

REJOICE!

This morning, the first phrase of Psalm 97 (NKJV) grabbed my attention: "The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice." This psalm was written hundreds of years before Jesus, the Son of God, was born. Yet, His birth brought the ultimate manifestation of the Lord's reign—Christ's victory over sin and death.

The news of Christ's birth elicited the same response from every heavenly being and every human being included in the Christmas story—joyful praise, thanksgiving, and rejoicing. As leaders, let's allow the old, old story to grab our attention and compel us to rejoice.

During this Christmas season, create an environment of rejoicing:

Focus on the mission rather than the tasks at hand. Instead of being overwhelmed with the daily tasks of your leadership responsibilities, stop and consider the mission God has invited you to participate in. When Mary was invited by the angel to participate in God's mission, she was able to say, "My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior" (Luke 1:46, 47 NKJV). It was her participation in the mission of God that caused her to rejoice.

Affirm the value of those who are called to serve alongside you in the fulfillment of this mission. Sometimes we consider only the main characters of the Christmas story—Mary and Joseph. But God invited many to witness and participate in the birth of His Son—Zechariah and Elizabeth, the shepherds, the wise men, the widow, Anna, Simeon, and others that perhaps are not mentioned in the biblical narrative. God was affirming their faith and their faithfulness. When Simeon took the child in his arms, he began blessing God—rejoicing in the fact that God had allowed him to witness the birth of the Messiah, the long-awaited one. During this Christmas season, take time to affirm those who serve so faithfully alongside you in the fulfillment of mission.

Continue seeking. The wise men continued to seek until they found the Christ Child. "Behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy" (Matthew 2:9, 10 NKJV). Fulfillment comes as we accomplish His mission, His way. As leaders, we sometimes prioritize our assignment above relationship. But the wise men accomplished their mission by seeking and following the star. We, too, can only accomplish mission by seeking and following the Christ Child.

The Lord continues to reign, and we, His children, continue to rejoice!

The staff of Leadership Development and Discipleship Ministries wish you a blessed Christmas season!

Spring Semester Begins January 17!

Enrollment is currently open for Spirit and Life Seminary Spring Semester of 2022. This Spring, we will be offering Pentecostal Worship and Ministry (PM250) and Pastoral Care and Counseling (PM300). Fall Semester is set to begin the 17th of January of 2022. The enrollment period closes the 12th of January.

All COGOP members are eligible for a \$150 scholarship per course! Some fees do apply.

All courses are offered in English and in Spanish.

spiritandlifeseminary.org – seminarioespirituyvida.org

If you have already completed a bachelor's or master's degree, AMD (Accredited Ministry Development) provides opportunities for enrollment in master's and doctoral programs.

Regular tuition is \$1,494 per 3 credit hours, but with AMD scholarships, tuition for each 3-credit hour course is only \$650 for COGOP members. Courses are also eligible for Federal Financial Aid. Some fees do apply. Begin your master's application today by filling out this form:

<http://cogopamd.org/apply-pts-masters>

Regular tuition for the D.Min. program is \$1,695 per 3 credit hours, but with AMD scholarships, tuition for each 3-credit hour course is only \$1,251. Total tuition for the D.Min. program is approximately \$12,510, which is much lower than the average cost of D.Min. programs! Begin your D.Min. application today by filling out this form: cogopamd.org/apply-pts-dmin

For more information, visit cogopamd.org or email us at amd@cogop.org.

We Have Some Great News Regarding AETH Certification Progress!

AETH (Association for Hispanic Theological Education) performed a site visit September 23–24. The process involved a review of our internal processes, institutional goals, and interviews with our staff, faculty, students, and SLS Board. SLS is proud to announce that we have been notified that we will be granted AETH certification, which enables our program to function as a bachelor's equivalency program. Upon completion of the SLS's Ministry and Theological Studies program, our graduates will be eligible to enroll in any master's program accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. SLS already has an agreement in place with Pentecostal Theological Seminary to accept applications from students who graduate from SLS. We give God the glory for this monumental achievement in higher education for the Church of God of Prophecy!

Click here to visit AMD's website



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Thanksgiving Season!

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"
(2 Corinthians 9:15 NIV).

The year 2021 is rapidly approaching its end. As always, we are surprised at how fast time flies.

Usually, when people ask me how I am doing, I respond that I am happy to be alive and well. In the midst of so much death, sicknesses, and suffering, I count it a great blessing to be "alive and well." I can say that by the grace of God, we have made it this far.

This brings me to the apostle Paul when he wrote to the Corinthians to express his gratitude for the love offering that they were collecting for the poor brethren in Jerusalem.



Finishing his appeal to them, he lets them know that the offering they were sending was not only going to supply the needs of God's people, but it was also going to have another effect: "the overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God" by the brethren (v. 12 NIV). This blessing will cause men to praise God, and in return, they will pray for those who sent it. This giving created a cycle of blessings, thanksgiving, and prayers going back and forth. Paul finished his discourse with a great exclamation: "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" God's gift is the greatest gift anyone can give, and the greatest gift anyone can get.

As an instructor for the Center for Biblical Leadership, I want to say "thank you." I thank you for praying for us. You intercede on our behalf, for wisdom, protection, guidance, and so forth. I thank you for your financial support to this ministry. Many people from around the world are being edified with our teachings and trainings. I thank you for your passion for what we do, promoting the ministries of LDD. As Paul, I thank God for His indescribable gift, Jesus Christ, who enables you and I to do His will on behalf of His people. Only when we get to heaven, we will know the impact of our work for the Lord.

May God bless you greatly!



Bishop Elias Rodriguez Dmin
Instructor
Center for Biblical Leadership
<https://cblcogop.org>

[Click here to visit CBL's website](#)

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Ministries Certification LEVEL II Now Available!

Children's Ministries is pleased to offer our Level II Certification, now available online! Level II includes nine leadership competencies for the ministry leader. Modules include topics such as Calling, Leadership 101, Planning in Children's Ministry, Organizing the Ministry, Structuring for Growth, Leading the Ministry Team, Evaluating the Ministry, and Communicating Effectively. Each module features an instructional video, assignments, assessments, and supplemental resource materials. Learn more by visiting cgpkids.teachable.com.



[Click here to visit CM's website](#)



Shaun McKinley

Director

International Children's Ministries

<https://cogop.org/children/>

ONE Conference 2021 Wrap-up!

YM was honored to direct and produce the second annual ONE Conference, a virtual conference that brings together in ONE heart, ONE spirit, and ONE body the youth and churches of the COGOP. We were blessed to have "in-studio" young leaders from across North America:



Pastor, Carlos Perez / New Jersey
State Youth Director, Joe Valentin / Pennsylvania

Regional Youth Director, Glenni Perez / Southeast Spanish

Associate Pastor, Robbie Boyd / Virginia

Pastor, A.J. Daley / Mid-Atlantic Region

Pastor, Mark Wagnon / South Carolina

National Youth Director, Kenold Knight / Canada

Tony Orona / Project Manager, Leadership Development and Discipleship Ministries

IT Department / International Offices

With our theme for the conference being TOMORROW / TODAY, our focus was to awaken this generation of leaders to the need to raise a "tomorrow" generation of leaders. The conference focused on "declaring the mighty acts of God to all generations!" Psalm 145:4 says, "One generation will praise your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."

This year's Conference is not only about being ONE in heart, ONE in mind, and ONE in Jesus; we also want to declare to every generation that God is great! His Son, Jesus, is the Savior of the world, and the Holy Spirit is here today to fill them with power to serve and share the love of God with their world!



As of today, we have had 100,000 people reached on Facebook, YouTube, and oneconference.org. We've had over 50,000 views with 1,400 shares on Facebook and 140,000 minutes viewed! One hundred forty-thousand minutes breaks down to 2,300 hours or 96 days of continual viewing globally. To God be the glory!



Kirk Rising
Director

Youth Ministry International
<https://yminternational.org>

[Click here to visit YM's website](https://yminternational.org)





Montae Bryant

Raleigh, North Carolina

I met Montae Bryant just a few short weeks ago at the Institute of Children's Ministry here in North America. Through her actions, I witnessed the heart of a worshipper and the heart of a servant.

Montae is a young adult who is "out and out" for Jesus. She serves in her local church, Greater Vision Worship Center, in so many ways that we can only list a few. She is the

pastoral administrator for pastors Michael and Janice Roseboro, creative director, youth pastor/care group leader, choir director, new members connect 101 director, music and arts division administrator. She serves the Church of God of Prophecy in the state of North Carolina on the evangelism team, the first impressions team, and the prayer council. She has served as a missionary in Guatemala.

Professionally Montae is the Technology Director at McKinney Ventures. She has a certificate in digital marketing and is pursuing a degree as well as the Google IT Professional Certificate. She is also a freelance designer and small business owner.

When I spoke with Montae about how she could help Leadership Development and Discipleship provide equipping opportunities related to technology for our local churches she responded,

"The Lord is so AMAZING! Last year, the Lord laid something very heavy on my heart. It grew in strength at the beginning of this year. I've observed the level of quality and excellence in the area of church creative design and production in our churches globally. My heart broke because we have the GREATEST message that the world needs to hear, but we struggle with the presentation and packaging of the powerful message of the gospel."

Montae's big idea (inspired vision) is to "host online and in-person training and consultation sessions for church leaders to help them grow in creative design and production."

Our team here at LDD recognizes and affirms the giftings, personality, character, and passion for ministry that drives Montae's servant, worshipper's heart!

