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## POWERLINE

December 2016

A Child is Born

**ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE:** 

Unlocking Hope~ Choosing Life Women's Retreat

Women, young and old... chose to let go of hurt and embrace freedom. Page 5

### Alpha News & Transitions

Alpha Conference news from our churches and ministers & upcoming events for 2017.

by Bishop Mike Gray

## CALEB CONNECTION

January 26th & 28th, 2017

@the Alpha GMG Montgomery, AL

10:00 am-3:00 pm

with Bishop Mike Gray

\*Living A Focused Life"

This training opportunity is for pastors, ministers, staff members, ministry team members, etc.

You will not want to miss this opportunity to connect with fellow leaders in fellowship and training to...

- > CHALLENGE YOUR THINKING
- > AWAKEN YOUR IMAGINATION
- > SHARPEN YOUR FOCUS
- > EMPOWER YOUR LEADERSHIP

#### **Conference News & Transitions**

#### **IPHC GENERAL CONFERENCE**

The 28th IPHC General Conference will convene July 26-28, 2017 at the Rosen Centre in Orlando, FL. Given the geographical proximity, this is a wonderful opportunity for more Alpha Conference representation. Please mark the dates and plan to attend. Early next year, the Alpha office will share more information about clergy and church delegate certification, registration, lodging, etc. (See the back page for more information)

#### **CONDOLENCES**

The Alpha Conference expresses our sincere condolences to the family of **Rev. Byrnes & Mary Pitts**. Pastor Pitts' daughter, *Tegina Pitts*, was called home on November 25, 2016. She was 48 years of age and a resident of Brewton.

Alpha also extends our sympathy to the family of Mike & Karen Gray, Danny & Barbara Harris and Randy & Lisa Hays. Rev. Mrs. Anna Harris, mother to Karen, Danny and Lisa, passed through the veil of glory on November 28, 2016. Two of Mrs. Harris' grandchildren, Kenny (Mary) Gray and Kelley (Chip) Belcher, are also ministers within the conference. Mrs. Harris was 81 and lived near Ashville, AL. Let's continue to remember these families in prayer.

#### TWO ALPHA CHURCHES CELEBRATE BIG ANNIVERSARIES

The Brewton IPHC celebrated their 70th Anniversary on October 16. Pastor Byrnes Pitts shared this report, "We had a great day. Attendance was 150 to 175. All of our former pastors, or a family representative, attended the service. Other special guests included Bishop Leon & Donna Stewart." The guest speaker was Lloyd Pitts, son of Pastor Byrnes and Nell Pitts. Lloyd and his family reside in Spanish Fort, AL. Congratulations to Brewton IPHC on this commemorative anniversary and *Pastor Byrnes Pitts* on 40 years of faithful pastoral service.

Christian Fellowship Tabernacle in Spanish Fort, AL celebrated their 51st Anniversary on October 16. The service featured the singing ministry of Big Blessing. Bishop Mike Gray was the guest speaker. The house was packed with about 90 people in attendance. After the service, everyone was treated to dinner on the grounds. Pastor Don & Faye Tuberville are to be commended for their exceptional leadership to this congregation. Congratulations to all!

#### CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENT

Congratulations to Jonathan Pate on his recent appointment to the Alpha Conference Executive Council. Jonathan is the Lead Pastor of Life Worship Center in Anniston, AL. His wife, April, serves as the Administrative Pastor. They are both ordained ministers. Jonathan will serve as an executive council member until the 2018 Quadrennial Conference Session. The Alpha Conference allows the executive council the flexibility to appoint one or two additional council members during the Quadrennium. We are pleased to welcome Jonathan to this conference leadership role.





MERRY CHRISTMAS AND JOYFUL HOLIDAYS!
MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS SEASON BE FILLED WITH HIS PEACE AND GOODWILL AS YOU SHARE THE JOY OF THE
SAVIOR'S BIRTH WITH YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, CHURCH AND COMMUNITY! JOY TO THE WORLD!
BISHOP MIKE & KAREN GRAY AND THE ALPHA CONFERENCE MINISTRY CENTER STAFF

#### ALPHA CHURCH PLANTS

**Next Level of Faith Ministries** in Century, FL officially launched their new church plant on September 11. Bishop Mike & Karen Gray were on hand to welcome the new congregation into Alpha Ministries. Bishop Gray also organized the church and installed **Jonathan Baker** as the Lead Pastor.

Praise the Lord for *Jonathan and Nicole Baker's* commitment to birthing this new work and reaching their community for Christ. May the Lord bless Next Level to fulfill God's vision and build the Kingdom of God as they **Walk Further**, **Dig Deeper**, **Climb Higher**.

**Pastor James & Debra Eason** are leading a new Alpha church plant near Pell City, AL. **Freedom Resurrection Outreach** is off to a wonderful beginning with 60-70 people in attendance. The church will be organized soon and located in the Cheaha District.

Pastor Eason was ordained during the 2016 Annual Conference Session. Please keep the Easons and the new work in your prayers. Prayer support is an essential key and very important to the planting pastor, church leadership and new work.



#### **GLOBAL OUTREACH OFFERING**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed

to the 2016 Global Outreach Offering. Pastors, if you have not done so, please select a Sunday to receive an offering to support Kingdom ministry in USA and around the globe. For more info, www.iphc.org/missions/go/

#### SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS OFFERING

IPHC People to People Ministries hopes to provide 5,000 children in the PTP sponsorship program with a Christmas party, a special gift and an opportunity to hear the story of Christ's birth. You can help make this possible with your \$25.00 gift.

- 2 You may give online at <a href="https://alphaiphc.org/give/">https://alphaiphc.org/give/</a>.

  At the menu, select other, enter the amount and type

  PTP Christmas Spirit in the comments space.
- Mail a check to the Conference Ministry Center for PTP Christmas Spirit.





# DISASTER RELIEF USA INTERNATIONAL PENTECOSTAL HOLINESS CHURCH



Photo credit Gordon Atwell

#### ALPHA MINISTRIES DISASTER RELIEF RESPONSE

A disaster relief team from Alpha Ministries travelled to Denham Springs, LA to assist with ministry efforts in the aftermath of the "1000 year flood." The team was onsite at Impact Church, August 29 - September 1. *Bishop Gordon & Therese Atwell* and *Impact Church* are to be commended for their valiant efforts in providing hope and compassion to the hurting and displaced people. During the week, the Governor's office communicated to Bishop Atwell, that Impact Church had established and organized the best run distribution center and shelter in the state. This was a noteworthy recognition. Thank you, Bishop Atwell and Impact Church.

Alpha extends our appreciation for the prayers, partnership and participation in the disaster relief ministry in Louisiana. Several Alpha churches donated funding to the effort including, *Chumuckla Church*, *Destiny Church River Region*, *Faith Chapel*, *Flomaton Church*, *Freedom Resurrection Outreach*, *Harvest Christian Center*, *LifeChange Church*, *My Father's Vineyard*, *New Horizon Ministries*, *River of Life*, *and The Connection*. Donations from individual pastors and ministers were sent to the Alpha CMC as well.

In addition, *Pastor Ricardo & Tiffany Rodriquez* and *Destiny Church* (Prattville) led a joint project with a neighboring church to collect and deliver a semi-truck load of bottled water, food, cleaning and household supplies. They also toured one of the heavily damaged neighborhoods to shower love on the hurting and to share donated gift cards.

During our deployment, the Alpha Ministries team was honored to work alongside *Bishop David and Jane Moore* from the Mississippi Conference. In addition, *Rev. Bill Terry*, IPHC National Men's Ministry Director, visited and toured the area for assessment and planning to share aid from the national DRUSA office. *The Alpha team was comprised of Jimmy Russell, George Sherman, Aaron Farley* and *Mike Gray*. Thank you A-Team!

Please continue to pray for the thousands of people who continue to be affected by the "1000 year flood."













#### 2016 ALPHA WOMEN'S RETREAT UNLOCKING HOPE~CHOOSING LIFE

The 2016 Alpha Conference Women's Retreat was hosted at Canvas Church in Hoover, AL on October 7-8. The event theme *Unlocking Hope, Choosing Life* proved prophetic as scores of women, young and old, moved into the Holy Spirit's presence and chose to let go of hurt, brokenness and shame, to embrace hope and freedom in Christ. Over 300 women attended the event with many Alpha churches represented.

Sandy Taylor was the special guest speaker. She and her husband Craig serve Family Life Church in Galveston, TX, a congregation of over 3,000 people. Pastor Sandy was anointed of the Lord to preach and minister to everyone who gathered at Canvas Church. Her practical messages, friendly spirit, and love for women endeared her to all, thereby allowing the promise of scripture to penetrate deep into the heart. Others, including Lorie Walker and Tara Bethea, shared powerful Unlocking Hope testimonies that inspired others to Choose Life and experience forgiveness, freedom and healing in the Lord.

In addition, there was a Q&A session featuring several pertinent topics related to women. The question topics were selected from submitted requests before the retreat and advanced to a panel group for research and study. The Q&A panel included *Jolene Peavy, LeighAnne Ivey, Heather Farley, April Pate, Julie Lee, Paige Tanner and Erica Campbell.* 

Canvas Church served as gracious hosts. The Alpha Women's Ministries team expresses sincere appreciation to Pastor Jon & Lisa Potter, Canvas Church staff, worship team, and all volunteers for their excellent hospitality and service! In addition, a huge shout out goes to Alpha intern Aaron Farley for his untiring work and servant's heart during the event.

Congratulations to *Karen Gray and the Alpha Women's leadership team* for praying, planning and conducting this quality ministry event.

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## 2017 Conference Events

IPHC GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER
IPHC SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY
ALPHA CALEB CONNECTION TRAINING
MONTGOMERY, AL
ALPHA MINISTERS RETREAT
GRAND HOTEL MARRIOTT RESORT   POINT CLEAR, AL
EASTER SUNDAY
ALPHA TALENT QUEST WEEKEND   TBD
ALPHA SUMMER CELEBRATION   TBD
ALPHA CONFERENCE 93RD ANNUAL SESSION   TBD
KIDZQUEST CAMP
SHOCCO SPRINGS CAMP TALLADEGA, AL
EMERGE YOUTH CAMP   TBD
28TH IPHC GENERAL CONFERENCE
ROSEN CENTRE   ORLANDO, FL

#### **Check out our NEW Website!** www.alphaiphc.org

Online Giving, Find a Church, Events, News and more!



ABOUT US ~

MINISTRIES ~



#### **Ministries**

ministry events and leadership to equip our the great commandment and obey the

areat commission.

#### **Events Calendar**

Find out what's happening across Alpha Ministries over the next few weeks and

#### Find a Church

Are you looking to get connected to a lifegiving Alpha Ministries church? Our ministry directory can help you find a local church in

#### The Powerline

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