

"HE HATH MADE US
ACCEPTED IN THE
BELOVED" (EPH.1:6)

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Philemon Ministry Transitional
House of Refuge

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C.A.Y.A. GOOD NEWS!

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APRIL 2016

Resurrection Fun & Fellowship!

In this eighth
Fun & Fellow-
ship Bema Outreach
children of in-
we all once
the manifest
many ways.
Woodstream
inside by unre-
the guests and
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all that was
center is the
group, "The



annual Resurrection
ship Day hosted by
Ministries for the
carcerated parents,
again experienced
Presence of God in so
Though this event at
Church was forced
lenting morning rain,
children in attend-
ertheless blessed by
planned. Pictured at
anointed worship
Works" led by Niya

Adams, on right of stage. The group has become a regular feature with this event since 2013, never failing to bless and uplift the crowd. The children were just delighted with the many game and activity options planned by Mrs. Phyllis Braxton, our Activities Director and wife of Pastor Walter Braxton who was forced back into hamburger grill duty after giving a rousing resurrection exhortation. Sister Jamila Conner greatly excited the entire crowd with Jack, her life-sized puppet who made us all believe that puppets can really sing! Throughout the church atrium, a wonderful cadre of strategically placed volunteer workers manned various food and game duty stations as happy children enjoyed the safety of the environment. The three Woodstream Church Security Officers on duty were delightfully pleasant and helpful to the volunteer workers in every way imaginable, making it even nicer for the visiting families; men appointed by God. In spite of the rain delay, it was a glorious, fun-filled day. Due to *security concerns* however, there were no homeless children in attendance this year. Likewise, on the day following the burial of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, there existed some serious security concerns expressed by the chief priests and the Pharisees. In making the decision to crucify Him, they were unanimously confident, but because He *promised* He would rise again, and in light of His many well-known miracles, they were now quite nervous. This insecurity prompted them to request of Pilate that soldiers be immediately posted at the tomb of "*that deceiver*" Jesus for at least three days "*...lest His disciples come by night, and steal Him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead...*" (Matt.27:63-64) Acknowledging the real possibility that they had made quite a serious mistake, they reasoned that if by chance the body of Christ would somehow vanish from the tomb, "*...the last error shall be worst than the first.*" "*So they sealed the tomb and posted guards to protect it.*" (Matt.27:66 NLT) **BUT!**...on the third day of His burial, "*...an Angel of The Lord came down from Heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it.*" (Matt.28:2 NLT) The posted soldiers, paralyzed by fear, "*...fell into a dead faint.*" The Angel then assured the women who had come, declaring, "*He is not here: for He is risen as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*" (Matt.28:6) He then instructed them to "*...go quickly, and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead...*" (Matt.28:7) And so the precedent was set by this Heavenly messenger for every successive generation of disciples of the risen, reigning Christ. Now **you go quickly** and tell **your** world! Jesus lives!! **AMEN.** (Elder Leon Swanson)

Resurrection Fun & Fellowship!

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C.A.Y.A. GOOD NEWS!



Darryl Solis

The Philemon Ministry seemed to be a solution that would help Darryl acclimate to life outside of prison. Not expecting to be released until 2022, he contacted a board member. They prayed that God would open a door. Soon afterwards, Darryl learned that the state had miscalculated his time served. He was listed for immediate release. The Philemon House had a vacancy and Darryl found a place in the ministry, reflecting that the timing was an act of the Lord Jesus.

Not every brother who is released into the Philemon ministry has the same experience. Some men profess faith but their life does not reflect it; they fall to pieces and end up going back to jail or are asked to leave the house. The

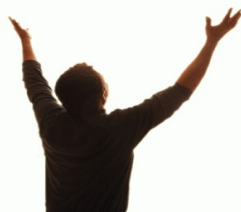
house is a safe, strong faith environment. Those who strive to live with Christ, to truly have a relationship with Him, will excel. Those who do not keep this relationship the highest priority in their lives will struggle.

Darryl says that the world takes the softness of humanity away. The devil is busy and knows how to destroy people. This destruction can come in many forms. For some, including him, this was the result of habits that developed at a young age. The music he listened to, the relationships he made, the substances he tried; these choices caused a slow fade in his spirit and he spiraled down. He did not live up to his parents' aspirations, but he is thankful that throughout his life they have always reached out to him.

Jesus will find you. Darryl had encounters with Jesus throughout his life. He recalls listening to his mother read Bible stories. Christ was evident in Darryl's first wife, whom he married when he was 18. Members at the church he attended were Christ-followers. These encounters led to an acquaintance with Christ, but Darryl's actual quest for a relationship with Christ did not start until much later in 2003. The quest ended in 2005 when he had a personal experience with Jesus. Jesus set him on the path of salvation and in 2007 Darryl laid his stake down and was born again.

Moving into the house was an answer to prayer and allowed Darryl to continue a fruitful relationship with Christ that is just now beginning to bud. The ministry is a place of refuge. It is a place to find safety in God. There, Darryl is transitioning from being incarcerated to becoming the man God is purposing him to be. There is no room for superficiality; men in the ministry need to be honest with each other, with themselves, and with God. God keeps His word, is worthy of trust, and has met Darryl's needs time and time again. Serving the Lord is time well spent. —*Bekah Wolf, Contributing Writer, Philemon Ministry*—

To God be all glory, all honor, all praise!



What's Up!

Next CAYA Fellowship: Saturday, April 23, 2016, 8:30 a.m. at 6006 Point Pleasant Road, Baltimore MD 21206. Bring an offering, and bring a friend!

Elder Swanson: Woodstream Church—9800 Lottsford Road, Mitchellville MD 20721

Elder Braxton: New Life Church—3801 Schnaper Drive, Randallstown MD 21133

CAYA Fellowship Center—6006 Point Pleasant Road, Baltimore MD 21206

NOTE: Our sincerest thanks to all who gave financial and physical support to ensure the great success of our eighth annual *Resurrection Fun & Fellowship Day!* God knows your motivation, and HE will reward your giving. Special thanks to the *Young Marines of 8th & I Barracks, Washington DC*, for the opening Color Guard Ceremony!

Let Us Pray

For Sister Denise Rouse, health challenges; For Deacon Ernest Morgan, health challenges; For Sister Peggy Johnson, health challenges; For Grace Beyond The Walls Church; For Philemon Ministry, For The CAYA Fellowship; For persecuted Christians globally; For global Christian missionaries; For integrity in our present political process; For the peace of Jerusalem.



Elder Leon E. Swanson, Director
Alicia I. Swanson, Administrator
Elder Walter Braxton, Co-Admin.

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Your donations are tax-deductible.
Please help us help.



Jesus Is Lord!

CAYA Mission Statement

By the grace of The Living God and the power of The Resurrected Christ, Whose unconditional love is spread abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost our Sanctifier, the *Come As You Are* (C.A.Y.A.) fellowship is herewith set forth for God's glory and for His honor.

This fellowship is purposed to effectively administer the reconciling love of God to our formerly incarcerated brothers who have determined to discover God's will for their lives, and to help them actuate it. We believe we are each our brother's keeper. (Gen. 4:9)

We firmly believe God has given us the Ministry and the Word of Reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18-19) by which we are empowered to assist men in the reentry process with their personal development as each learns to walk in the newness of LIFE. (Rom. 6:4)

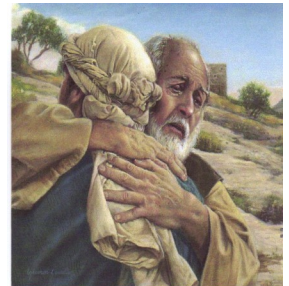
Our commitment is to come together in monthly fellowship to break bread, to encourage, to edify, to share beneficial resources, to provide open forum and dialogue, and to love our brothers unconditionally, even as we ourselves are loved. **AMEN.**

All Things Through Christ.....

Resurrection Life

Last month we dealt with the subject "**Resurrection Ready**" and discovered the importance of **preparing** our hearts to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Christians all over the world celebrated and for many, the joyful celebration ended after the sermon and life has continued on as normal. My challenge to you: *don't fall into that trap*; instead maintain control of yourself and live a **resurrected life**. Just like Peter; **"Satan desires to have control over you that he may sift you as wheat"**. But be of good cheer for the assurance Jesus gave to Peter is exactly the same assurance given us; **"I have prayed for you, that your faith does not fail; and after your victory, go and help someone else be victorious"** (Luke 22:31-32) When Jesus ascended, *He did not leave us comfortless!* The **same** Holy Spirit He used to obtain **victory** over sin; He left to lead and guide us into all truth. **(John 16:13)** We too can live **resurrected lives** by trusting and following the direction of the Holy Spirit Who indwells every believer. Living a **resurrected life** each and every day demonstrates that you've accepted the atoning work that Jesus completed on the Cross. It means that you not only know what the **resurrection** story says, but you also know what it means. Christ was **resurrected** from the dead so we can have eternal life with God AND a **resurrected life** here on earth! This **resurrection life** is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's audaciously expectant! We are assured that if indeed we suffer with Christ, we will also be glorified together with Him! **(Romans 8:17)** How awesome is that? Who wouldn't want to live the **resurrection life**?

The challenge for many is **how** to live out a **resurrected life**. Romans 10:9 gives us the first step in living a **resurrected life**. **"Confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved"**. In order to **receive** it, we must **believe** it. Choosing to believe is the first step towards living the **resurrection life**. Here are a few more practical steps we can take to assure that we are living the **resurrection life**. First, **Surrender**. We've got to surrender our own will and take up His. This is a **conscious** decision. Will we continue to go on living according to our **own** will, or will we allow Jesus and His Word to direct our path? This is when living the **resurrection life** becomes a reality. Next, **Seek**. If after attending church on Easter Sunday, you left feeling no **connection**, **conviction** or **confirmation** whatsoever, there is only one thing to do: **seek** His Face! Scripture tells us that he who seeks Jesus **WILL** find Him **(Matt. 7:8)**. Next, **Serve**. Part of living the **resurrection life** is to rely on the Holy Spirit to empower us to **serve** others. Peter advises, **"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God"**. **(1 Peter 4:10)** The ultimate key though, to living the resurrected life, is to follow **Proverbs 3:5-6**, **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths"**! (Elder Walter Braxton)



Welcome Home!

The CAYA Fellowship delights to welcome home this month all of our returning Brothers and Sisters! Come to your CAYA Fellowship!

The Job Corner

- Online: Baltimore city.gov
- D.S.Pipe & Steel
#443 882 6722
- State Jobs:
Rev.Walter Sheppard
#443 469 8508
- Ultimate Installation—Timothy A. Harris, Sr.
Cell.443.680.4524
Ofc.667.212.2700
tharris@ultimate-installs
- Set Free Prison Ministry—443.864.8867