot on the grapes in a wine press, a square or circular pit hewn out of the rock, or dug out and lined with rocks and sealed with plaster. The juice then flowed through a channel into a lower vessel. A winevat which functioned as a collecting and fermenting container for the grape juice or must.

In the warm climate of Palestine, grape juice began to ferment very quickly and there was no easy way to prevent fermentation. After the first state of fermentation had taken place in the winevat, the wine was separated from the lees and strained through a sieve or piece of cloth. After four to six days it is poured into clay jars lined with pitch or animal skins for storage and further fermentation.

Wineskins were made of whole tanned goatskins where the legs and tail were cut off and had been sealed (*1 Samuel 1:24; 10:3; 16:20; 25:18; 2 Samuel 16:1*). In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word *nebel*, "skin-bottle, skin," is translated by the KJV as "bottle" which gives us images of glass wine bottles. But these were rather whole goatskins, with nubbins bulging out where the legs once were, the neck tied off where the wine has been poured in, the whole large skin bulging almost to bursting as the carbon dioxide gas generated by the fermentation process stretches it to its limit.

This image is well described by Job:

*"For I am full of words,
and the spirit within me compels me;
inside I am like bottled-up wine,
like new wineskins ready to burst."* (Job 32:18-19)

“New Wine For This Season” cont...

I want you to notice that before the wine could be poured into the goat skin the opening had to be SEALED. They were sealed for two reasons. **1.** To ensure there were no leaks to let the wine escape and **2.** So the fermentation process could take place. If the opening was not sealed nothing could happen. Either the wine would leak out or the fermentation would not take place. There was something precious, valuable and new being poured into that new wineskin, therefore they had to make sure that all precautions were taken to ensure a proper fermentation process.

God told me to tell you to **MAKE** sure you have all openings sealed tight, because in 2024 He's going to pour something in you that's valuable. It's precious. It will benefit not only you and your family, not only the community but the **NATION**. You may not see how, but do you know who your God is?!!! He's Jehovah Jireh, Jehovah Nissi, El-Shalom, El-Shaddai...my healer, my provider, He's my deliverer.

When the neck was sewn shut and the final fermentation process began, fermentation in the wineskin might continue for another two to four months until the process slows down and stops. By that time the skin has been stretched to its limit, the alcohol is probably about 12%, and the collagen protein that gives the leather its stretching ability has been stretched out, and probably denatured by the alcohol, destroying its natural resiliency. Only a new wineskin would have the capacity to stretch during the process of fermentation and not break until the process was finished. If new wine was put in an old wineskin, because the leather skin was dry and cracked, it would probably split and both the wine and the skin would be lost. Therefore, the making of the wine required new wine in new skins for successful change to take place. Matt 9:17 *“Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.”* **Jesus emphasized that change must first occur internally before external changes should be made. Like old wineskins, the Pharisees had become too rigid in their lifestyle and in their traditions; they could not accept Jesus because he would not be bound by the rules they themselves had set. It was time for change where new approaches, new traditions and new structures were required.**

It's time for some radical changes to be made in your life. Time for a **NEW** approach. A **NEW** strategy to an **OLD** problem. You have been circling that problem long enough, its time for change. **Don't circle it no more...make the change. Develop a new strategy.**

Jesus has come with a radical gospel of Good News to the poor, the disenfranchised, the oppressed, the sick, the brokenhearted (*Luke 4:18-19*). He speaks with authority, rather than the casuistry of the scribes of his day. He wasn't concerned about their man-made rules of who he can eat with and how he should fast. It would just get in the way. He wanted to help them to return anew their love for God and for one's neighbor. To do mercy and love justice and walk humbly with their God.

“New Wine For This Season” cont...

At the close of his parable of the wineskins, Jesus puts it this way: *"And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, 'The old is better' "* (5:39). **It is easier to fall back to what is familiar and comfortable, and justify that, rather than launch out into a life guided not by laws and regulations but led by the Voice of the Spirit of God.**

I wonder how many times you have heard the saying "we tried it and it didn't work"? I believe it's time we asked ourselves; when was it tried and why didn't it work? The New Wine may not be as smooth to the tongue, and finely aged as old wine. It may be a bit sharp and unrefined. But it is alive. You can't contain it in old structures. You must find new wineskins for it.

I'm telling you it's time for some **NEW WINE** in your life. Don't you give up now! I know it's been rough and I know you thought your time would never come. But you were going through the **FERMENTATION PROCESS**. You thought that while folks were treading on you, stepping on you, looking down on you, stomping on you and throwing water on your wounds, and God wouldn't allow you to say anything. He sealed your mouth shut and you were closed up in your house or in some **DARK** and lonely place. You thought that they were just being mean to you and that God didn't care about you or that He had forgotten about you. But He told me to tell you it was part of the fermentation process. He was only stretching you like that wineskin. He told me to tell you. He had to stretch you in order to put in you what He has for you. He had to stretch you to put something new, something precious, something valuable inside of you. Something that "eyes have not seen, nor ears heard, neither has it enter into the heart of man the things that God has prepared for them that love Him."

You had information, now God is giving you **REVELATION**. He's going to give you revelation on and in simple matters. A fresh revelation on how to start that business.

A fresh revelation on old ideas. A fresh revelation on how to operate and bring things into manifestation.

Now you have to **GET READY** for what God has for you. It's going to take **BOLD RADICAL FAITH**. A faith that will believe for the impossible. A faith that will not quit or buckle.

God is getting ready to Pour New Wine on your dead, broken dreams. Don't you give up now.

He's pouring New Wine on hopeless situations. Situations you have given up on...New Wine!

“New Wine For This Season” cont...

Testimonies:

Bishop, I thank my God as He will always be faithful. The Lord just blessed me with a check of \$15,000.00. I was not expecting it. And it was from a bank that had made a mistake on my account, but that was over 10 years ago!!

W.T.C.

I went to my doctor to have a checkup on my heart, blood work, a leakage with a valve. Well, when it was all done, everything was perfectly fine and normal. He stated that he didn't know what was going on with the other exam. But I do. Praise God for my healing.

F.D.L.

Bishop, I was believing God for the money to cover the finances for a trip. The time was drawing close to when all travel arrangements needed to be made. Just days before the travel arrangements needed to be locked in, I received a surprise check in the mail to cover all the remaining expenses needed for the trip. Thank you God. He's always right on time.

D.L.

Bishop, I want you to know my daughter passed her exam!!! She received a score of 95!! She's preparing and training to be a pilot.

Bishop, My daughter passed the training for Officer Candidate School for the USN. She is going to be an officer in the United States Navy! Praise God!

As you sow your seed this month Inza and I want to say thank you so much. Also we want you to know that we love you all and we are praying for you.

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.



Lady Downing

Thoughts for the Month

“No matter how you feel, speak the Word over your life.”

“His Word is always true. Trust and believe.”

“The enemy is hoping you will take his advice again and throw in the towel, but your faith has grown since then.”

“Stay focused on the Word of God. My sheep hear my voice not the enemies.”

“No giant can defeat me. I’m walking in victory.”

“Allow God to remove the dead weight out of your life. Get out of His way.”

“God is ready to do a new thing in your life but first you must get rid of the *old mentality*”

“At some point we must stop chasing God to get more *things* and start chasing God to get more of HIM.”

Be Blessed,
‘First Lady Downing’

AVAILABLE ONLINE & ZOOM



Call
(803) 609-5714

ENROLL NOW!

COURSES

CHRISTIAN ETHICS I.
FEB 7 - FEB 27, 2024

CHRISTIAN ETHICS II.
MARCH 6 - MARCH 26, 2024

Course Description

"Christian Ethics focuses on the moral law. It aims to equip students with the knowledge of the moral law and relating it to practical concerns of individual and social life."



Instructor

Reverend Anthony Woodard





Living Faith Christian Center
1540 Frye Rd., Columbia, SC 29203

7PM
Friday
29th
March

Good FRIDAY SERVICE

"The Seven Sayings of Jesus From The Cross"



Minister
Jackson

Minister
Delva

Minister
Dula

Reverend
Saxton

Reverend
Ham

Prophet
Saxton

Speakers



Sunrise SERVICE

Enjoy Breakfast after service

Speaker

Prophet Gregory Saxton

7AM
Sunday
31st
March



ENROLL NOW!

Call
803-609-5714

**Courses Available on Campus
and Online Through Zoom**

OLD TESTAMENT

Courses

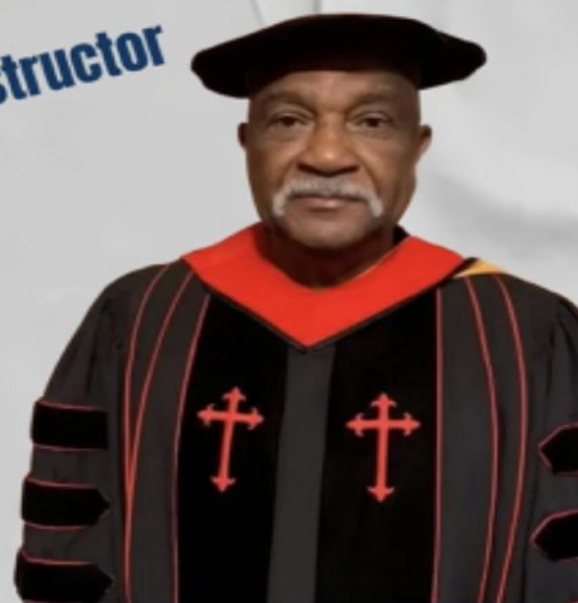
Old Testament Survey I

April 3rd -24th

Old Testament Survey II

May 8th - 29th

Instructor



Bishop William Woodard



Faith
“My Sister’s Keeper”
Women’s Conference

Keynote Speaker:
First Lady Inza Downing

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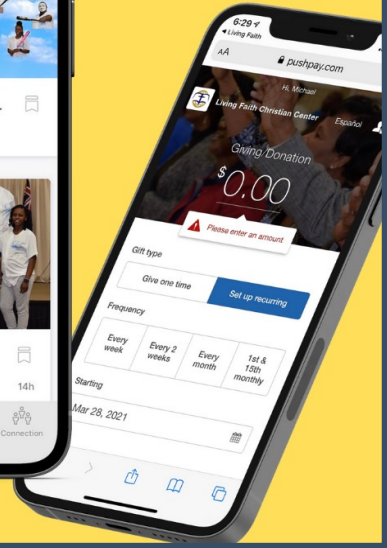
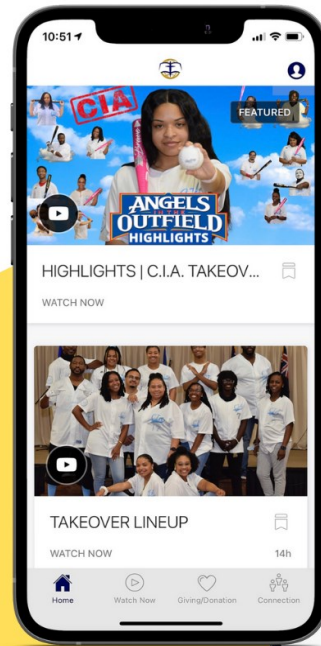
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OUR PROGRAM

Living Faith School of Theology (LFSOT) 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. Audit students may later convert their audit credit to an academic degree credit by completing additional work requirements (tests, papers, and labs) and paying the additional tuition for the degree program.

DIPLOMA PROGRAM

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

ASSOCIATES DEGREE PROGRAM

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

ADVANCED ASSOCIATES DEGREE

An advanced Associates Degree in Biblical Studies is awarded to students who successfully complete their designated third-year program for academic credit (90 credit-hours total)

BACHELORS DEGREE

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