

The CTC Times

Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church

† Bishop J.E. Moore, Pastor †

212 Richards Street • Joliet, IL 60433

THE 2026 SPRING ISSUE

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A SPECIAL CELEBRATION ★ MAY 24

Happy Birthday, Bishop J.E. Moore

Pastor • Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church



Bishop J.E. Moore

Pastor, CTC • Joliet, IL

J.E. Moore was born May 24, 1939, in Galena, Cherokee County, Kansas, to John and Edyth King Moore. Growing up, he was athletic and competitive, participating in a variety of sports. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps where he served as a military policeman and played for the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps.

Like most young men, Moore had aspirations for his life, but the hand of God was steering him to a greater call. In April 1961, he became a member of the Pentecostal Churches of the Apostolic Faith (PCAF) when he was filled with the baptism of the Holy Ghost at Apostolic Faith Church in Lockport, Illinois, under the pastorate of Elder William Eley. There he served as janitor, youth chairman, Sunday School superintendent, trustee, and anything else his hands found to do. His leadership abilities did not take long to manifest, and his meekness and love for God did not go unnoticed.

Continued on Page 2 →

★ Happy Birthday Bishop Moore ★

On October 8, 1965, Bishop D. Rayford Bell founded Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church in Joliet, Illinois, and placed Moore — just 26 years old — as its pastor, where he continues to this day. He is married to Tecola Williams Moore and they have five children: Jayme (Willie Berry), Gregory (Tracey), Robin, James, and Edyth (d. 2022, Melvin Campbell). The Moores also have eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He served as convention manager for several years and is currently president of D.R. Bell Apostolic Bible College. In 2020, after the death of Assistant Presiding Bishop Michael E. Ford, Sr., he was appointed to fill the remainder of Ford's term — the first time a former presider was brought back to office to serve once again. At the 65th International Holy Convocation in Palm Springs in 2022, Moore was honored with the permanent distinction of **Presiding Bishop Emeritus**.

In his desire to be an effective leader, Moore has vigorously pursued education, earning multiple degrees, including a Ph.D. and a Doctorate of Ministry. He is a published author, releasing *Legacy Leadership: A Christ-Centered Leadership Role for Today's Local Church* in 2019. He currently serves as diocesan of the Illinois State Council and is a member of the Executive Bishops Cabinet and Board of Bishops.



"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

— Psalm 37:25

THE PASTOR'S ALLIANCE PRESENTS



You're Invited!

A Birthday Celebration in Honor of **Bishop Moore**

Sunday, May 24, 2026

During Morning Service

Light Buffet • Fellowship Hall

An important announcement has been sent to all members in the Pastor's Alliance database. If you did not receive it, please contact [Ray Wesley](#) to be added.

“Everybody Say Glory!”

— Bishop J.E. Moore



Ray Wesley
a/k/a Sis. Judge
EDITOR

Letter from the Editor

Praise the Lord CTC!

Spring is here, and with it comes a beautiful call for renewal. Just as we see the earth waking up — trees budding, flowers blooming, the days growing longer, and the birds singing louder — God is calling us to a spiritual awakening. It is a season to clear out the old, refresh our spirits, and embrace the new things He is doing in our lives.

In this issue, we explore that very theme. You will find encouraging words on *Spiritual Spring Cleaning* and *Staying Effective*, reminding us to grow in faith and purpose. We also feature powerful testimonies of faith and endurance, including Dr. Veronica J. Crim’s reflection on being *Thirty Years and Still Standing*, and an inspiring look at Tiffany Cooper’s journey in early childhood ministry. Plus, we are blessed with a new series on *Creating a Firm Foundation* by Life Coach Elaine Harris.

On a personal note of celebration, CTC recently welcomed my mother, **Mother H. Rogenia Starks**, back to our fellowship! We are overjoyed to have her with us, especially as she prepares to celebrate her **90th birthday on May 4th**. God is so good! My sister, Elaine Harris, returned as well. Welcome!

My husband, John, and I are also celebrating God’s incredible faithfulness. As we mark the one-year anniversary of his successful brain surgery, our hearts are overflowing with gratitude. Truly, He is a healer, a keeper, and an on-time God.

Whatever season you find yourself in, I pray this issue encourages you. In spite of the storms of life, may you find peace in your heart and mind. Keep looking up — and always look for the “Son” shine!

— Ray Wesley, a/k/a Sis. Judge, Editor

CHRIST TEMPLE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH

† Our Mission

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

† Our Vision

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 60 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.

☀️ Featured on Morning Word



The following lesson was delivered live on **Morning Word**, a powerful early morning ministry hosted by our very own **Evangelist May Thurmond** on Facebook — Tuesday through Thursday at 5:30 a.m. Evangelist Thurmond recently featured a *Spring Cleaning* series, and we are blessed to share it with our readers here.



Spiritual Spring Cleaning

ELDER RODNEY COOPER

"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

— 2 Corinthians 7:1

We are in a natural season called spring, and one thing about spring is certain: spring brings cleaning. People open windows, throw out clutter, reorganize closets, and refresh their homes. But here is the truth — it is possible to have a clean house and a cluttered spirit.

God began to deal with me that just as we clean our homes, we must also clean our hearts, our minds, and our lives. Because over time, things build up — old habits, unforgiveness, hidden sin, emotional baggage, and spiritual neglect. And if we are not careful, we will carry last season's mess right into a new season.

Point 1: Identify the Clutter

Before you can clean anything, you have to identify what is dirty. In Psalm 139:23–24, David prays: *"Search me, O God, and know my heart..."* He invites God to expose what he himself cannot see. **What you do not confront, you will carry.**

Point 2: Remove the Contamination

Hebrews 12:1 instructs us to *"lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us."* God is calling for something deeper: **repentance, separation, and surrender.** You cannot carry sin and expect spiritual power. God cannot fully fill what you refuse to empty.

☀️ Morning Word — Spring Cleaning Series

Here is another lesson from the *Spring Cleaning* series, originally shared on **Morning Word** with Evangelist May Thurmond.

Spring Cleaning: Naturally & Spiritually



Corine Pitchford

Contributor — *From The Heart of Corine*

Renewal — The act of starting again or beginning something anew.

Growth — The process of increasing in size.

New Beginning — The point in time or space at which something begins.

Naturally: What Is Spring Cleaning?

Spring cleaning is the practice of thoroughly cleaning and organizing a home at the start of spring. It goes far beyond regular chores — the goal is to revitalize the home, improve hygiene, and create a more organized and welcoming environment.

The origins of spring cleaning are rooted in a variety of cultural traditions — from the Persian New Year (Nowruz) to the Jewish preparation for Passover. Today, it serves as a "home reset" — a way to start the warmer season fresh, while improving air quality, reducing allergens, and boosting mental well-being.

Common Practices: Declutter, Deep Clean, Seasonal Transition, Organize.

Benefits: Mental Clarity, Home Maintenance, and a Symbolic Fresh Start.

Spring Cleaning: Naturally & Spiritually — Continued on Page 5 →

← Continued from Page 4 — Spring Cleaning: Elder Rodney Cooper & Corine Pitchford

← Elder Cooper — Continued

Point 3: Replace with Righteousness

Cleaning is not only about removal — it is about replacement. In Matthew 12:43–45, Jesus warns that when an unclean spirit leaves and finds the house empty, it returns with seven others worse than itself. Replace gossip with prayer, replace fear with faith, and replace sin with Scripture. **A clean space must be a filled space.**

"Wash you, make you clean..."

— Isaiah 1:16

Spring is not just a natural season — it is a prophetic opportunity. God is ready to renew your mind, restore your heart, and refill your spirit — but you have got to be willing to say, *"Lord, clean me up."*



← Corine Pitchford — Continued

Spiritually: Spring Cleaning for Jesus

"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."

— Psalm 51:10

Just as we refresh our homes, spiritual spring cleaning involves decluttering our hearts and lives to create space for the Holy Ghost. Key actions include: Repenting, Turning from Hidden Sins, and Replacing Anxiety with Trust (Proverbs 3:5–6).

Spiritual Cleaning Practices:

- 1. Heart Examination** — Evaluate your life for clutter such as envy, selfishness, discontentment, and impatience, and ask God to cleanse these attitudes. *Prov. 14:30 • Phil. 2:4 • 1 Tim. 6:6–8 • Isa. 40:31*
- 2. Purify Your Temple** — Focus on cleansing your soul, the home of the Holy Ghost, by identifying habits that hinder your walk with God. *Isa. 1:16*
- 3. Repentance & Renewal** — Confession and reconciliation to remove spiritual dirt, aiming for a clean heart. *Acts 3:19*
- 4. Study the Word** — Dedicate time to reading and meditation. *Ps. 119:105*
- 5. Release Anxiety** — Actively let go of worry and trust in God's provision. *1 Pet. 5:7*

Scriptures of Encouragement:

"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth... I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert." — Isa. 43:18–19

"The winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come." — Song of Sol. 2:10–13

*It's Spring Cleaning Time — Naturally and Spiritually.
May God bless each of you in Jesus' name.*

Editor's Note: Corine Pitchford is a regular contributor to The CTC Times. Her column, **From The Heart** ❤️ **of Corine**, will resume next issue.

☀ Morning Word – Spring Cleaning Series

Here is another powerful lesson from the *Spring Cleaning* series, originally shared on **Morning Word** with Evangelist May Thurmond.



Spiritual Spring Cleaning: Alignment

EVANGELIST MARLENE JONES • JOHN 15:1-2

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."

— John 15:1-2

Spring is a season where we naturally clean, reorganize, and make room for what is necessary. But what we do naturally, we often neglect spiritually. Over time, our lives accumulate things – habits, distractions, even good things – that slowly shift us out of place. And that brings us to this idea of **alignment**.

Alignment is when everything in your life is positioned where it was designed to be, so it can function as intended.

Think about a car out of alignment – it pulls to one side, things wear down faster. Nothing is broken, but something is out of place. Many lives are like that spiritually: still moving, still active, but something feels off.

The Plumbline

Scripture gives us a picture in Amos 7:7-8: *"The Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand."* A plumbline determines whether something is straight or leaning. Israel's worship was active but not genuine – everything looked right on the outside, but it was misaligned internally.

God was measuring Israel against His standard. **The plumbline does not adjust to the wall; the wall must adjust to the plumbline.**

Spiritual Spring Cleaning: Alignment – Continued on Page 7 →

♪ PRAISE ♪

"Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!"

– Psalm 150:6

← Continued from Page 7 – *Spiritual Spring Cleaning: Alignment* by Evangelist Marlene Jones

The Process of Realignment

Spiritual spring cleaning is not accidental. It requires intentional response. There is a process we must walk through:

- **Recognition** (Lam. 3:40) – We become aware that something is off. There is a sense of resistance, a feeling that things are not functioning as they should.
- **Revelation** (Heb. 4:12) – God begins to show us what is out of place. He brings into view areas we may have overlooked or justified.
- **Removal** (Col. 3:8) – What does not belong cannot remain. This is where surrender becomes necessary.
- **Repositioning** (Matt. 6:33) – Things are placed back into proper order. Priorities are adjusted, focus is restored, and what was scattered is brought into alignment.
- **Reinforcement** (Luke 9:23) – Alignment is not something we achieve once; it is something we maintain through daily submission.

"Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me."

— Psalm 119:133

The Real Question

The more pressing question is not simply whether we are connected – many are connected. The more pressing question is whether we are *aligned*. We must ask: Is my time aligned? Are my priorities in the proper place? Are my desires aligned with God's will?

Both branches in John 15 are connected to the same vine. One appears full but produces little. The other has been pruned but produces more fruit. **The difference is alignment.** What God cuts determines how you grow, and how you grow determines what you produce.

"Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit."

— John 15:8

— THE PROCESS —

- *Recognition*
- *Revelation*
- *Removal*
- *Repositioning*
- *Reinforcement*

Incredible Moms

Women of faith, devotion, and loyalty — Readings for the Month of May

The Patience of Sarah

Genesis 17:11-17 • Hebrews 11:11

Abraham and Sarah were promised a son at ages near one-hundred. Sarah doubted at first, but “By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.”

If you are waiting on God to answer your prayer, combine your faith with patience. Like Sarah, judge Him faithful.

The Courage of Abigail

1 Samuel 25:2-42

Women of wisdom and courage are noted in the Old Testament. Abigail is one of them for the way she prevented David from committing a massacre. When Nabal’s wife heard of David’s plan she went to him, apologized for her husband with a peace offering, and begged him to avoid bloodshed. David accepted her gifts and courageous counsel and called off the attack.

Sometimes life calls for bold moves like Abigail’s. Wisdom plus courage will often bring godly results.

The Devotion of Hannah

1 Samuel 1:1-27 • 3:19-21

A woman of Israel had been childless for years but had faithfully prayed for a son. She even “made a vow” to God that if He would give her a son, she would dedicate him to God’s service. She gave her longed-for son to the Lord and to the priest. The boy named Samuel “grew in stature, and in favor both with the Lord and men,” and ultimately became God’s chief prophet in Israel — all because a mother was devoted to the Lord and kept her promise to Him.

Being devoted to God is not without sacrifice. But with such sacrifice comes blessing.

The Loyalty of Elizabeth

Luke 1

When it became time to name the firstborn son of the priest Zacharias, instead of customarily naming him after the father, Elizabeth, who had been barren, out of loyalty to God’s will through Gabriel and her husband, confirmed that the baby’s name would be John — who became John the Baptist.

Loyalty means choosing a priority that might be different than your personal preference. Loyalty to God always comes first.

Mother’s Day 2026 — First Lady Tecola Moore

First Lady distributed these as bookmarks to the mothers. (If you did not receive one, see Sister Elaine Harris.)

☀ **Morning Word — Spring Cleaning Series**

Another powerful lesson from the *Spring Cleaning* series, originally shared on **Morning Word** with Evangelist May Thurmond.



Spiritual Spring Cleaning: A Checklist for the Soul

EVANGELIST WILETTE COOPER • ECCLESIASTES 3:1

“To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”

— Ecclesiastes 3:1 (KJV)

Spring is a season of renewal — not just physically, but also spiritually. Just as we clean our homes, the Lord invites us to clean our hearts, minds, and lives. Physical clutter causes stress; a cluttered mind leaves no room for the Lord to move. With that said, let’s start our spiritual spring cleaning checklist:

1. Take Out the Trash *(Release What Weighs You Down)*

Focus: Letting go of emotional and spiritual baggage — *“...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us...”* (Hebrews 12:1)

A. Emotional Healing — *“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”* (1 Peter 5:7) — We often carry burdens God never intended us to keep. Unreleased pain becomes spiritual clutter. Give it to God intentionally. *Question: What baggage are you holding onto that God is asking you to release?*

2. Dust and Polish *(Renew and Protect Your Mind)*

Focus: Mental renewal and guarding your spirit — *“...be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...”* (Romans 12:2)

A. Renewing the Mind — *“...bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”* (2 Corinthians 10:5) — Your thoughts shape your life, and not every thought deserves access. Replace negative thoughts with truth: *“Whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report... think on these things.”* (Philippians 4:8). *Question: What thoughts in your life don’t align with God’s Word?*

B. Protecting Your Energy & Boundaries — *“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”* (Proverbs 4:23) — What you allow affects your spirit. Boundaries are spiritual protection, not rejection. Evaluate your influences — people, environments, and habits — and set limits where needed. *Question: What (or who) are you allowing to drain your spirit?*

Spiritual Spring Cleaning: A Checklist for the Soul — Continued on Page 10 →

← Continued from Page 9 – *Spiritual Spring Cleaning: A Checklist for the Soul* by Evangelist Willette Cooper

B. Forgiveness – “...forgiving one another... even as Christ forgave you...” (Colossians 3:13) – Forgiveness is freeing. Unforgiveness keeps you stuck in the past. Release resentment and choose to forgive both yourself and others. *Question: Who do you need to forgive so you can move forward?*

3. Deep Clean *(Inner Heart Transformation)*

Focus: True spiritual cleansing from within – “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10) – Surface change isn’t enough; God works at the root. Hidden issues eventually show up outwardly. Invite God into deeper areas and be honest about your internal struggles. *Question: What areas of your heart need renewal?*

4. Declutter & Realign *(Make Room for the Lord)*

Focus: Creating space for purpose and new beginnings – “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.” (Colossians 3:2)

A. Realigning with Purpose – “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart... and he shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6) – Misalignment creates confusion; God’s direction brings clarity. Evaluate your priorities and surrender your plans to God. *Question: What is the Lord calling you into in this new season?*

In Summary

Natural cleaning is an external transformation that refreshes your environment. Spiritual cleaning is an internal transformation that refreshes your mind, body, and soul. Do both, and you will create a full, meaningful reset for a new season – and you will experience, and not miss out on, what the Lord has planned for you. “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

B. Renewal & New Beginnings – “...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away...” (2 Corinthians 5:17) – God is always working to renew you. Letting go makes space for what’s next. Embrace change and step into your new season with faith. *Question: What new thing is the Lord trying to do in your life, but He’s just waiting for you to give Him room?*

Spiritual cleaning is an internal transformation that refreshes your mind, body and soul.

Closing Prayer – Continued on Page 29 →

✓ *A Checklist for the Soul*



Thirty Years and Still Standing: A Testimony of Faith, Migration, and God's Faithfulness

BY DR. VERONICA J. CRIM

"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

— Psalm 37:25

The decision to leave my homeland and migrate to the United States of America was one of the most impactful decisions I have ever made. Leaving an established career in the Civil Service, along with family and friends, was truly an act of faith. This week marks my 30th year, and I can truly say that the only reason that I am still standing and thriving is because God has been at the center of my pilgrimage.

Trinidad and Tobago is an English-speaking, twin island state in the southern Caribbean; approximately eleven (11) miles from Venezuela. The islands gained their independence from Britain on August 31st, 1962. As an oil-rich nation, citizens are guaranteed free education up to the tertiary level as well as state-sponsored health care. As a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-religious nation, made up primarily of Africans and East Indians in the diaspora, the diet consists of a flavorful mouthwatering mix of spices, pastry, sea food and meat wild as well as domesticated.



"This week marks my 30th year, and I can truly say that the only reason that I am still standing and thriving is because God has been at the center of my pilgrimage."

The most profound adaptation I faced was relinquishing my tropical clothing for coats and boots. Implanted indelibly in my memory was the first time I saw snowflakes. Nothing could have prepared me for life in the Windy City – with its unbelievable accumulation of snow and the arduous task of shoveling it, which, incidentally, I still do today.

I was able to successfully navigate life in a different culture because of my upbringing. Trinidadians are resilient individuals with a rich and complex heritage of adapting to change with positivity and self-determination. My early grounding as a Christian fueled my ability to surmount obstacles by trusting implicitly in Jesus Christ, and through complete dependence on His Holy Spirit to lead and guide me in all areas of my life.

God used every obstacle I faced as stepping stones, and this nation became a launching pad – granting me the privilege of impacting lives in the United States, several African nations, Israel, England, and Turkey.

To God be the glory.

The story continues next issue.



Staying Effective

ELDER BRANDON TRAVIS •
YOUTH PASTOR

“Iron sbarpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”

— Proverbs 27:17

Lesson 1: The Principle of Sharpening

Elder Travis introduces the core metaphor of iron sharpening iron: true refinement occurs through interaction with influences of similar or greater strength. Our spiritual development is shaped by the people and environments we choose. We cannot grow if our primary influences do not challenge us to a higher standard.

Lesson 2: The Necessity of Friction

Friction is indispensable for refinement. Growth comes through challenging experiences. God often uses the very situations we pray to be delivered from as instruments to mold us into His intended design.

“Consider it pure joy... whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”

— James 1:2–4

Lesson 3: Divine Placement & Ordered Steps

True effectiveness comes from aligning our steps with God’s will. Like Adam, who was placed in the Garden by God, we must allow Him to order our path rather than pursuing our own “sloppy steps.”

“The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him.”

— Psalm 37:23

Lesson 4: Relationship vs. Religious Routine

Elder Travis draws a critical distinction between a genuine relationship with God and mere religious routine. The “middle wall of partition” has been broken, granting us free access to God’s presence. Staying on the “outside” hinders our effectiveness.

Lesson 5: Faithful Wounds & Mutual Strength

True friends offer painful but necessary correction. A challenging word from a trusted friend can redirect our path toward God’s will. This mutual sharpening is essential for maintaining effectiveness.

“Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.”

— Proverbs 27:6

Lesson 6: The Ultimate Effectiveness — Jesus Christ

The sermon culminates by presenting Jesus Christ as the ultimate example of effectiveness and endurance. Christ’s effectiveness was not diminished by suffering; it was proven through His endurance of the cross — all for the “joy that was set before him.” This calls believers to “hold out” through their own pain and rain, understanding that suffering with Christ ultimately leads to reigning with Him.

“Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross...”

— Hebrews 12:2

“Staying Effective” is a journey of intentional spiritual growth and divine alignment. Let us commit to sharpening one another and running the race with endurance.



Tiffany Cooper

A Journey of Faith, Education & Early Childhood Ministry

Colossians
3:23-24

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

— Colossians 3:23–24 (NIV)

Tiffany Cooper’s testimony captures a profound truth about the intersection of faith, vocation, and personal growth. For many educators — especially those working in early childhood — the classroom is not just a workplace; it is a mission field.

The Challenge of the Stretch

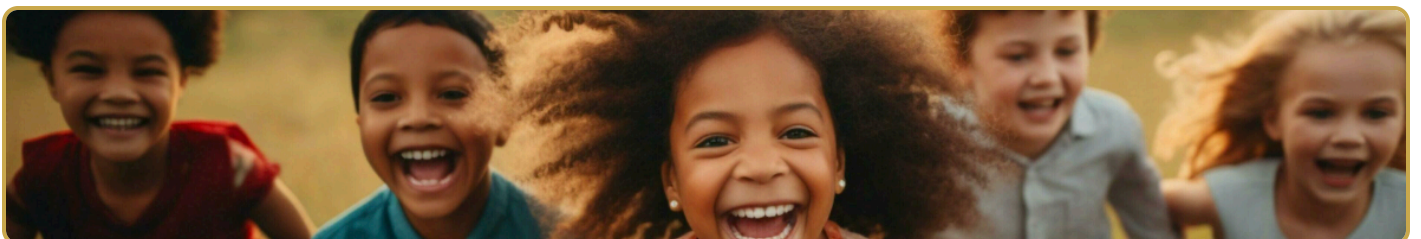
When we feel stretched beyond our natural capacity, we are forced to rely on supernatural grace. The tiredness and the trials are not signs of failure — they are invitations to lean on God. *“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’”* (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Growing While Sowing

The knowledge Tiffany gains is immediately sown back into the lives of the children and families she serves — a beautiful cycle of receiving and giving. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us to *“start children off on the way they should go.”* The work of an early childhood educator is foundational.

Going back to school has been both exciting and challenging for me. As someone working full-time with infants and toddlers, balancing my job, schoolwork, and personal life hasn’t been easy. There are days when I feel overwhelmed trying to meet deadlines, complete assignments, and still give my full attention to the children and families I serve.

Continued on next page →



← Continued — *A Journey of Faith, Education & Early Childhood Ministry* by Tiffany Cooper

At the same time, this journey has been so rewarding. Every class helps me grow, not just as a student, but as a teacher. I find myself bringing what I learn right into my classroom — being more intentional, more reflective, and more confident in my role. It reminds me why I started this path in the first place.

Spiritually, going back to school has grounded me differently. It has taught me patience, discipline, and faith — especially on the days when I feel stretched thin. I've learned to trust the process, lean into purpose, and recognize that this journey is bigger than just me. It's about walking in what I feel called to do and becoming who I'm meant to be, both professionally and personally.

Going back to school has pushed me, stretched me, and sometimes even tired me out — but it's also helped me grow mentally, professionally, and spiritually. In the end, the trials are real, but the joy of growing into the educator I want to be makes it all worth it.

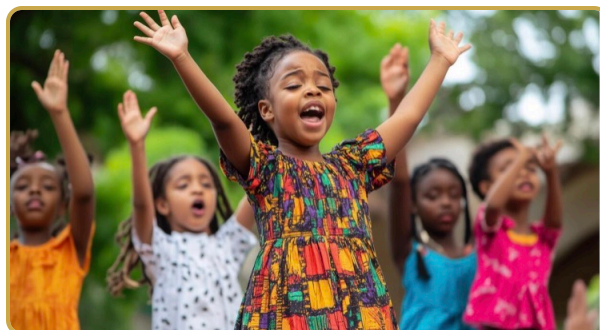
— *Tiffany Cooper*

Grounded in Purpose

The journey has taught patience, discipline, and faith — leading to a deeper trust in the process. *“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”* (Ephesians 2:10)

The Joy of Becoming

For anyone walking a similar path, let Tiffany’s testimony serve as an encouragement. The late nights, the early mornings, and the moments of feeling overwhelmed are not in vain. They are the fertile soil in which God is growing your character, expanding your capacity, and equipping you for the vital work He has called you to do. Lean into the purpose, trust the process, and embrace the joy of becoming.





Elder RD Cooper

It's Time to Stand on Business

2 Thessalonians 2:15

“Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.”

— 2 Thessalonians 2:15

I am so grateful for this rich Apostolic heritage — a legacy that began in our family with two aunts going to Sunday school, and now, five generations later, we are still in this church, still upholding this rich inheritance.

Apostolic Heritage & Responsibility

For Apostolic people, history is more than celebration — it is responsibility. We inherited Acts 2:38 salvation, the Name of Jesus in baptism, the infilling of the Holy Ghost, holiness as a lifestyle, and prayer as a discipline. They did not have comfort — but they had conviction.

Holiness Has Always Been Counter-Cultural

Holiness is not a church culture. Holiness is a biblical doctrine. *“Be ye holy... for I am holy.”* (1 Peter 1:15–16). This is not about being strict. This is about being **distinct**.

Apostolic Depth Was Built on Spiritual Disciplines

Power did not come from style. Power came from spiritual discipline. *“They continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine... and in prayers.”* (Acts 2:42). When discipline decreases, power usually decreases with it.

Black Apostolic History: Faith Under Pressure

Black Pentecostal believers held to holiness and Spirit-filled worship during times of segregation, economic hardship, and social injustice. Conviction creates stability, and stability produces strength.

The Closing: The Cross

Jesus stood on business. He stood when they mocked Him. He stood when they nailed Him to the cross. He did not come down. Because if He came down, we could never stand up. Early Sunday morning, **He got up** — with all power in His hands.

It's time to stand on business!





I Was Born for This

A MESSAGE BY BISHOP TROY DOCKERY

“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, by the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever.”

— 1 Peter 1:23

“Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world, and this is the victory — even our faith.”

— 1 John 5:4

Bishop Dockery’s urgent message centers on identity — specifically the danger of believers losing their kingdom identity in this present age. He declares with conviction: **“I was born for this.”** And he calls every believer to embrace that same declaration.

1. The Enemy’s New Strategy: Spiritual Amnesia

The devil’s new weapon is causing believers to *forget* who they are — forgetting God’s past provision while being overwhelmed by present problems. When we forget God has already brought us through before, the enemy has gained dangerous ground.

2. Your Kingdom DNA

Being born again means the old, corrupted spiritual DNA was replaced with incorruptible seed — God’s own DNA. We are not products of our circumstances; we are children of the Most High God.

3. God Is Not Bound by Time

Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God cannot show up late — He is already at every place you are going and everywhere you have been. What God did before, He will do again.

4. Don’t Lose Yourself to Pride

Bishop Dockery cautions against getting “too big for yourself” — acting as though you delivered or healed yourself. Every victory belongs to God, and He will always redirect those who drift from giving Him glory.

5. Wisdom in How We Share Our Faith

He urges believers not to be so dogmatic that they shut the door on communication with those who may have less revelation. Using the example of Apollos, who preached mightily with limited information and was then shown a more excellent way, he encourages believers to lead with love and wisdom — bringing people into greater truth rather than dismissing them.

“Hold on to what you have. Build on it. Get stronger in it. And use wisdom when you share it.”

— Bishop Troy Dockery

Stand firm in who you are in God — chosen, anointed, and born not by accident, but by divine purpose — **for such a time as this.**

By Elaine Harris, Life Coach

Keep a Positive Attitude



Some people are surprised by the idea that a person's mental state affects their academic performance. Just like mental attitude can affect a golfer's or basketball player's playing ability, mental attitude can affect our learning ability. **How can you have a good attitude toward learning?**

One way is to realize that greatness is within you. Do your best to be and do your best.

It's believed that Henry Ford, the founder of the Ford Motor Company, said something like this: if you think you can, you're right. Or if you think you can't — you're right. What you think is very important.

Decide to do your best. Own your learning.

Do Your Assignments As You Get Them

- Stay current — it's easier to keep up than it is to catch up.
- Do your work correctly the first time. If you feel you don't have time to do something right, when will you have time to do it over?
- Do your best. Avoid thinking that a few lost points here and there won't matter. Just one point can make the difference between a B+ and an A-.
- Use class time wisely. If instruction ends early, complete your planner, organize your papers, start homework, or review the day's work.

Understand Assignments & Projects

- If your teacher gives you a rubric, follow it closely. Note the requirements and due dates, and check things off as you complete them.
- If there is no rubric, take good notes. Write down requirements and due dates.
- If you have a project, pace yourself. Don't wait until the last minute. Rushed work is never your best work.

Avoid Drama

- Resist the temptation to get involved in conversations or activities that pull you away from your goals.
- Quiet the voice that tells you that you don't have what it takes. *You do have what it takes.*

Ask Questions

- If you don't understand something, ask your teacher. While learning partners are valuable, for things you need to know how to do, your teacher is the best source.
- Think about your question before you ask it.

Get Organized & Stay Organized

- Keep classwork separated by subject. Color code if possible. Be prepared for class — getting supplies or homework after class begins should no longer happen in the 3rd Trimester.

You Can Do It: Finish Strong!

A COMPILATION OF DR. LYNN STARKS

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

— Jeremiah 29:11 KJV

Have you ever noticed that what you think about changes how you feel? It is true! Your brain is like a superpower. When you tell yourself, "I can do this," your brain helps you find a way. But if you say, "This is too hard," it becomes much harder to try.

Your attitude is like a little voice inside you. When that voice is happy and brave, it helps you grow. You do not have to look far to find greatness because it already lives right inside your heart and mind!

Every day, you have a choice. You can choose to do your very best. Whether you are reading a new book, solving a math problem, or helping a friend, every little step counts. Be proud of how hard you try!

A long time ago, a smart man named Henry Ford said something very special. He said that if you think you can do something, you are right! And if you think you cannot, you are also right. This means your thoughts are very powerful. They help decide what you will say and do.

As the school year gets closer to the end, it can be easy to feel tired. But this is the perfect time to focus and be your best self! Give it everything you have. Show your teachers and your family how much you have learned and grown.

Jeremiah 29:11 means God is thinking about you right now! He has wonderful plans for your life. So decide today to believe in yourself. Keep learning, keep trying, and finish strong!

Finish Strong

Some people pause, surprised to hear
That thoughts can shape the path we steer.
Just like an athlete on the court,
Or golfer seeking skill and sport,

The mind we carry every day
Can lift us up or block our way.
Your attitude, the voice inside,
Can be your strength, your helpful guide.

So how do you begin to grow?
By knowing what you need to know—
That greatness isn't far to find,
It lives within your heart and mind.

Do your best in all you do,
Be proud of what belongs to you.
For every step, both big and small,
Is built upon your effort's call.

As Henry Ford once said,
Simple words that still are read:
"If you think you can—you're right.
If you think you can't—you lose the fight."

Your thoughts hold power, strong and true.
They shape what you will say and do.
So choose to rise, to learn, to see—
The best version of who you can be.

And as the school year nears its end,
Let focus be your steady friend.
Finish strong—give all you've got,
Show all the growth that can't be taught.

Decide today, don't wait or roam,
Your learning journey is yours to own.

Pursue it!





Creating a Firm Foundation

Part 1 – Self Esteem

BY ELAINE HARRIS, LIFE
COACH

Have you ever been told that something is too hard for you? Or maybe, something like, “I was never good in Math, that’s why you’re not.” Or maybe “stop doing all of that, nobody cares.” As you’ve progressed through life, maybe no one affirmed your abilities; in some cases, they may not even have recognized them.

This article is for adults who have influence over children, be it as a parent, other relative, teacher, church member, or other trusted adult.

As parents and other caring adults, we are the child’s first teachers. When they start school, they are building on the foundation we – and primarily parents – have laid for them. When we think about this, we usually think of things like: they knew how to write their names, they knew their letters and colors, they knew their address and their mom’s name (it’s not “Mommy!”).

Something else to think about though – do your kids know you love them? Do they know you believe in them? Do they know they’re smart? You may say, “my child is not smart.” But think about it: how much have they learned since they were born? Mom, and many times Dad, you were their primary teachers!

Foundational Concepts

There are some concepts we should develop in order to foster an inward foundation. This foundation is not something we can readily see with our eyes; nevertheless, it’s still there. We have to be mindful of what we say to children because they are very impressionable. This is where our first foundational concept comes in.

Self-Esteem & Positive Self-Concept

Kids need to know that they’re ok. You show them this by:

- ✓ Complimenting them on things they do well
- ✓ Not comparing them to other kids, including siblings
- ✓ Showing them how to do things – rather than doing it yourself just because you can do it faster
- ✓ Asking how they feel about situations
- ✓ Giving them age-appropriate tasks: not too hard, not too easy, but just right
- ✓ Being approachable – let your kids know they can talk to you
- ✓ Demonstrating patience and not getting overly worked up when they mess up
- ✓ Helping them use sentences to express their feelings
- ✓ Showing them respect as people – kind tone, no shouting or name-calling
- ✓ Respecting their feelings as genuine
- ✓ Including them in appropriate conversations and plans
- ✓ Creating a warm environment for them to live in
- ✓ Teaching them manners; this will help them in life
- ✓ Telling them you love them

In the next issue, we'll take a look at the importance of having sound biblical knowledge.



Bishop Melvin Campbell

Never
Forsaken,
Never
Forgotten

Psalm 37:25

“I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.”

— Psalm 37:25 (NIV)

In this powerful message, Bishop Melvin Campbell explores the profound human fear of abandonment and the steadfast promise of God’s presence. The sermon draws a careful distinction between the *feeling* of being forsaken and the *reality* of God’s enduring faithfulness.

The Weight of Being Forgotten

The message opens by addressing the deep human pain of feeling forgotten — by a parent, a friend, or a spouse. When that feeling is directed toward God, it becomes what Bishop Campbell calls a “terrifying suspicion” that heaven has gone quiet. He validates this as a universal reality before the message begins to build.

David’s Testimony of Faithfulness

The heart of the message is anchored in Psalm 37:25, where David declares: “I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken.” This is not a classroom theory — it is a lived testimony from a man who experienced profound highs and devastating lows, and came out on the other side still trusting God.

Silence Does Not Equal Absence

“The silence of God is not the absence of God.” Using the story of Joseph — thrown into a pit and sold into slavery — Bishop Campbell illustrates that what looks like abandonment is often the very place where God is doing His most redemptive work.

Feelings vs. Facts

The sermon challenges listeners to “preach the facts to yourself” when isolation sets in, anchoring themselves in Hebrews 13:5: “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee” — a promise as unwavering as a lighthouse keeper’s duty to keep the light burning through the darkest storms.

The Ultimate Price of Presence

The theological climax centers on the crucifixion. Jesus cried out, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46), absorbing the full weight of divine abandonment — so that we would never have to bear it. This is not a fair-weather commitment. It is a blood-bought vow.

Conclusion

God’s presence is not a feeling to be chased — it is a steadfast reality, secured by the cross. The storms of life are inevitable, but the abandonment of God is impossible for those who belong to Him.

Never forsaken. Never forgotten.

Scripture Text: Psalm 37:25



JANUARY

- Patricia Lynn Starks – Jan. 2
- Tiffany Cooper – Jan. 15
- Trina A. Williams – Jan. 19
- James Lyons – Jan. 24
- Eric Wheat – Jan. 29

FEBRUARY

- Betty Slaughter – Feb. 1
- Dennis Slaughter – Feb. 7
- Sherryl E. Ryan – Feb. 19
- John Wesley – Feb. 26

MARCH

- Marlene Jones – Mar. 6
- Jarryd Huggins – Mar. 24
- Malik Anderson – Mar. 25
- Malachi Anderson – Mar. 25

APRIL

- Eunice L. Jones – Apr. 6
- Larry Smith – Apr. 8
- Adrian L. Logan – Apr. 14
- Nicole Jones-Davis – Apr. 17

MAY















- Mother H. Rogenia Starks – May 4
- Xavier Jones – May 5
- Jacqueline Tanzy – May 7
- Natasha Banks – May 8
- Simeon Anderson – May 10
- Elder Taylor Warren – May 11
- Veronica Crim – May 12
- Rebecca Travis – May 12
- ★ Bishop J.E. Moore – May 24 ★
- Betty Robinson – May 30
- Brian Patrick Walker – May 31



Announcements & Church News

Our Ministries

Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church – Joliet, IL

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



Are you plugged in?

Plugging in is a chance to serve, go and grow!

Announcements & Church News – Continued on Page 24 →

We believe

the Bible is the inspired, infallible word of God written by Holy Men of God as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (II Peter 1:21). We believe that Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary as the only begotten Son of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).



We believe

in one God who is infinite in power, Holy in nature, attributes and purposes, omniscient and omnipresent (Ephesians 4:1-6). We believe that He was revealed to us in His comforting grace which never leaves those who trust Him (Titus 2:11-14).

THE ILLINOIS STATE COUNCIL OF THE PCAFI

SPRING COUNCIL

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026 - SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

SPEAKERS:

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026 @ 7:00 PM CST
Evangelist Virginia Bouie
Transformation Apostolic Ministries, Washington Park, IL

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026 @ 7:00 PM CST
District Elder Ladell Myrick
Deliverance Temple Apostolic Church, Champaign, IL

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026 @ 6:00 PM CST
Elder Christopher Chaney
Christ Temple Church, Bloomington, IL

HOST CHURCH:
MT. ZION APOSTOLIC CHURCH
Springfield, IL
Host Pastor: Bishop Jonathan Franklin

LOCATION:
UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
1405 E Monroe Street
Springfield, IL

HOTEL:
NORTHFIELD INN SUITES AND CONFERENCE CENTER
3280 NORTHFIELD DRIVE
SPRINGFIELD, IL
ROOM RATE: \$98 PER NIGHT GROUP: ILLINOIS STATE COUNCIL

OVERSEER JULIETTE HICKS, STATE ADMINISTRATOR
DISTRICT ELDER LADELL MYRICK, ASSISTANT COUNCIL CHAIRMAN
BISHOP-ELECT MELVIN CAMPBELL, SR., COUNCIL CHAIRMAN
BISHOP J.E. MOORE, DIOCESAN

zelle ISCSECRETARY2016@YAHOO.COM
givelify ISCSECRETARY2016@YAHOO.COM
ILLINOIS STATE COUNCIL OF THE PCAFI

THEME: TOTAL SURRENDER | SCRIPTURE: Luke 9:23

We believe

that in Jesus Christ dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily “for it pleased the Father that in Him should all the fullness dwell”. He is the Son of the Living God (Colossians 1:12-20).



We believe

in the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:1-9). We believe that He ascended into heaven and has sent the Comforter from the Father. This is the Spirit of truth which was poured out at Jerusalem over nineteen hundred years ago and is still filling the hearts of those who diligently seek Him today (John 15:26, Acts 2:4).

← Continued from Page 23 – Announcements & Church News

Message Recap

“The Answer is Knocking at the Door”

Scripture Reference: Acts 12:16

The Power and Necessity of Prayer

Prayer remains the key and our vital connection with God. Daniel faced threats because of his commitment to prayer (Daniel 6), and Jeremiah emphasized seeking direction through extended seasons of prayer.

We are called to pray to know the mind of God, to seek His direction, and to ask for healing. As God opens new platforms and opportunities in our lives, we must simultaneously extend and deepen our private altars of prayer.

The Praying Church

The apostolic church must be characterized as a church of prayer — no one is exempt. When the church prays, great things happen, and the preaching of the Word has free course.

Ultimately, Jesus has the final word over every situation.

Deliverance in the Midst of Opposition

The story in Acts 12 illustrates God’s miraculous power. Despite 16 guards, chains, and being held in the inner prison, the church was earnestly praying. Peter was found sleeping — trusting and at peace, embodying the spirit of Psalm 27: “Whom shall I fear?”

The enemy may try to chain you, but those chains will fall off. Even the iron gate had to recognize the power of God and open on its own accord (Acts 12:11).

Believe and Receive

*“What we have been praying for is already knocking at the door. We must hear, believe, and be open to what God is doing. Choose to trust and believe today — **your answer is knocking at your door.**” — Acts 12:13–15*

National Day of Prayer

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

Observed annually on the first Thursday in May, the National Day of Prayer invites people of all faiths to pray for our nation. As believers, we are called to intercede for those in authority and stand in the gap for our land.

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” — 2 Chronicles 7:14



† CTC Will Be Praying in the Temple

Join us as we seek the face of God together throughout the day:

6:00 a.m. — Morning Prayer

12:00 Noon — Midday Prayer

7:00 p.m. — Evening Prayer Service

Coordinated by *Evangelist Jacqueline Bell*

Announcements & Church News — Continued on Page 24 →

← Continued from Page 24 – Announcements & Church News

★ Save the Date: Pentecost Sunday 2026

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2026 • 5:00 PM (CT)

Join the saints of the **Illinois State Council of the PCAFI** for a powerful Pentecost Sunday Celebration! Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church is honored to be a part of this special gathering.

Speaker: Bishop Jonathan L. Pulliam, Sr.

Host Church: Outpour Worship Assembly
10708 S Vincennes Ave, Chicago, IL 60643

Host Pastor: Senior Pastor Angela Abrams



Gather your family, invite someone, and let's fill the house! You don't want to miss this! 🔥

#PentecostSunday2026 #HolyGhostFire



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✉ Donate By Mail

Send your check or money order payable to:
Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church
212 Richards Street, Joliet, Illinois 60433
Include any specific instructions or designations for your gift.

🎁 In-Kind Gifts

Have specific items to donate? Contact us and we will discuss what is needed and match your gift with the area of greatest need.
ctcjoliet@gmail.com
(815) 722-3503

← Continued from Page 25 – Announcements & Church News

ETA Training 2026

Saturday, May 9, 2026 • 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

The session will be held **in person**, with **Zoom access** provided for those who cannot attend onsite. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

ISC May Council

May 14–16, 2026 • Host Pastor: Bishop

Jonathan Franklin, Springfield, IL

Thu: Evg. Virginia Bouie (7pm) | **Fri:** D/Elder

Ladell Myrick (7pm) | **Sat:** Elder Christopher

Channey (6pm)

Global Missions — Fish Fry

Sunday, May 17, 2026

Support Global Missions at our annual Fish Fry! Come hungry and come ready to give. Details to follow.



Pastor's Alliance — Bishop's Birthday Celebration

Sunday, May 24, 2026 • During Morning Service

The Pastor's Alliance will sponsor a birthday celebration for **Bishop Moore** during the morning service, followed by a **light buffet in the Fellowship Hall**. An important announcement has been sent to all members in the Pastor's Alliance database. If you did not receive it, please contact a member to be added and receive future updates.

CTC Global Missions — Haiti Sewer Project

We are collecting monetary donations to help repair the sewer system at our partner church in Haiti (**Bishop D'aout**). The total project cost is **\$1,647**. Those who would like to contribute may see **Deacon Cedric Cooper**.

Join the Choir!

The newly revamped choir is looking for members! If you love to sing and want to be part of a vibrant and uplifting musical community, please contact **Evangelist Thurmond** or **Elder Anderson**.



Welcome May Blessings

*May you be happy
May you be well
May you be safe
May you find comfort
May you have strength
May you have courage
May you find healing
May you have peace
May you have joy
May you be filled with loving kindness
May you be blessed today and always*

← Continued from Page 26 – Announcements & Church News

Church Calendar App

Stay up-to-date with all church events by downloading the **Teamup** calendar app from your Apple or Google Play Store.
teamup.com/ksdn8rwm8a2knjyrp2

Daily Prayer Line

Join us for the daily prayer line every **weekday morning from 6:00 AM – 6:15 AM**. A great way to start your day with reflection and intention.

Monday Bible Reading

Every **Monday evening from 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM**, the youth gather for a Bible reading session, deepening their understanding of the Scriptures. All are welcome!

Third Saturday Outreach

On the **third Saturday of every month**, our youth go out to distribute tracts and share their faith with the community. Come be a part of this powerful outreach!

CTC Youth Auxiliary – Annual Youth Revival & Youth Day

May 28–31, 2026

Mark your calendars for a powerful time of worship, revival, and celebration with our youth! More details to come.

PCAFI 2026 IHC GROWTH Conference

July 24–29, 2026 • Orlando, FL

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

★ Women's Prayer Retreat – Save the Date!

October 29–31, 2026

Mark your calendars and begin preparing for a powerful time of prayer and fellowship! Payments can be made now via **Givelify** – please reference: *Women's Prayer Retreat*. A **\$100 non-refundable deposit** is required to secure your spot.

The CTC Times Needs You!

Do you have a testimony, article, poem, or announcement you'd like to share with the congregation? The CTC Times is always looking for contributors. Contact the editor for submission guidelines.

← Continued from Page 10 – *Spiritual Spring Cleaning: A Checklist for the Soul* by Evangelist Willette Cooper

† Closing Prayer †

Lord God, in the name of Jesus, we come humbly before You. We thank You for Your mercy and for what You have done in our lives. If there be anything in us that is unlike You, release it right now. Help us to take out the trash in our spirit – every weight, sin, fear, bitterness, and disappointment. Give us grace to forgive and to walk in newness of life.

Renew our minds by Your Word. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Declutter our lives, realign our priorities, and order our steps. Make room in us for what You are doing in this new season. Help us to live a holy and clean life that is prepared and ready for Your purpose. In Jesus' name, Amen.

We believe

in Baptism with water by immersion in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and in the Baptism of the Holy Ghost speaking in tongues, as the spirit of God gives utterance. This constitutes “THE NEW BIRTH” (Acts 2:38).



Remembering the Fallen

A Memorial Day Reflection • May 26, 2026

Each year on the last Monday of May, the United States pauses to honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to this nation. Memorial Day is not merely a holiday — it is a sacred act of remembrance.

Flags fly at half-staff until noon, taps echo across cemeteries, and families gather at graves adorned with flowers and small American flags.

For the believer, this day carries a deeper resonance. Scripture teaches that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for another (John 15:13). Those who made the ultimate sacrifice embodied a principle that echoes the very heart of the gospel. Their courage, their selflessness, and their willingness to stand in the gap for others reflect a love that transcends the battlefield.

As a church, we honor their memory. We pray for the families who carry the weight of loss. We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy — freedoms that were purchased at great cost. And we are reminded that the liberty we hold dear in this nation is a shadow of the greater liberty purchased for us by the blood of Jesus Christ.

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

— **John 15:13**

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”

— **Galatians 5:1**

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.”

— **Psalms 33:12**

**We honor those who served.
We remember those who fell.
We pray for those who grieve.**

Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church • Joliet, IL

Are You Washed in the Blood?

Words & Music by Elisha A. Hoffman, 1878

VERSE 1

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing pow'r?
 Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
 Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour?
 Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

VERSE 2

Are you walking daily by the Savior's side?
 Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
 Do you rest each moment in the Crucified?
 Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

VERSE 3

When the Bridegroom cometh will your robes be
 white?
 Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?
 Will your soul be ready for the mansions bright,
 And be washed in the blood of the Lamb?

VERSE 4

Lay aside the garments that are stained with sin,
 And be washed in the blood of the Lamb;
 There's a fountain flowing for the soul unclean,
 O be washed in the blood of the Lamb!

♪ CHORUS ♪

*Are you washed in the blood,
 In the soul-cleansing blood of the Lamb?
 Are your garments spotless? Are they white as snow?
 Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?*

"The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

— 1 John 1:7

Editor's Note: "Let's not forget the old hymns of the church."



Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Church of Joliet

Bishop J.E. Moore, pastor

Welcome

We're Glad You're Here!

212 Richards Street

Joliet, IL 60433

(815) 722-3505 • ctcjoliet@gmail.com • (815) 722-1117 (Fax)

www.ctcjoliet.com

Streaming Live on Facebook & YouTube

[@ctcjoliet](https://www.facebook.com/ctcjoliet)

We believe

in the Holy sanctified life, (Hebrews 12:14) divine healing, (James 5:14) communion and washing of feet (John 13:4-17, Corinthians 10:23-28 and 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17).



We believe

in the glorious catching away of the saints (rapture) to meet the Lord in the air, to ever be with the Lord. We believe in not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some and our purpose is to worship God, evangelize the unsaved, equip the saints and train them for service (Hebrews 10:25; Ephesians 4:11-13).



One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism