

October 2007

- **Walking Together**
- **4th qtr Bulletin Insert:**
Mentors Make a Difference



Church Library Resource:
The Strength of a Man - audio CD

Answer the Call

A complimentary lunch for pastors and spouses, designed to refresh you from the every day issues you face and help you and your spouse network and fellowship with other local pastors. Are you connected with a ministerial association, local group of clergy or desire to get connected? Consider hosting a luncheon in your area.



Quinn Chapel, Frederick, MD



Our vision is to impact and influence the African American family with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, specifically reaching out to the African American pastor, the church and the community with more intentional efforts.

email: pastors@family.org phone: (719) 531-3360
www.africanamericanfocus.org or www.parsonage.org

Walking Together

I have been extremely blessed to have a mentor in my life. My former pastor did a tremendous job of nurturing me in the ministry. He counseled, prayed and shared his vision of ministry with me. I learned how to become a servant from listening and observing him walk the walk, and talk the talk. But above all he lived what he preached and sang about.

Perhaps, the greatest thing I learned from him after analyzing our "Paul and Timothy" relationship was being a pastor who had faith in God. Rev. Claude Christopher is truly a man of faith. He is the epitome of Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder them that diligently seek him." My mentor exemplified an unwavering faith in God that I have not seen to this day. He believed that Scripture is the "Word" of God and taught this concept with the utmost passion.

Whenever situations would arise he never panicked. And the congregation did not see him sweat as a commercial once aired. He was as steady as a rock. All of us could see his faith in God through difficult times. And because of his faith, I've learned to ask God for more faith. Just as the disciples were unable to perform to their greatest potential without having the necessary faith, we need to seek His face and ask for faith. We cannot please Him unless the element of faith is present and active in our lives and we are willing to put faith into action no matter the circumstance.

As Clergy and Church leaders the ones whom we serve desire to see faith as an integral part of our lives. They observe our behavior not only in times of plenty but also in times of famine. They want to see lives enriched through our faith. Have you the type of faith that will shine through life's problems? Do you have a faith so rich that others can visibly see it in our daily routines? My mentor exhibited this type of faith because, "Without faith it is impossible to please God."

Alex Person
Manager,
African American Outreach
Focus on the Family

Make a Difference by Kim Flynn

God has a plan for you and every member of your family and congregation. Think of the impact one person can make. Sure, something is always bound to "pop up" and at times lives gets really busy, but consider the how you can serve others in ministry by living life together. Be a positive influence by speaking an encouraging word, smiling, or praying for the person standing on the corner. Be sure to testify what the Lord is doing in your life; give him the glory for the things that are happening in the lives of those around you. Invest in someone's life. For me this manifested itself by encouraging a young girl in our congregation to memorize a scripture a week and I would bring her a little token gift for each scripture she would recite. This developed into a trusting relationship so I could ask her the deeper questions about her feelings and relationships. Develop relationships with those in your community – you *can* help change lives one at a time.

Conference Impact

This summer we had the opportunity to meet you face to face. We joined several denominations at there annual conferences. We'd love to join you as well. Please contact us so we can reach pastors and leaders to provide help and hope to their families.