

# The Praise Report

The Newsletter of Ujima Village Christian Church

Rev. Dr. J.R. Norwood, Pastor  
1001 Pennington Road \* Ewing, New Jersey



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UjimaChurch.org

## Community Day 2019... A Wonderful Success! By Sister Sandy Baez

It was a spectacular sunny day for the 2019 Community Day Celebration. We are indeed grateful to Mother Goodman who, despite her health battles, continued to labor so diligently to ensure Community Day was a blessing to both our Community and to Ujima Church. She never fails to provide us with the opportunity to bring us all a little closer together in Jesus name!

The Setup Crew worked diligently to bring out the tables and supplies, set up tents and hang up sign, and of course set up the grill. Our very own six year old Christopher Weeks worked energetically to bring out and set up all the folding chairs for the vendor and dining tables all by himself! BRAVO!!

On the grill, we had Deacon Pamela Hill, Sister Gayle Snead, and Acolyte Johnny Weeks. Sister Destiny Weeks not only worked the popcorn machine and distributed popcorn, but later in the afternoon she blessed us with a praise a worship dance. BRAVA!!

Minister Diggs, from Philadelphia, was our Master of Ceremony and, once again, was used by the Holy Spirit to work through him to keep everyone focused on praising and worshipping the Lord! We had prayer every hour for our country, our community, our community leaders, and our congregation.

As always, every person who attended Community Day received a gift bag with toys and sweets for the kids, tracks and witnessing material for the teens and adults and tickets for free food for everyone. Our First Lady, Tanya Norwood, also facilitated Biblical Trivia games for adults and children. Those who answered the questions correctly got to select a very special gift.

This year's vendors provided a range of offerings from clothing to jewelry. We were also thrilled to have Ujima's new partner, Le Petite Infant and Child Care, join us. Mrs. Ruby Smith provided information on her childcare facility. The Ewing Fire Department participated in our Community Day as well, speaking to the children and adults about fire safety. They also allowed the children and adults to sit in their firetruck. The kids had a great time in the Bouncy Castle as well as doing crafts and playing games. Senator Shirley Turner popped in as she has faithfully done every year.

A special SHOUT OUT to our UJIMA BIKER BOYZ (members of the Brotherhood of Mighty Men – Rev. Pannielle, Brother Cliff Rawls, and Brother Darryl Rawls). They rode their motorcycles to Community Day, attendees we were able to sit on the motorcycles and take photos.

God bless all who attended! Thank you again Mother Goodman, for your commitment to our community and your Ujima Village Christian Church Family! May God keep you and continue to Bless You!



## **The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation Pow Wow**

By Sister Naomi Cullum

Wide-open space, plenty of green grass and an abundance of delightful sun provided the backdrop of the annual “Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation Pow Wow.” Held on both Saturday and Sunday- June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, this event compelled multitudes along the East coast to venture out to the Salem County Fairgrounds (Salem, NJ) to join in this celebration of Native- American culture...and what an exciting day it was!

The fairgrounds opened at 10AM with the “Grand Entry Processional” (of various tribes) scheduled to begin at 12PM. Seating consisted of open bleacher areas as well as designated tented sites- that prompted people to bring their own chairs.

While awaiting the “Grand Entry” kick-off, the audience was treated to beautiful, melodic music by a talented flutist. Something about his choice of music exuded such an aura of peace/calm over the entire atmosphere. A poignant prayer followed this musical selection. Then came that highly-anticipated moment when the tribes gathered to make their spectacular entrance. In a wide array of colorful, native regalia, the tribal procession followed the flag-bearers (flags represented the tribes and the U.S.). It was such a mesmerizing sight as the participants (including babies and children) proudly displayed their Native-American heritage in unity of voice and movement. The rest of the program involved a variety of dances and creative abilities. One fascinating performance was the utilization of five colorful hoops-by each individual on the field-to construct one, single circular figure.

In between the multiple events, there were opportunities to shop at a number of vendor stalls situated around the perimeter of the “arena.” On display, and available for purchase, were various items such as art, jewelry, clothing, incense and artifacts reflecting Native-American culture.

Of course, food areas were also available and sold such fare as: buffalo burgers, wild game sausages, tacos, nachos, assorted “frybread” dessert treats, ice-cream, etc. Of note, was a candy/snack concession stand run by a familiar face-Ujima’s own 1<sup>st</sup> Lady-Deacon Tanya Norwood. In an effort to raise funds for her tribal youth group, she bravely endured the heat of the day- and with a smile on her face!

Our own Pastor Norwood (who is a member of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape tribe) was also there at the vendor location to support his wife as well as his tribal nation. At times, he was also engaged in lively conversation with his tribal chief (Chief Gould) and others. At one point, he was even fielded interview questions (presumably regarding his tribe or the event) from a professor who apparently was motivated by a curiosity about this culture.

Overall, it was such a blessing to witness and support this event that recognized, honored and celebrated Native-American culture...and the heritage of our Pastor and First Lady.



## **27<sup>th</sup> Annual Ushers' Day**

By Sister Naomi Cullum

Ujima recently celebrated its 27<sup>th</sup> *Annual Usher's Day* with a lovely afternoon service. The theme was, "The Goodness of God"- taken from an excerpt of Psalms 27:13 [ ...]"I believe I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living"...].

Our exceptional ushers were beautifully attired in the colors of black and purple, while guest ushers (Usher's Council) complemented them in their black and white. During the "Grand March," these ushers were seen stepping in all their splendor!

Interspersed throughout the service were several inspirational songs-powerfully performed by the choirs of Ujima and Friendship Baptist Church (Trenton, NJ). Each choir utilized their own marvelous musicians who supplemented the renditions with their own unique gift.

Accompanied by several of his church members, as well as his choir, the guest speaker for this occasion was Dr. John Taylor-from Friendship Baptist Church. He brought his message from Nahum 1:7- reinforcing the anniversary theme of the goodness of God. He reminded the congregation that: a.) God is kind and merciful b.) God is there to bless, not punish c.) God is ever present and d.) God never fails...He is in control. Dr. Taylor also advised all to "wait on the Lord and He will see you through the impossible." He further suggested and concluded that everyone should "keep on trusting and obeying God."

This anniversary was notably one that was highly anticipated and well-attended. Observing these ushers, one can see that they obviously take special pride and joy in their service to the church. At the risk of sounding somewhat biased, Ujima ushers are among the very finest in our community. Always on the job with warmth and friendliness, they are most attentive and dutiful to the Ujima family, friends and visitors. That being said, the following are members of the senior usher board and certainly deserve our most hearty congratulations!

Sis. Dianne Watkins (Captain)  
Sis. Cynthia Solice (Captain)  
Steward Sheldon Ewing

Sis. Linda Rogers (Secretary)  
Sis. Patrica Panniel (Treasurer)  
Sis. Joan Blakely

Deacon Caleb Collins  
Sis. Marsha Ponder  
Sis. Tameekia Hardwick

Bro. Darryl Rawls



## **"Moving on Up"...Celebrating the Promotions of Ujima's Young Students** By Naomi Cullum

As another academic/school year ended, Ujima's young people were all blessed to be promoted to their next grade level! Realizing that there could be any number of issues and factors in place (which could serve to impede academic progress), we are especially proud of these young folks for pushing through any obstacles they may have faced.

To celebrate the occasion, a special recognition ceremony was held during a meal in our Fellowship Hall. At that time, Ujima teachers Deacon Tanya Norwood, Tameekia Hardwick and Trinity Norwood shared particular information on their respective classroom students. This info included such items as: their favorite subjects, what the students felt they needed improvement in and a scripture that they intended to remember by September. For many, the subject of Math appeared to be a favorite and behavior was cited as the area in need of improvement for several. The scriptures to be learned/remembered varied from student to student. Even students who were absent from the ceremony had something shared about them-as noted on previously recorded forms.

Certainly, we do congratulate all of these students for enduring a challenging school year. We are grateful to the parents- as well- for the support they gave to their children in enabling their success.

Not to be forgotten, we also thank the fine, Ujima classroom teachers for providing weekly, Biblical instruction to their students as they simultaneously navigated public/private school instruction.

Again, the Ujima Village Christian Church family is so very proud of all of you!!!



## **Our “Dinner and a Movie” Event**

By Sister Naomi Cullum

This recent event, sponsored by the “*Mighty Men of Ujima*” ministry, proved to be most enjoyable and fascinating! There was a lovely audience (with guests), a great, inspirational film and plenty of appetizing food (pizza, buffalo wings, tossed salad and assorted beverages).

The film for the evening was entitled, “*King’s Faith*,” and was so riveting that it held the attention of all the adults-as well as the youngest children who came. It followed the story of a recently released (and now, saved) felon/prisoner named King. It opens with King coming back to his hometown, but having to temporarily live under the supervision of a particular couple in the community. Immediately, it is seen that the family that he stays with are people of faith- with the wife having some struggle with the recent death of her son.



This young man, King, also faces struggles of his own: his former comrades (who are drug dealers) antagonize him about finding a drug supply that King purposely buried to keep off the streets. They constantly trail him, brutally beat him and much more—all in an effort to get a hold of these drugs. In the meantime, there is also a romantic relationship blossoming with a young lady (whose life King saved in a car accident) and who is attracted to the man that King is- especially in light of his past, challenges and hopes.

As a Christian, King is also seen leading an effort to build a place which offers positive outlets for children in the community....kind of an antithesis to/of what he was engaged in before.

Finally, as the Lord would have it, we see His intervention of justice and blessings in King’s life as he tries to do the right thing- despite the obstacles.

After the movie was over, Pastor Norwood delved a little deeper into the content- as it relates to Christian values and faith. Any follow-up questions or comments from the audience were also welcomed and encouraged. Overall, some great insights were shared and contributed to making this such a fine evening!

## **“A Biblical Response to Abortion”- The Seminar**

By Sister Naomi Cullum

On a Wednesday evening in July, Dr. John Norwood, Pastor of Ujima Village Christian Church, presented a dynamic and sobering one-night seminar on the subject of abortion-from a Biblical perspective. This two-hour session was free to the public and offered some amazing insights into this highly- controversial issue. Utilizing a huge assortment of commentary via slides, video, graphic images, medical expertise and most of all- Scripture, Pastor Norwood masterfully defended the sanctity and value of human life-from its very start in the womb.

Viewing some of those staggering images really brought home the reality of what it means to destroy innocent life (whether in embryonic or developing stages) with no thought beyond, “It’s my body, It’s my choice.” In reality, we saw that an unborn child is not really the woman’s body, but actually another body- in and of itself...it just resides in the woman’s body! That fact, alone, should offer much clarification to those who cling to the above-quoted notion.

It is truly important for Christians to have a Biblical stance on the subject of abortion because we live in a dark society where political views and social norms tend to impact judgement on this issue. The Word tells us that we ought to be ready to have an answer for/make a defense to anyone who asks us for a reason for the hope that is in us. (1Peter 3:15) Although that scripture may basically refer to our *salvation hope*...it also seems applicable to any other aspect of our faith- where we need to be ready to point out *why* we believe what we believe.

Without a doubt, Scripture offerings were- indeed-plentiful for this presentation. They, along with all the visual media, commentary, questions/answers and general discussion, made for a powerful argument for “pro-life.”

We thank Pastor Norwood for all his meticulous labor in pulling together such a wealth of information-all in an effort to educate this congregation and any others who attended.



## **“Eternity International Airport”**

By Sister Naomi Cullum

[A reflection & urgent message for **all** those who are unsaved-including my own family & friends]

Beloved,

One day we will all have to stand at a “Departure Gate” at Eternity International Airport-transitioning from this life to another (eternally). We all hold a one-way ticket-with destination Heaven (eternal life and joy) or Hell (eternal death and suffering).

### **For Destination Heaven- Prior Instructions:**

1. “Check-in” with Jesus by getting rid of the baggage of sin (through confession and repentance).
2. Receive the Lord Jesus, as Personal Savior (by submitting one’s life to Him—in service and obedience to His Word).
3. Embark on an amazing journey of Enlightenment- enjoying a unique relationship with Him. [Be sure to go to church and hear the Word- so that one may grow in grace].

John 14:6; “ I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

### **For Destination Hell- Prior Instructions:**

1. Ignore opportunities in one’s life to receive Christ as Personal Savior.
2. Remain content with oneself thinking, “Good works will get me to Heaven” or, “I’ve never done anything bad to anybody.”
3. Allow Satan to ensnare and deceive you as you yield to sin and darkness.

1 Peter 5:8; Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour.

**So, we have to ask ourselves: What ticket are we holding? What flight are we on?**

## **Artist’s Corner: Paintings by Nashea Flowers**

For color versions visit [www.UjimaChurch.org](http://www.UjimaChurch.org)



## **Vacation Bible School 2019** By Sister Naomi Cullum

Theme (Youth): ***In the Wild- “Amazing Encounters with Jesus” (Jn. 20:31)***

Theme (Adult): ***Amazing Encounters- “Digging Deeper: Understanding Scripture”***

During the first week in August, Ujima Village Christian Church held its annual Vacation Bible School studies. This year, utilizing the dynamic themes noted above, both adults and younger church members explored the character/person and the deity/nature of Jesus Christ.



Class categories and teachers included: 1.) *The Children's Class* (ages five- eleven)-taught by Sis. Shuquin Wimbush 2.) *The Pre-teen and Teen Class* -alternately taught by Deacon Tanya Norwood and Sis. Patricia Panniel 3.) *The Adult Class*-taught by Pastor Norwood. Each class had its own special area for instruction- as well as all the materials needed to ensure efficiency and success in lesson implementation. Due to a time constraint and the opportunity for others to give more perspective, actual content examination can be reviewed in another newsletter article.

To capture a glimpse of the goals/expectations of the teachers for their respective classes *and* to provide student comments /responses to those classes, the following questions were asked:

**Q1- What was the goal/intention of VBS (Vacation Bible School) 2019?** A- “To have a better understanding of *Christology* [the study of Christ-His nature/person]” -Pastor Norwood (Adult Class instructor); “To enlighten and enliven the Word of God. To have a special focus from the kids to consider God’s plan for their lives” – Deacon Tanya Norwood (Pre-teen/Teen instructor); “To get the children to learn about Jesus and remember something learned from the lesson” – Sis. Shuquin Wimbush (Children’s Class instructor)

**Q2- How would you measure the success of class/achievement of the goal?** A-“Everyone seemed interested and were engaging” – Pastor Norwood; “They gave a great presentation. They need to pursue God, but they can’t catch Him...He catches them!” – Deacon Tanya Norwood; “Some were leaders, others needed help-but all were willing! – Sis. Shuquin Wimbush

**Q3- Were there any memorable or unexpected moments?** A- “The study of Christ led to a question/discussion on the Trinity. It isn’t specifically mentioned (in the Bible) but definitely proclaimed!” – Pastor Norwood; “Having Nelson (Ruiz) in class...he held his own!” – Deacon Tanya Norwood; “I was impressed with the memory level of the children.” – Sis. Shuquin Wimbush

**Student Responses/Comments...** **Q- What will you remember about VBS 2019?** ANSWERS: “That God and Jesus is the same person.” – Sis. Kathy Rawls (Adult Class); “The true definition of the Gospel.” – Sis. Adelia Clark (Adult Class); “When (young) Jesus asked his parents why they were seeking Him and wouldn’t they know that He must be about His Father’s business”[An allusion to when Jesus’ parents thought Him to be lost as they traveled from Jerusalem to Nazareth. However, He was actually found lingering behind in the temple at Jerusalem.] – Jordan Everett (Teen Class); “Relating our lesson to real life/world problems. I’m passionate and would like to live the Word and incorporate it into daily lives.” – Malayna Cherry (Teen Class); “Doing the crafts”- Christopher Weeks (age six- Children’s Class); “Doing the crafts, reading and learning about Jesus.” – Riley Ivory (age eight-Children’s Class); “Doing the crafts.” – Isaiah Hardwick (age nine-Children’s Class)

Following the lessons on the last day of VBS, each class did a presentation in the Fellowship Hall over a tasty meal. Later, Deacon Tanya Norwood generously provided gifts to all teachers and student participants.

It was obvious that all had a great time with VBS 2019... the teachers were so masterful in implementing their lessons and the students enjoyed the learning experience!



## **The 2019 Ujima Village Christian Church Picnic**

**(2019-2020 Educational Theme: “Growing to Serve –Serving to Grow”)**

By Sister Sandy Baez

September 15, 2019 launched the 2019-2020 Educational Year at Ujima Village Christian Church. This year’s theme is “Growing to Serve–Serving to Grow”.

Many members of our congregation were elated to hear that the hiatus of our *Bible Study* and *Time for Truth* Studies was finally over! To kick-off the new educational year, Ujima held its annual “Church Picnic”- with such an overflow of energy and excitement! After the Morning Worship service, members and visitors gathered together on the church grounds in anticipation of this event.

Deacon Pamela Hill was at the grill cooking hot dogs and burgers- while young, Brother Johnnie Weeks, assisted in replenishing trays of those meats. Serving the tasty items behind the tables were: Sis. Panniell, Deacon Manning, Sis. Marsha and Sis. Gail. [Please forgive if any names were overlooked].

As the saints eagerly awaited the feast, Sister Sandy was at her home preparing Puerto Rican Meat Patties (empanadillas) at the request of Pastor Norwood. Other delicious dishes prepared by our congregation included: Spanish rice (Arroz con Gandules), various pasta salads, potato salad, fried chicken, assorted beverages, chips, deviled eggs and yummy desserts. The Puerto Rican Meat Patties were a huge success, but unfortunately, a few didn’t get to enjoy them. But no worries! Sister Sandy had planned to make special batches for those who missed out.

Also, toward the end of the picnic, we were blessed to join our Pastor and First Family in the celebration of the 30th birthday of their daughter, Sister Trinity Norwood. Trinity, Ujima’s Treasurer and Director of the *Jubilation Dance Ministry*, reached a wonderful milestone! Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday to an amazingly dedicated, talented, and loving woman of God.

Needless to say, all seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed themselves on that lovely, Sunday afternoon- a day that the Lord had made!



## **The Brotherhood of Mighty Men: Friends & Family Bowling Night**

By Sister Sandy Baez

The Brotherhood of Mighty Men hosted a Friends and Family Bowling event at Colonial Bowling alley in Lawrenceville, NJ on Saturday, June 1, 2019. Bowling participants included Brothers Darryl and Cliff Rawls, Sheldon Ewing, Jordan Everett, Nelson Ruiz, and Reverend Panniell. Additional guests and the team’s cheering squad included our Pastor Norwood and First Lady, along with Sisters Rawls, Camille and Carly Ewing, and myself. Although the guests were few, the event was extremely successful with lots of jokes, laughs, and family fun. **Congratulations to our very own Brother Jordan Everett, age 14**, who humbly and quietly conquered the Mighty Men by winning both bowling matches. Brother Jordan was successful in earning over 100 points in each of the two matches played, with over four strikes in each match. Oddly, as time ran out during the second match, the Mighty Men were not troubled when the time expired. Suffice it to say, Brother Jordan has been banned from future bowling nights by the Brotherhood of the Mighty Men until further notice.



## **“Friends are Hard to Come By” - A Special Delivery from Deacon Pamela Hill on Luke 5:17-26**

Synopsis by Sister Sandy Baez



Luke 5:17-26 is the story of how Jesus forgives and heals a paralyzed man. Throughout scripture, specifically the New Testament, we know that Jesus' mission on earth was to teach, heal, and save His people. Luke explains that Jesus was to heal and forgive those who sought the truth, the faithful and the repentant. In this story we learn that Jesus is in a crowded home filled with Pharisees and teachers from all of Galilee. The house was so crowded that this one paralyzed man, whom was being carried on a mat by his friends, was unable to enter the house. This man sought to meet Jesus so that he could be healed. His dedicated friends, despite their inability to enter the crowded house through the front door, carried the man to the roof of the house and lowered him down into the house in the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. At that moment Jesus forgave his sins. Yet, the Pharisees and teachers questioned Jesus and accused him of committing blasphemy. Their denial of Jesus' divinity was the norm and not surprising to Jesus. Jesus went a step further and proclaimed his divinity and birthright by stating the fact that “the Son of Man” has authority on earth to forgive sins and heal. He then commanded the paralyzed man to stand up and go home. The man did as he was instructed, stood up, picked up his mat, and praised God for the miraculous healing. Likewise, the crowd rejoiced and praised God.

As pointed out by Deacon Hill, this story is not just about healing and forgiveness. This story focuses on faith, love, and friendship, all of which are hard to come by, especially in our society today. In Deacon Hill's depiction (see photos) the friends were Brother Pessimistic, Brother Persistent, Brother Patient, and Brother Prayerful.

Luke writes about true friendship in his story of the paralyzed man; men who truly cared for him; men he trusted; men who showed up at the right time and were adamant to fulfill their mission and take their friend to see Jesus for healing and forgiveness. This type of friend is hard to come by. What about your friends? Deacon Hill further stated that in our society today there are many types of friends: personal, professional, platonic, and passing. She defined a friend as a person one knows. A trusted member of society that is valued. Yet many times we question the validity of a friend and wonder why a person wants to be a friend. A personal friend is someone who shows up at the right time. One who prays for you without seizing; fasts on your behalf; and no matter what “has your back”. A professional friend is not to be confused with a personal friend. Friendship is based solely on professionalism which has nothing to do with intimacy or personal traits. A platonic friend is a non-sexual friend. Platonic means spiritual, non-sexual, amicable, companionable and friendly. Society defines a platonic friend as a friend with benefits, but as Christians the truth is that there are no friends with benefits. These types of friends are called spouses. Last, there are passing friends, which are close friendships that don't last. They typically last for a season and move on. What about your friends?

As Deacon Hill pointed out, in Galatians 5:22-2 “the fruits of the Holy Spirit are love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control”. We must learn how to maintain our friendships with the fruits of the Holy Spirit or we will find ourselves having passing and/or toxic friends.

Additionally, we must realize that maintaining friendships is painful – “not fracture free”. Jesus had friends who denied and betrayed Him so we must be careful of passing friendships which can become toxic. Proverbs 27:17 (NIV) states “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” Toxic friends work to have you stray from God. True friends don't let friends go to hell. We must carry everything to God in prayer for God forgives and saves. The Lord is our healer, our redeemer, our savior, and our only true friend. Like the paralyzed man and his friends, we are called by Christ. We come to Him sick, paralyzed by sin, and unable to walk. Yet through His amazing grace and mercy we are forgiven and healed. What about your friends?



## 500 Women in Red Annual Fellowship Conference

By Sister Shuquin Windbush

Oh, what a blessing to be among Christian Women and to hear the word of the Lord being shared at the 500 Women in Red Annual Fellowship Conference at St. John Church of Camden, NJ. At the conference there were four dynamic speakers, one being our very own First Lady, Deacon, Evangelist Tanya Elzata Norwood. The theme was "There is Peace in the Blood" ***Colossians 1:20; And having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself, by Him, I say whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.***

Each woman took a part of the Bible verse and explained that no matter how difficult life can become, the blood of Jesus saves and covers us. The blood washes away our tears protects us makes us clean and whole again. Oh, how precious is the blood that was shed for us, the blood that will never lose its power. The precious blood, please let some drops fall on me.

I am so glad that the women of Ujima gathered in support of our beloved sister. God certainly used the all sharers as his vessel to bring his word. GLORY be to GOD!!!



# Storming Seas

## World Reformed Fellowship Conference 2019

In August, Pastor & First Lady Norwood attended the World Reformed Fellowship Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia. The theme was "Storming Seas." On September 11, Pastor Norwood made a multi-media presentation on their journey and on the conference. Indonesia is made up

of a chain of islands that are between Southeast Asia and Australia. It is the fourth most populous country in the world. 87% of all Indonesians are Muslim. 12.7% of all of the world's Muslims live in Indonesia. There are more Muslims in Indonesia than in all of the Islamic countries of the Middle East combined. The law allows for anyone to convert to one of the recognized religions, but attempting to convert a Muslim to Christianity can result in being persecuted. Reports from Indonesian missionaries, who for their security had to use alternate names to protect their identities and required that no photos be taken of them.

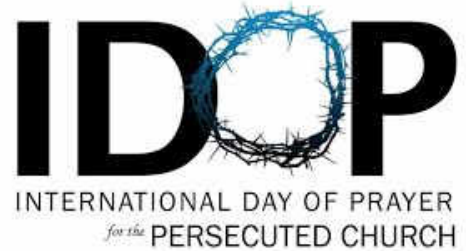
The World Reformed Fellowship (WRF) was hosted at the headquarters of the Reformed Evangelical Church of Indonesia's "Reformed Millenium Center." The sessions covered many issues confronting biblical Christianity around the world, with a major issue being many churches and denominations no longer following scripture in their policies and practices (referred to in the many presentations as "Biblical Amnesia"). To protect the WRF from the increased worldliness that is plaguing other church denominations, associations, and fellowships, the WRF business session unanimously approved: 1) The [WRF Theological Commission Statement of Reformed Theological Identity](#); 2) that those who violate the Statement may be removed from membership; and, 3) granted The WRF Board the authority to act on this.

The WRF, with which Ujima Village Christian Church is in membership, promotes Reformed thinking, a Reformed world and life view, fosters evangelism and strategies on missions, church planting and theological education, and promotes international communication for the further advancement of the Gospel. The people of God, with diversified cultural and ethnic backgrounds, are one in Christ. God has enabled WRF to express the unity of the church through cooperative agreements based upon the same Biblical, evangelical, and missionary vision.



## International Days of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

From OpenDoorsUSA.org and IDOP.org



A woman in India watches as her sister is dragged off by Hindu nationalists. **She doesn't know if her sister is alive or dead.** A man in a North Korean prison camp is shaken awake after being beaten unconscious; **the beatings begin again.** A woman in Nigeria runs for her life. She has escaped from Boko Haram, who kidnapped her. She is pregnant, and when she returns home, her community will **reject her and her baby.** A group of children are laughing and talking as they come down to their church's sanctuary after eating together. Instantly, many of them are killed by a bomb blast. **It's Easter Sunday in Sri Lanka.** These people don't live in the same region, or even on the same continent. But they share an important characteristic: They are all Christians, and they suffer because of their faith. While Christian persecution takes many forms, it is defined as any hostility experienced as a result of identification with Jesus Christ. From Sudan to Russia, from Nigeria to North Korea, from Colombia to India, followers of Christianity are targeted for their faith. They are attacked; they are discriminated against at work and at school; they risk sexual violence, torture, arrest and much more. In just the last year\*, there have been:

- Over 245 million Christians living in places where they experience high levels of persecution
- 4,305 Christians killed for their faith
- 1,847 churches and other Christian buildings attacked.
- 3,150 believers detained without trial, arrested, sentenced or imprisoned

These numbers are heart-breaking. And yet, they do not tell the whole story. James 1:2-4 says "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." That joy is what we see when we hear and work with Christians all over the world who suffer because they serve Jesus. God cares for His people, and He will never leave or forsake them. [from <https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/>]

Millions of Christians around the world are persecuted for their faith daily. From Pakistan to Kazakhstan, Nigeria to North Korea, Christians routinely face discrimination, harassment, violence and even death for their faith in Jesus. Their suffering is unimaginable.

The Bible in Hebrews 13:3 command Christians to pray for those suffering as if they themselves were suffering. In other words, the Bible calls us to not only remember those who suffer but also to identify with them in their suffering. In keeping with this scriptural command, the International Days of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) has united millions of Christians in prayer for the suffering Body of Christ around the world. After all, as the Bible says: If one suffers, we all suffer.

Over the years, the IDOP has served as a platform to highlight the stories of persecuted Christians and mobilise the global Church to respond to their plight. Moreover, in so doing, the IDOP has also been a source of solidarity and encouragement to persecuted Christians by reminding them that they are part of a larger, global family of believers.

We believe that God uses the prayers of his people to strengthen and deliver suffering saints. However, in order to pray for these suffering brothers and sisters, we must first listen to their stories. In other words, we must hear their cry.

We invite you, therefore, to **join us this year on 3rd and 10th November as we unite globally to pray for the persecuted.** Let's pray that in spite of the pressure and persecution, our suffering brothers and sisters –where ever they may be in the world – would stand firm in their faith, hold fast to the promises of God, and live victoriously in Christ. [by Godfrey Yogarajah, Executive Director, World Evangelical Alliance, Religious Liberty Commission, <http://idop.org/web/home-3-2/3417-2/1>]



## November 3 & 10, 2019

## Pastor Norwood, a Visiting Professor to the Persecuted Church

From October 31st to November 13th, Pastor and Sister Norwood will be in Yangon, Myanmar (what used to be called Rangoon, Burma) supporting the newly formed Myanmar Theological Seminary. Pastor Norwood is participating with the World Reformed Fellowship associated educational mission organization "[Timothy Two Project International](#)," which states it is "committed to equipping and training indigenous pastors and ministry leaders with the essential truths of the Christian faith so that they can train others. This way, the mandate from



Christ in the Great Commission to 'make disciples' can be accomplished in areas of the world where there is little or no formal biblical and theological training available." Pastor Norwood will be serving as a visiting professor teaching an intensive graduate level course for Christian ministers on the front lines of ministry in this predominantly Buddhist country. As we observe the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church on November 3 and 10, the Norwoods will be working with ministers of persecuted Christians in Myanmar. Please keep our pastor and first lady in prayer as we also pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in Myanmar.



From:

<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/myanmar/>

Over the last year, Myanmar Christians have seen their churches closed and burned as the Communist-inspired United Wa State Army performed acts of persecution against Christians, detaining and abducting believers. The army holds immense power and has intensified its fight against insurgent groups, as well as ethnic minorities (which include Christians). More than 100,000 Christians live in IDP (internally displaced person) camps, deprived of access to food and health care.

And radical Buddhist monks generally tolerated by the government have invaded church properties and burnt Buddhist shrines on church premises. Anyone dealing from the Buddhist heritage is regarded as an outsider and as potentially dangerous.

In predominantly Christian states like Kachin State, Karen State or in Northern Shan, even well-established historical churches are being attacked. Fighting increased in 2018, adding thousands more to the IDP camps that are already ill-equipped to provide for the huge numbers of people. In daily life, converts are persecuted by their Buddhist, Muslim or tribal families and communities. Communities who aim to stay "Buddhist only" make life for Christian families difficult or impossible by not allowing them to use community water resources. Christians in rural areas additionally suffer from the brutal and almost forgotten long-term war the Burmese army is fighting against insurgency groups, especially in the north.

On January 31, 2018, two Christians disappeared in Mansi township in Kachin State, last seen in custody of the army. Their bodies were found in March with signs they had been tortured.

According to a report in July 2018, the Burmese army destroyed more than 60 churches in 18 months, including Christian schools.

In October 2018, the UWS Army detained almost 100 pastors and forced 40 Bible students to join its ranks in northern Myanmar's Shan State. While 20 have escaped, 20, all women, remain (as of January 2019).

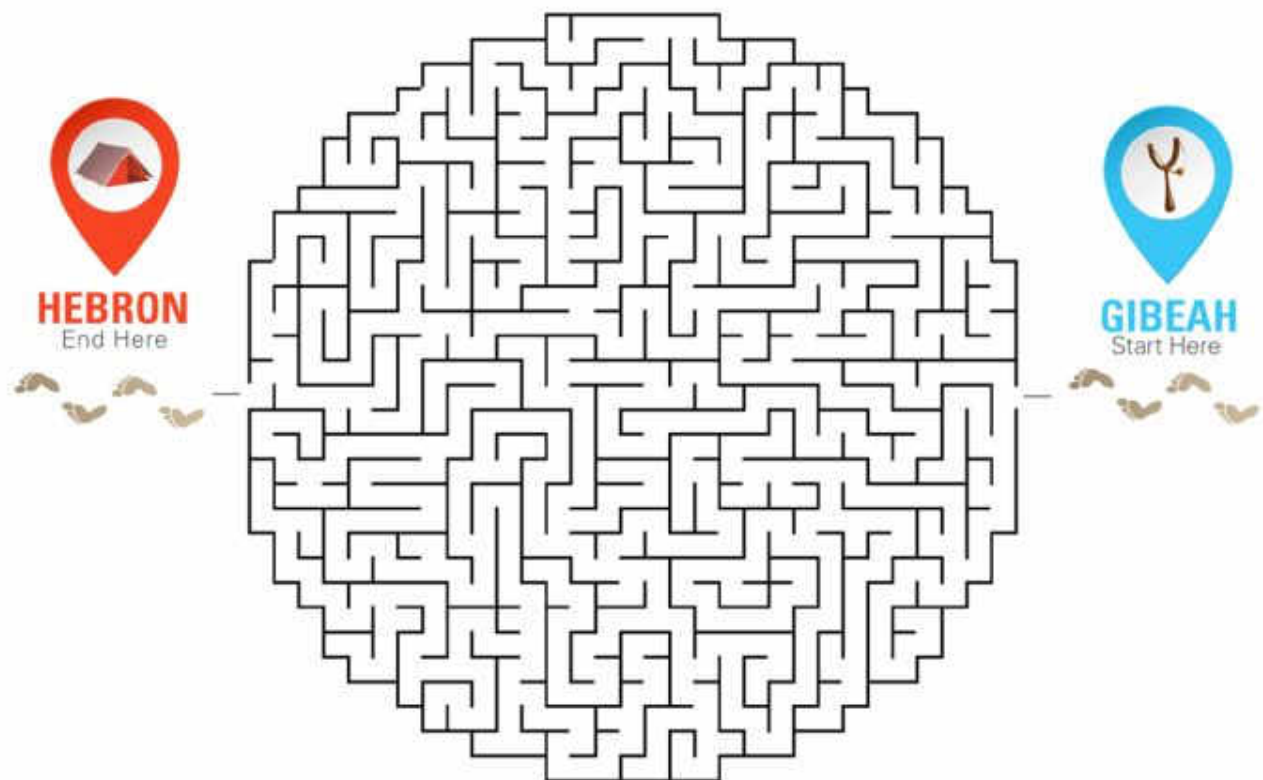
In the dominant Buddhist culture, converts are discriminated against in various ways. In one report, a teacher refused to give a Christian student a list of questions to prepare for tests that was provided to others.

***Please keep our pastor and first lady in prayer as we also pray for our Christian brothers and sisters in Myanmar.***



### #3 DAVID

When God causes people to take long journeys, it's because along the way, they became a-maze-ing people! David had to flee from King Saul, who was jealous after he killed Goliath. The Bible names many places on David's journey, before he could return to his homeland: Gibeah, Nob, Gath, Adullam, Mizpah in the Land of Moab, Judah, the wilderness of Ziph, desert of Maon, the hill of Hachilah, Ziklag, the mountains of Tabor, and Gilboa. Help David get back to his homeland in Hebron via this a-maze-ing journey, so he can become king!



**2 Samuel 2:1** ...David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron.

## Psavory Psalms

# CROSSWORD #2 PSALM 23 (KING JAMES)

Learn one of the best-loved Psalms by answering questions about it in the crossword puzzle below.  
Read the Psalm first!

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

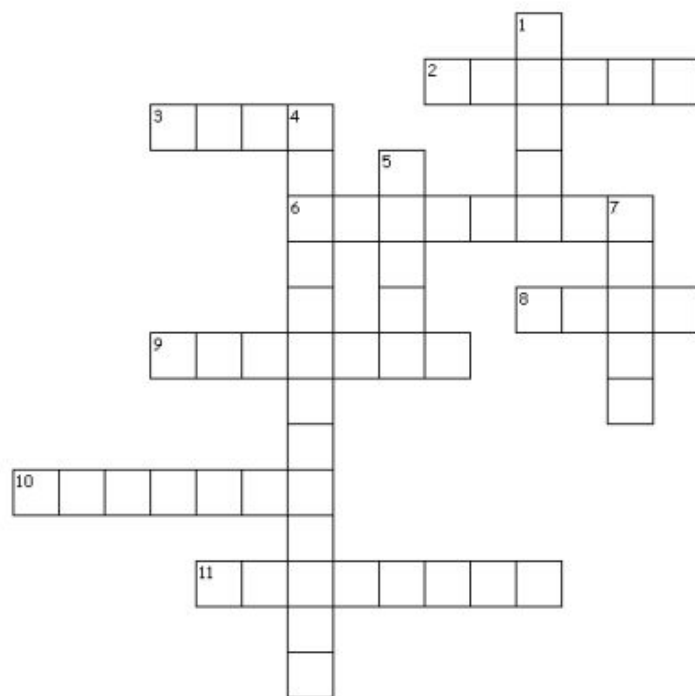
2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.



### Across

2. The valley of this of death.
3. How our cup runs.
6. This and mercy will follow us.
8. I will fear no...
9. Last word.
10. In the presence of our...
11. The Lord is my...

### Down

1. God prepares this before us.
4. Paths of...
5. We will dwell in the Lord's...
7. Waters are described as this.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR THE BAHAMAS** You can make a difference in the lives of people impacted by Hurricane Dorian. Visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org), call 1-800-RED CROSS, by choosing that option on [redcross.org/donate](http://redcross.org/donate), or text the word DORIAN to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.

**MEN'S BOWLING AT COLONIAL LANES** on Monday, October 28, at 6:30PM

**SERVICE OF LIGHTS AND REMEMBRANCE** (with prayers for the Persecuted Church) - November 3

**HONORING OUR VETERANS** (with prayers for the Persecuted Church) - November 10

**WOMEN'S ONE-DAY RETREAT** - November 16

**THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP** - November 27

**CHURCH WIDE CHRISTMAS PARTY** - December 20

**WATCH-NIGHT** - December 31

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY** for the Women's Retreat and the Church-wide Retreat.

**PLEASE MONITOR CHILDREN IN YOUR CARE...** there have been several instances of graffiti on items and a heating unit was turned on to "high" in the main stairwell.

**THE CHOIR REHEARSALS ARE ON THE 2ND AND 4TH SUNDAYS** after Time for Truth studies.

**"WHO ARE YOU?" CHURCH INVITE CARDS** are available in the vestibule. Take a few, give them out, leave them wherever you go.

**GOT CHANGE? DONATE YOUR LOOSE CHANGE** to meet building needs. A change jar is available on Sundays in the sanctuary vestibule.

**THE SUNDAY PREACHING SCHEDULE** is posted on the church website and around the building.

**CHECK FOR NEW ISSUES OF "NORWOOD'S BIBLE STUDY NOTES"** in the Sunday Bulletins, the sanctuary vestibule, and on the church website under "Resources."

**THE SENIOR USHERS MEET EVERY 3RD SUNDAY** after Time for Truth Studies.

**UJIMA'S MIGHTY MEN MEET** for a breakfast fellowship on the first Sundays at 9:30AM in the Lighthouse Café. This is an Outreach Opportunity!

**SINGLE WOMEN'S MINISTRY** ...See Deacon Pamela Hill for details.

**THE "BUSY BEES" BUILDING FUND CLUB** needs you to donate to meet our building and fuel demands without touching the ministry budget. Please give a little extra on the 2nd Sunday Offering.

**IF YOU DON'T USE AN ENVELOPE, YOUR OFFERING OR TITHE CAN NOT BE CREDITED TO YOU.** Please fill in the information on the appropriate envelope and use it in order to have your donation recorded.

**PASTOR NORWOOD'S RECENT SERMONS** can be downloaded or streamed online at [www.UjimaChurch.org](http://www.UjimaChurch.org) or at [www.facebook.com/RevNorwood](https://www.facebook.com/RevNorwood)

### Upcoming Events:

**2020 Church-Wide Retreat** at Spruce Lake in the Poconos 7/5-9

**Upcoming 2019 Holy Days and Special Observances:** Reformation Day 10/31 (observed on 10/27); All Saints Day 11/3; Thanksgiving Eve 11/27; Advent begins 12/1; Christmas 12/25; Watchnight 12/31