



# THE CTC TIMES

*Christ Temple Apostolic Church*

212 Richards Street, Joliet, IL 60433

✠ Bishop J.E. Moore, Pastor ✠

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## IN THIS ISSUE

- ✠ Black History - American History
- ✠ Coming Events
- ✠ From the Heart of Corine
- ✠ Judge Wesley Pays For A's
- ✠ Letter From The Editor
- ✠ Liberia Highlights
- ✠ Lift Every Voice
- ✠ Pure Heart
- ✠ Welcome Home
- ✠ When My Heart is Overwhelmed
- ✠ Youth Church

**Letter from the Editor - Ray Wesley** Praise the Lord every-one! It's good to be back, greeting you in 2026! It's hard to believe that time goes so fast. **There's** a lot in this Edition of the Times. I'm always excited to delve into our history, in fact, I have a book entitled Black People Invented Everything, that might be a stretch, but it's not a big one. The other one is the Black Book, both are worth reading. As of the publication of this Edition, we've lost a civil rights icon, Dr. Jesse Jackson, who coined the phrase, "Keep Hope Alive, how timely in these turbulent times. It's important to stay focused and not roll with every tide that comes out of the stresses of every day life. Philippians 4:6-7, encourages us not to be anxious but to present our requests to God with thanksgiving, and in doing so, to receive a peace that surpasses all understanding. It is this peace that guards our hearts and minds, and allows us to remain calm and focused - and- keep hope alive.

**One** more thing, I've accepted the position of Chairman of Pastor's Alliance and will be co-chairing this with my hubby, Deacon Wesley. Sister Corine Pitchford is going to be Assistant. I am super excited to begin this journey - so I'll keep you posted. **Be** blessed,

*Sis. Judge*

## The Significance of the Right Hand of God

In Scripture, the **Right Hand of God** symbolizes supreme power, divine authority, honor, and active intervention. It represents the place of highest status and sovereignty, signifying the exalted position of Jesus Christ following His ascension. This indicates His victory over sin and death and His role as intercessor and ruler over all creation.

### Key Aspects of the Right Hand of God

- **Position of Authority and Exaltation:** The Right Hand is the seat of power and honor. Jesus is described as sitting at the Right Hand of the Majesty in the heavens, signifying His equality, authority, and the completion of the work of Salvation (Hebrews 1:3).
- **Victory and Strength:** It is a symbol of God's power in defending and saving His people. Psalm 118:16 declares, "The Right Hand of the Lord is exalted; the

Right Hand of the Lord doeth valiantly."

- **Messianic Prophecy:** In Psalm 110:1, the Right Hand is the place for the Messiah, where He reigns until His enemies are made His footstool.
- **Intercession:** Jesus is seated there as the active mediator between God and humanity (Romans 8:34).
- **Place of Blessing:** It represents the presence of God, where there is "fullness of joy" and "pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11).

### Scripture References

- **Psalm 110:1:** The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.
- **Mark 16:19:** So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.
- **Acts 7:55-56:** But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God.
- **Ephesians 1:20:** Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.

## Important Facts

- According to Strong’s Concordance, the term “Right Hand” is mentioned **153 times** in the Bible.
- In our daily lives, a person who is extremely helpful is sometimes spoken of as our “right hand.”
- When we reach out to greet someone, it is almost always the right hand that we extend.
- When a church member transfers from another church, they are often given the “Right Hand of Fellowship.”
- The Pueblo Indians refer to blessings as being from the “Right Hand of God.”

**Conclusion:** The concept of the Right Hand of God is a profound theological symbol woven throughout Scripture. It is not merely a physical location but a representation of God’s ultimate power, authority, and sovereign will. From the exaltation of Christ to His ongoing intercession for believers, the Right Hand of God serves as a constant reminder of His victory over sin

and death and His unwavering love for His people. It is a source of hope, a symbol of strength, and a promise of eternal blessing for all who believe.



## Opportunities for Worship

### WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Daily Altar Prayer	12:00 Noon
<b>Tuesday</b>	
◆ Evening Prayer Service	7:00 PM
<b>Thursday</b>	
◆ Youth Bible Study	7:00 PM
◆ Evening Bible Class	7:00 PM
<b>Sunday</b>	
◆ Sunrise Prayer	6:00 AM & 8:00 AM
◆ Sunday School	9:30 AM
◆ Morning Worship	11:30 AM
◆ Evening Worship	4:00 PM

Sunrise Prayer is also virtual! Join us on Zoom  
Meeting ID: 842 8334 9930 | Passcode: 6AMPRAY

If you would like to attend any of our Sunday services and need a ride, please call the church office at 815 722-3505. Sunday morning pick up is from 9 am – 11 am.

### FOOD PANTRY

Christ Temple Church’s Food Pantry is open for the community every 4th Saturday of the month between 11 am and 2 pm (weather permitting). A photo ID must be presented. All questions are to be directed to Min. Nicole Davis or Bro. David Grocesley.

### ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS

Out of town? Can’t make it for Sunday service? Want to give online? You are now able to give your tithes, offering, etc. online through our secure donation page via PayPal. Visit [www.ctcjoliet.com/online-giving/](http://www.ctcjoliet.com/online-giving/) and click the PayPal button to be directed to Online Giving.

### OUR MINISTRIES

Brotherhood Department	Sunday School
Couples United In Christ (CUIC)	Ushers
Sisterhood Department	Ministers Alliance
Youth Ministry	Pastors Alliance
Music Ministry	Missionary Department
Church Development	Global Missions
Singles Ministry	Deacons & Deaconesses

## **What do you do when your heart is overwhelmed?**

Life can be a lot sometimes, can't it? School, friends, family, the future—it's easy to feel like you're drowning in a sea of expectations, pressures, and just not feeling good enough. If you've ever felt that way, you're not alone. And more importantly, there's a source of strength and peace that you can tap into. The Bible has a lot to say about how to handle those moments when your heart feels overwhelmed.

### **What do you do when your heart is overwhelmed?**

1. **Cry Out to God** - "From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I."  
- Psalm 61:2

This verse is a powerful reminder that it's okay to not be okay. The author of this Psalm, King David, was a powerful warrior and leader, yet he

still had moments where he felt overwhelmed. The first thing he did? He cried out to God. He didn't pretend to have it all together. He was honest about his feelings. For us, this means we can come to God just as we are.

We don't have to clean ourselves up first. When you feel like you're at your breaking point, about to crash out, that's the perfect time to talk to God. The "rock that is higher than I" is a beautiful picture of God's strength and stability. When we feel like we're sinking, He is our solid ground.

### **What do you do when your heart is overwhelmed?**

2. **Find Rest in Jesus** - "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."  
- Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus gives a personal invitation to each of us. He knows that life can be tiring and that we can carry heavy burdens. He doesn't promise to magically make all our problems

disappear, but He does promise to give us rest. This isn't just about getting more sleep; it's a deep, soul-level rest that comes from knowing we're not in this alone.

What does it mean to take His "yoke"? A yoke is a wooden bar that joins two animals together to pull a load. When we're yoked with Jesus, we're not pulling the weight of our lives by ourselves. He's right there with us, sharing the load.

### *What do you do when your heart is overwhelmed?*

#### **3. Replace Anxiety with Prayer**

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." - Philip-  
pians 4:6-7

This is one of the most practical passages in the Bible for dealing with anxiety. It gives us a clear, step-by-step process:

Don't be anxious. This isn't a command to just suppress your feelings. It's an invitation to a different response. Pray about everything. No request is too big or

too small. God cares about the details of your life. Be thankful. Even in tough times, there are things to be thankful for. Gratitude shifts our perspective. The result? A peace that "transcends all understanding." It's a peace that doesn't make sense from a worldly perspective, but it's real and it can guard our hearts and minds.

### *What do you do when your heart is overwhelmed?*

#### **4. Remember God is With You**

-  
"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10  
Fear and feeling overwhelmed often go hand-in-hand. This verse is a direct promise from God to His people. He tells us not to be afraid because He is with us. He is our God. He will give us the strength we need, He will help us, and He will hold us up. When you feel like you're about to fall, remember that God's hand is there to catch you. He is your support and your strength.

**Conclusion** - Feeling overwhelmed is a normal part of life, but it doesn't have to have the final say. The Bible

gives us real, practical steps to take when our hearts are heavy. We can cry out to God, find rest in Jesus, replace anxiety with prayer, and remember that God is always with us. struggles, and you have a source of unshakable hope and strength.

### **What do you do when your heart is overwhelmed?**

#### **Reflection Questions**

What are some of the things that are overwhelming you right now?

Which of these verses speaks to you the most? Why?

What is one practical step you can take this week to give your burdens to God?

## **The Heart of the Matter: A Bible Study on a Pure Heart**

What's the state of your heart? - The Bible tells us that while people look at our outward appearance, God looks at something much deeper. "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him.

For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the

outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.'" (1 Samuel 16:7)

What is a Pure Heart? - When we hear the word "pure," we might think of something that is perfectly clean or flawless. But when the Bible talks about a pure heart, it doesn't mean being perfect. A pure heart is an undivided heart. It's a heart that is completely devoted to God, without mixed motives or loyalties.

Think of it like this: pure gold is 100% gold, without any other metals mixed in. A pure heart is a heart that is 100% for God.

Jesus said, "**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God**" (Matt 5:8). This is a promise that those whose hearts are set on God will experience His presence in a special way.

So, what does a pure heart look like in action? - **Clean Hands and a Pure Heart:** "Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully." (Psalm 24:3-4). This shows that a pure heart is connected to our actions and our words.

## Dear Julie

**Question:** My mother and father are getting a divorce. My Mom is going with another

woman. My father has a girlfriend who is just a few years older than I am. What happened to my family?

*I am saved and attend church every Sunday. I am on the honor roll and have never gotten in trouble. I even have them on the church prayer list. I feel like God has completely forgotten about me.*

**Answer:** Thank you for your courage in sharing your heart. I am so sorry for the deep pain you are experiencing. Your world has been turned upside down, and it is completely understandable that you feel lost, confused, and even forgotten. Please know that your feelings are valid, and you are not wrong for having them.

You asked, "What happened to my family?" The simple and heart-breaking answer is that sin has broken your family. We live in a fallen world, and because of sin, people make choices that hurt themselves and those they love. Your parents' decisions are a reflection of their own

brokenness, not a reflection of you. You have done nothing to cause this. Your faithfulness, your good grades, your prayers – these are all beautiful things in God's eyes, and it is devastating that you are suffering the consequences of your parents' choices.

You also shared that you feel like God has completely forgotten you. Oh, my dear sister, I want to assure you with all my heart that this is not true. The Bible is filled with promises that God is near to the brokenhearted and that He will never leave us or forsake us. In fact, it is often in our deepest pain that we can experience His presence most profoundly.

Here are a few truths from God's Word that I want you to hold onto in the coming days:

God sees you and knows your pain. The Bible says, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18). He is not a distant God who is unaware of your suffering. He is a compassionate Father who weeps with you.

God has not forgotten you. He

says in Isaiah 49:15-16, “Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands.” Your name is written on His hands. He cannot look at His own hands without being reminded of you.

God’s love for you is unfailing. Romans 8:38-39 tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Not death or life, not angels or demons, not the present or the future, not any powers, not height or depth, not anything else in all creation – and that includes your parents’ divorce.

God has a purpose for your pain. This may be hard to see right now, but the Bible promises that “in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). God can take the most broken and painful situations and use them for our good and His glory. He can use this trial to draw you closer to Himself, to build your character, and to give you a testimony of His faithfulness that will one day bring hope to others.

I know these words may not take away the pain, but I pray they will be a source of comfort and hope for you. I want to encourage you to continue to seek the Lord, to pour out your heart to Him in prayer, and to surround yourself

with a strong community of believers who can support you and walk with you through this difficult season. Find a trusted adult in your church – a youth pastor, a pastor’s wife, an older woman – and share your struggles with them. You do not have to go through this alone.

You are loved.

You are seen.

You are not forgotten.

*Julie - (If you have a question for Julie, please email it or drop it by the church office)*



### **The Heart of the Matter: A Bible Study on a Pure Heart (continued)**

**Not Double-Minded:** “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (James 4:8). A double-minded person is torn between God and the world. A pure heart has chosen its side.

**Why Does a Pure Heart Matter?** – Having a pure heart is not just about following a set of rules. It has real-life implications:

- **You Get to “See” God**
- **It’s the Source of Your Life**
- **It Leads to Real Love**

But we also have a part to play. Here are some practical steps you can take: **Guard Your Heart:** Be intentional about what you allow into your mind and heart. What you



## CHRIST TEMPLE GLOBAL MISSION OUTREACH

### *Holiday Feeding Mission – Haiti*



During the holiday season, Christ Temple Global Mission Outreach sent financial support to help provide meals for families in Haiti. Because of your generosity, warm, nourishing food was prepared and distributed to children and community members in need.

Large portions of rice and beans, soup, and cooked meals were served, bringing both physical nourishment and encouragement during a special time of year.

Your giving made a difference. What may seem small to us became a tremendous blessing to many.

*“For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat...” – Matthew 25:35 (KJV)*

We sincerely thank every donor and supporter who helped make this outreach possible. Together, we continue to share the love of Christ beyond our walls and across the world.

**Thank You!**

## The Heart of the Matter: A Bible Study on a Pure Heart (continued)

watch, what you listen to, the conversations you have—it all affects your heart. (Proverbs 4:23) **Fill Your Heart with God’s Word:** “How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.” (Psalm 119:9). The more you fill your mind with Scripture, the more it will shape your desires and thoughts. **Confess and Repent:** When you do mess up, don’t hide it. Bring it to God. “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9). **Pursue It:** Make having a pure heart a goal. “So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.” (2 Timothy 2:22).

### **Study on a Pure Heart**

*Editor’s Note: Recently Bishop Charles Dove spoke on A Pure Heart. That message inspired*



*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15*

## CHRIST TEMPLE GLOBAL MISSION OUTREACH

### ★ Feeding School Children in Liberia



Thanks to your generous support, Christ Temple Global Mission Outreach is helping feed school children in Liberia.

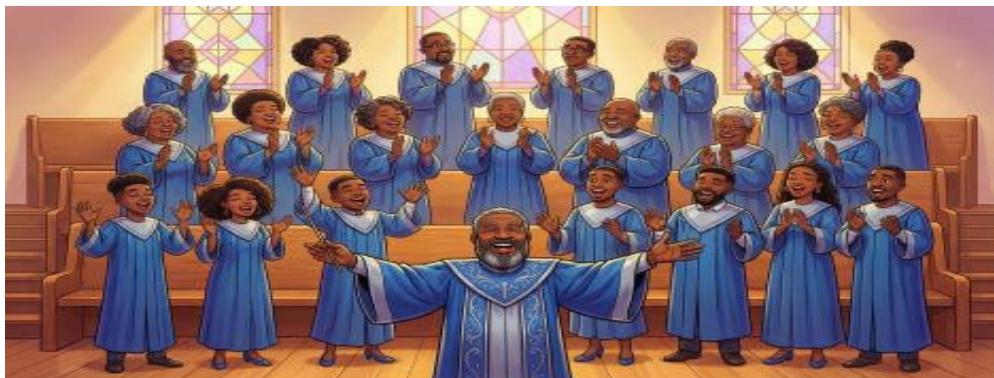
- Nutritious meals are being served during school time
- Children are nourished and ready to learn
- Your support is making a direct impact on young lives.

*+For I was hungry, and ye gave me meat...\**



*We are collecting monetary donations to help repair the sewer system at our partner church in Haiti. The total project cost is \$1,647. If you would like to contribute, please see Deacon Cedric Cooper*

*Join the newly revamped choir! If you love to sing and want to be a part of a vibrant and uplifting musical community, we invite you to join us. For more information, please contact*



*Evangelist Thurmond or Elder Anderson. We look forward to making beautiful music with you!*

## ***Our Mission Statement***

Our purpose is to worship God, evangelize the unsaved, empower the Saints & train them for service.

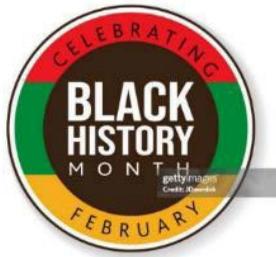
## ***Our Vision Statement***

Becoming a compassionate and nurturing church that spreads forth the perfect unconditional love of Christ to those that are lost and in need.

Christ Temple has served the community for over 50 years (1965). We are a church built upon the Apostles' doctrine striving to glorify Jesus Christ in our community as well as the world.

Join us for all of our services as we worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

# Our Shared Story: Why Black History is American History



February is Black History Month, a time set aside to recognize and celebrate the rich history and immense contributions of African Americans. Black history is not a separate, isolated story to be acknowledged only one month out of the year. Instead, it is a fundamental and inseparable part of the American story. To understand America, we must understand Black history.

## The Vision of a Historian

The observance of Black History Month began as “Negro History Week” in 1926, thanks to the vision and dedication of historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Dr. Woodson, who earned his Ph.D. from Harvard University, was inspired to create this week of recognition after witnessing the overwhelming response to a celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of emancipation in 1915. He saw a deep hunger among African Americans to learn about their heritage and the progress their people had made.

Dr. Woodson chose February for Negro History Week to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglas, two figures who played significant roles in Black history. However, his vision was much broader than celebrating a few great men. He believed that history was

made by the people, and he wanted to shift the focus from a few famous individuals to the countless Black men and women who have contributed to the advancement of human civilization. He envisioned a time when Black history would be so integrated into education that a separate observance would no longer be necessary.

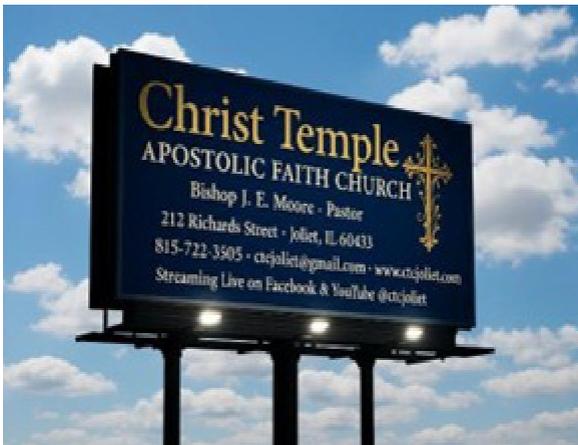
## An Inseparable Narrative

The story of America is a complex tapestry woven with threads of triumph and struggle, of justice and injustice. The Black experience is not just one of those threads; it is a foundational element of the entire fabric. As Dr. Monica E. Peek writes, “The narrative of Black people in the U.S. reveals more about who we are as a country—our difficult past, our painstaking movements forward towards justice, and our persistent racial wounds that we refuse to heal—than the sanitized history that children learn in our school systems”. From the earliest days of our nation, African Americans have been central to its development. Their forced labor (enslavement) built much of the country’s early infrastructure and economy. Beyond that, their contributions have enriched every facet of American life. As people of faith, we are called to pursue justice and righteousness. The Bible is filled with scriptures that speak to God’s heart for the oppressed and His desire for a just society. The prophet Micah asks, “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8, NIV). This call to justice is not a passive suggestion but an active command.

Learning about Black history is an act of justice. It is an opportunity to acknowledge the truth of our shared past, to lament the injustices that have occurred, and to celebrate the resilience and contributions of a people who have so often been marginalized. It is a step toward reconciliation, which begins with truth-telling. As it is written in Psalm 89:14, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you."

### Our Shared Future

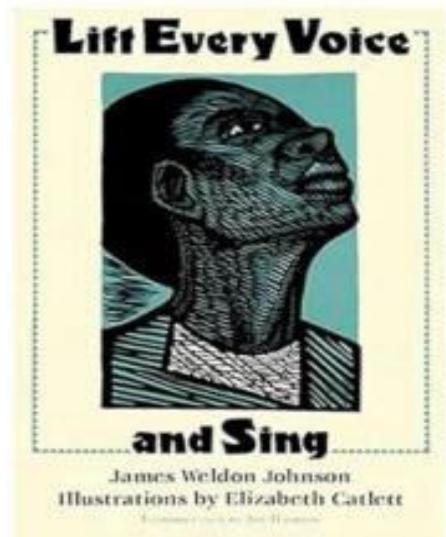
Black History Month is a vital observance, but it should be a starting point, not a destination. Let us use this month to deepen our understanding of the integral role Black Americans have played in shaping our nation. Let us commit to learning and celebrating Black history not just in February, but all year long. By embracing our shared history in all its complexity, we can move forward together to build a more just, equitable, and unified future for all of God's children.



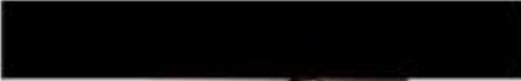
## Lift Every Voice and Sing: A Hymn of Hope and Resilience

-Compiled by Dr. Lynn Starks

In February, we celebrate a cornerstone of African-American history and a powerful hymn of hope, "**Lift Every Voice and Sing.**" This iconic piece, often referred to as the "**Black National Anthem,**" has a rich history that is as moving as its lyrics.



The story of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" begins with two remarkable brothers, **James Weldon Johnson** and **John Rosamond Johnson**.



John Rosamond Johnson was a composer during the Harlem Renaissance. Most notable as the composer of the hymn "Lift Every Voice and Sing" which has come to be known as the "Black National Anthem." His brother, the poet James Weldon Johnson, wrote the lyrics of the famous piece. It was first performed live by 500 African-American students from the segregated Stanton School in Jacksonville, FL, in 1900.

The hymn was first performed on **February 12, 1900**, by 500 African American students from the segregated Stanton School in Jacksonville, Florida, as part of a celebration of Abraham Lincoln's birthday. The piece resonated so deeply within Black American communities that in **1919, the NAACP adopted it as their official anthem**. Since then, it has been sung in churches, schools, and gatherings across the nation, serving as a testament to resilience, faith, and the enduring hope of a people who have overcome tremendous adversity.

### The Complete Lyrics

#### Verse 1

*Lift every voice and sing,  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty; Let  
our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,*

*Let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full  
of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has  
brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on till victory is won.*

The opening verse calls us to lift our voices in celebration of liberty and freedom. It speaks of **faith forged through hardship** and **hope born from perseverance**, urging us to march forward toward victory with unwavering determination.

#### Verse 2

*Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chast'ning rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been  
watered.  
We have come, treading our path through the blood  
of the slaughtered, Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.*

The second verse acknowledges the **difficult journey** that has been traveled— a road marked by suffering, tears, and sacrifice. Yet it also recognizes the progress that has been made, celebrating the arrival at a place where hope shines like a bright star, fulfilling the dreams of those who came before.

#### Verse 3

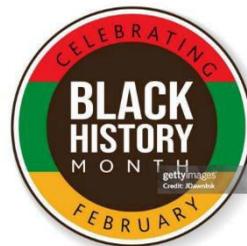
*God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who hast by Thy might,  
Led us into the light,*

*Keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,  
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God,  
True to our native land.*

The final verse is a **prayer of thanksgiving and petition**. It acknowledges God as the source of strength through weary years and silent tears, the one who has led His people into the light. The verse concludes with a heartfelt prayer to remain faithful to God and to the nation, standing firm beneath His protective hand.

#### **A Timeless Message**

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" is more than just a song; it is a **testament to the resilience, faith, and enduring hope** of a people. Its powerful words and stirring melody continue to inspire generations, reminding us of the struggles of the past and the bright promise of the future. As we reflect on this hymn, may we be encouraged to lift our own voices in praise, to remember the journey that has brought us to where we are today, and to remain steadfast in our faith and commitment to justice, liberty, and love.



**BLACKPAST.ORG**  
<https://blackpast.org>

**BlackPast.org | The  
Largest Online  
Encyclopedia of  
Black History**

**learningaboutamer  
icanhistory.com**  
*(created by Academic Coach, Sis.  
Elaine Harris)*



## Relax, Refresh and Regroup

### *How important is it to relax, refresh and regroup after a day away from family?*

*-Sister Elaine Harris,  
Academic Coach*

I had a surprising conversation awhile back. An 8th grader asked me to listen to the speech she was going to give at graduation. It was well written and included little anecdotes from her years from Little Learner through 8th grade. When she finished, I said nice speech, but shouldn't you acknowledge your Mom? (She had mentioned several people by name.) She replied, "my Mom never asked me anything about school". I asked some clarifying questions, but she maintained that Mom never asked or said anything! Mom may have been tired and just trying to make it through the day. Maybe she grew up with no one inquiring.

I started thinking, though, about the importance of connecting after school or work. It's important to take a few minutes to refresh your mind, body, and spirit and regroup for the rest of the day.

This is a great time to reconnect after a busy day away from each other.

And...it doesn't have to take a lot of time or be elaborate.

Here are some ideas:

- Once everyone has entered, gather in a central location. Say something like "Hello, everyone!" This can be a cue to take a deep breath collectively, go from person to person, and use one word to describe the day.
- Gather in a central location, breathe deeply, meditate for a few moments, or say a prayer. Soft background music can be used as a cue for everyone to gather around. Use the same song every time so it becomes part of the routine.
- Gather at the designated location and tell a joke or riddle. Rotate among family members.
- Meet at the front door. Take off your shoes and line them up. Tell yourself: "I am leaving my cares and worries behind."
- Meet at the kitchen table. Share something interesting that happened during the day. Grab a juice box or bottle of water together.
- Have a quick snack of milk, juice or water and cookies or crackers. Or, a piece of fruit. Be silent during these few moments. This tried and true

habit allows people to reflect on the day. Share something you've thought about.

- Have a basket or small box with discussion topics. Have someone choose a topic and discuss it for 15 seconds.

If you have a latch key kid and they come home to an empty house, leave a short note saying hi, or place a favorite stuffed animal where they will see it. Leave a little snack in the fridge on a special plate - the "welcome home plate".

After a stressful day of school or work, welcome the evening by establishing a wind down time. It doesn't have to be big or take a long time. Do something to show you care and are glad they're home!



**Sis. Tiffany Cooper - January 15**  
**Bro. James Lyons - January 24**

**Sis. Betty Slaughter - February 1**  
**Bro. Dennis Slaughter - February 7**  
**Sis. Sherryl Ryan - February 19**  
**Deac. John Wesley - February 26**

**Evang. Marlene Jones - March 6**



*You are loved.  
You are seen.  
You are not forgotten.*

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUTH CHURCH



**Under the leadership of Evangelist Valerie Harris,** the Youth Church Ministry is making a profound impact on the lives of young people.

This article highlights some of the ministry's recent activities and achievements.

## **A Commitment to Prayer and The Word -**

The ministry has established a strong foundation of prayer and biblical literacy. A daily prayer line is held every weekday morning from 6:00 AM to 6:15 AM, providing a space for youth to start their day with reflection and intention. Additionally, every Monday evening from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM, the youth gather for a Bible reading session, deepening their understanding of the scriptures.

**Outreach and Service -** The Youth Church Ministry is also dedicated to serving the community. On the third Saturday of every month, the youth go out to distribute "Traks," sharing their faith with others. During the Christmas season, the ministry extended its outreach to the MARKLUND Home, bringing joy and fellowship to residents.



## **A Growing Community of Faith -**

The efforts of the Youth Church Ministry have borne significant fruit, with 20 youths having been saved through the ministry. This growing

community of faith extends across several locations, including Christ Temple Chicago, Champaign IL, Pittsburgh, Rantoul, and Indiana. The ministry's reach continues to expand, with two individuals in Alabama awaiting baptism.

The Youth Church Ministry, under the guidance of Evangelist Valerie Harris, is a testament to the power of faith and community. Through its various programs and outreach efforts, the ministry is empowering young people to lead lives of purpose and service!

Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church



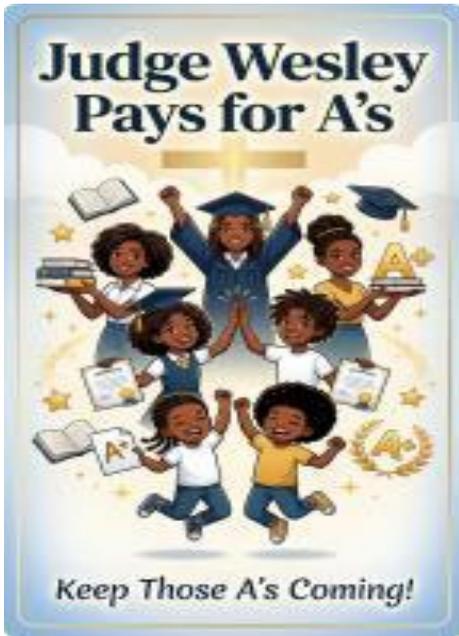
## etc youth Church

Jesus Saves

Join us every Sunday at 11AM.

(815) 722-3505  
ctcjoliet.com  
212 Richards St., Joliet, IL 60433

Evg. Valerie Harris, Youth Church  
Bishop J.E. Moore, pastor



## ***Judge Wesley Pays for A's: A Celebration of Academic Excellence!***

The "Judge Wesley Pays for A's", is designed to reward academic achievement, and has seen an inspiring number of students from our very own CTC community participate and excel. The dedication and hard work of these young scholars are a testament to their commitment to excellence, and we should be proud of them! We have some of the brightest and the best at CTC!

In a world filled with distractions, the importance of focusing on studies cannot be overstated. Good grades are not only

a pathway to future success in this life but also a reflection of the discipline and character we are called to cultivate. The Bible tells us in Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." **Doing well in school is a way to honor God with our talents and abilities, and it brings a deep sense of personal reward and accomplishment.**

To all the students who have participated and earned their 'A's, - congratulations! Your hard work has not gone unnoticed. Continue striving for excellence in all that you do. Keep up the fantastic work, and continue to be a shining example to your peers.

We also want to acknowledge that the path to academic success can sometimes be challenging. For those who may need a little extra help to reach their full potential, we are excited to announce that a tutoring helpline is coming soon. This resource will provide the support and guidance needed to help every student succeed. ***Let's continue to celebrate and encourage our young scholars!***

***-Judge Wesley***



*...as long as he sought  
the Lord, God made  
him prosper.*

2 Chronicles 26:5

COMING EVENTS

Please get on board!

[www.PoppinPopcornOnline.com](http://www.PoppinPopcornOnline.com)

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### Church Calendar App



Stay up-to-date with all church events by downloading the Teamup calendar app from your Apple or Google Play Store. Use the following key to access our calendar:

<https://teamup.com/ksdn8rwm8a2knjyvp2>

### ISC Culinary Workshop



**Date:** May 2, 2026  
**Time:** 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Register on Eventbrite for the ISC Culinary Workshop 2026. For any questions, please reach out to Evg. Latoia Russell.



### PCAFI 2026 IHC GROWTH Conference



**Date:** July 24-29, 2026  
**Location:** Orlando, FL

Join us for the PCAFI 2026 IHC GROWTH Conference in sunny Orlando, Florida! More details to come.



**ETA Training 2026 - Date:** February 22, 2026 **Time:** After morning worship

This session will be in person, with Zoom access provided for those who cannot attend onsite.

**Meeting ID:** 886 9958 5473 **Passcode:** ETA2026

**The CTC Times  
needs you!**

**2026 LEAD Conference - Date:** March 4-7, 2026  
**Location:** Detroit, MI

Register for the 2026 LEAD Conference at [pcafintl.org](http://pcafintl.org).



**Annual Missionary Day - Date:** March 15, 2026

Join us for our Annual Missionary Day. The theme is "Great Commission to Go" (Mark 16:15), with guest speaker Bishop Jeniva Mpfu from Birmingham, England, UK.

## Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church

Love God. Love People.

Menu +

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