

MARCH 2017

I received the following blog from Pastor James Miller and saw a direct correlation between what he was saying and what we are endeavoring to accomplish at our Rebuild, Renew, Restore information conference March 25th. (Pay special attention to the attached flyer for more details!) Also, Pastors please contact the District HQ and let us know how many will be attending from your church so we can have an accurate count for food preparation.

Thank you,
Bishop Bob Jayne

PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE: "Jesus Changes Everything"

"Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." ~ Philippians 3:13-14

A new year presents us with a great opportunity to start fresh. For many we endeavor to bury the things of the past year, embrace the present moment and set goals for a successful future. However, without a change in our behavior this is all an exercise in futility. We attempt to put new wine in old wine skins, then stand perplexed when we fail in our efforts.

It's human nature to resist change. We like things simple, uncomplicated, convenient, constant, comfortable and the way they've always been. Sadly, without change we would still be a bunch of big babies running around messing our diapers, nursing on milk and throwing temper tantrums when pushed to grow.

"The only thing that never changes is that everything changes."

~ Louis L'Amour

No other species rejects change more than humans. Every other species is nurtured to a point of preparedness, then left to complete the process to adulthood through struggle, perseverance and a relentless will to LIVE. Even the military, law enforcement, protective and emergency service members are constantly training in preparedness, but it's not until the moment they must put all of it into action do they actually grow, and transition from child to adulthood (metaphorically speaking).

Resisting change is evident all around us, and especially in the church among believers. We like to keep things the way they were

when we got saved, had that Holy Ghost encounter, experienced growth, sang, prayed or worshipped a certain way. The irony of this is we would never have met Christ without change.

Isaiah 43:18-19 - *Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.*

Romans 12:2 - *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

2 Corinthians 5:17 - *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

In the OT, the Hebrews wanted to cling to their perversion, idolatry and slavery. We see this in Lot's wife looking back to a wicked & perverted Sodom & Gomorrah; also, in the golden calf & Egypt while in the desert. Even being delivered from evil & oppression, they kept looking back instead of embracing the change from their deliverance to their promised land.

The Jews in the NT were no different. They fought, debated and even killed to enforce conformity to the law and traditions of men. Jesus was constantly confronted with questions pertaining to His lack of adherence to the religious leader's traditions, but not once did He come against the Law. Christ didn't come to abolish the law, but be the absolute fulfillment of it, according to Matthew 5:17. Likewise, even believers of the early church, and our modern expression of Christianity fight to maintain the status quo.

Churches have been split over the color of the carpet, type of seating, loudness of the music, type & style of worship, etc., etc. Most of this was never a spiritual or ecclesiastical issue, but a preference of man to resist change. We would rather cling to the past like our lives depended on it, no matter how good or bad it really was. We are content with a diluted and deceived present that overlooks new opportunities, leaving us crippled and paralyzed with our future at risk than to embrace change by trusting in the fullness of Christ.

It's time to remember... We wouldn't be where or who we are in Christ without change. It's time to put our past to rest, enjoy our present and embrace the changes of our future. It's time to remember... "Jesus changes everything..."

James Miller, Jr

"Missionary to a Generation"

20/20 PERFECT VISION

"Where there is no vision, the people perish:..." (**Proverbs 29:18a**)

PERISH: be utterly destroyed or ruin; end; specifically, to die a violent or untimely death. – SYN. See **die**.

Therefore, with a vision, the people live, revive and thrive (Antonyms of perish). Also, near antonyms to perish are refresh, renew and restore, which all happen with a vision.

The following three things happen when we have a vision:

Sense of Purpose – from the vision

Keeps us on Track – of the vision

Keeps us Motivated – towards the vision

Unity comes from everyone pursuing the vision together. This, in turn, brings about the power and momentum to accomplish the shared goal.

SWTX District Vision for 2017 is to Rebuild, Renew and Restore our ministers and churches.

OUTSTANDING MISSIONARY GIVING

Congratulations to the following pastors and churches for outstanding giving to World Missions! We are so grateful for your faithfulness in giving, and know you and your church will be abundantly blessed for your investment in the Kingdom.

First Place in District: Freedom Fellowship Church—Early, TX Rev. Jim Maxwell, Pastor	\$7,434.00
Second Place in District: Trinity Chapel—Austin, TX Rev. Melvin Clearman, Pastor	\$7,200.00
Third Place in District: Trinity Church—Cuero, TX Rev. Kenny Mills, Pastor	\$5,400.00

EMPOWERED WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Ministry Annual National Registration:

Just a reminder...I need each church in the District to register their ladies group. We still have not heard from several of our churches. The registration is \$5.00 for each lady. \$2.00 stays in the District Women's fund and \$3.00 goes to the National Women's Ministry in Bedford, TX, to help with the various ministries the women are involved in throughout the United States and around the world. Let's stay connected and be a part of a great move.

FROM THE “OPS CENTER”

TIME is constant and always moving. As each moment passes we have either succeeded or failed, seized opportunity or let it slip by. What we do now, in this present moment, determines the fruit of the next. What will our tomorrow say about our today? By what character will we be known by? I want to encourage us to endeavor to walk each moment faithful to our commitments and covenants.

Each month we email, call, text, and mail ministers and interns, often the same ones every month, to find out why they have not reported their tithes or fees. Each month it's the same responses: "I forgot", "I've been busy", "I have nothing to report", and the list goes on.

I remember back when I was an Exhorter, and had a habit of being unfaithful in my monthly reporting. One day, I got the dreaded letter "To Meet the Board". Brother Steve Oates was the Bishop at the time, and I never forgot what he said to me that day, and his words insured I never showed myself unfaithful again.

He said, "Brother Miller, we don't need your \$10 (the Exhorter fee back then), and it's not about the money. Your \$10 won't make or break the district. However, it's about a covenant commitment you made with this board, the district, and the PCG. You committed to be faithful each month, as unto God. Honoring your commitment, honors God. That commitment provides you the privilege of being a minister in fellowship with the PCG." Then he asked, "Did you pay all your bills in the months you were unfaithful?" I said "Yes". He asked, "Did you pay your loans, and credit debt each month you were unfaithful?" I said, "Yes". Finally, he said, "So you thought it was important enough to pay all your bills, and debt to man, but not so important to honor your financial covenant commitment to God?" I had no other response, but "Yes".

As a young minister, it was the most humbling experience I have ever walked through, and at the same time, I learned lifelong spiritual lessons. Bishop Oates, and the district board gave me an opportunity to show myself faithful, and I have not failed ever since.

It is a privilege and honor to serve in our fellowship, and be a part of something greater than ourselves. I want to spare you from ever receiving a letter from me "To Meet the Board". I pray my story above encourages all of you to walk faithfully in your monthly financial tithe and fee covenant commitment going forward.

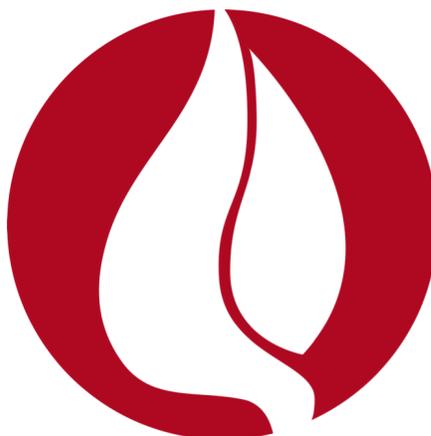
I have been receiving Annual Local Church Reports [ALCR]. Thank you Pastors for getting those sent to Bedford, and sending us a copy. I still need a few more churches to send theirs in by the March 20, 2017 deadline.

As always, I am here to serve as your resource for all things related to the Southwest Texas District and the National PCG Office in Bedford; therefore, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,
James Miller Jr, COO

www.swtx-pcg.org

**Southwest Texas District
Pentecostal Church of God**



WE ARE PCG!
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD

BIRTHDAYS

Terry Curry	06
Sidney Vannoy	11
Bill Daughtry	17
Timothy Baylor	20
Bobby Dickey	31

ANNIVERSARIES

Paul & Sharon Craner	14
Les & Pansy Crawford	17
Jim & Marsha Boatright	21
Courtney & Neomi Williams	21
Bob & Eileen Jayne	25
Eric & Crystal Ellis	27

DISTRICT OFFICE & CONFERENCE CENTER

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Special Prayer for our District Ministers And Spouses

Bishop Loyd Naten—Thanks for all your prayers. Bro. Naten has been approved for a transplant. Surgery date to be determined.

Rev. Tom Wilson—Pray for overall health.

Delores Chapman—Sis. Chapman still needs prayer as her body continues to heal.

Ray Helms—Pray for overall health.

Pastor James Hooper—Heart Issues; surgery next week, 3/9.

Pastor Hank Cannon—Diagnosed with cancer.

Genevive Holderby—Slipped & fell recently.



MINISTERS ON CALL

Dr. Dan Chapman (Early).....(325) 646-3943

Eddie Yarbrough (Kerrville).....(830) 739-7664

Rev. Jimmy Lee (Three Rivers).....(361) 449-0408

Rev. Judy Cody (San Angelo).....(325) 650-0905

2017 DISTRICT CALENDAR

Mar 25—Rebuild, Renew, Restore Event and School of Ministry/DIST HQ

Apr 18—District Board Meeting/DIST HQ