

Health, growth, completion

Vision



New Apostolic Church USA

District News

www.nac-usa.org

Winter 2020

Dear brothers and sisters,

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three...

1 Corinthians 13:13

These three main aspects of a Christian's life are well known to us.

Faith is a gift from God given in order that we may perceive the unseen things made and offered by Him for our salvation. Endowed with His Spirit, we understand more and more of His will and plan for us and, if we embrace it, we grow in faithfulness, the fruit of the Spirit. With faith, we see the purpose to which we were called, and we have the strength to strive to fulfill it and endure until the end. As Jesus said on a number of occasions – *Your faith has made you well...*

Let's not lose our faith!

Hope is not simply a baseless, dreamlike, misty apparition of what we wish for the future. Hope is our firm conviction founded on the faithfulness of the almighty God and the unbounded love of Jesus Christ. It is built upon the decisive experiences of faith that we have lived through in our life when we came to know: Truly the Lord is with me! In this hope, the Holy Spirit shines a light onto the path before us, inspires our joy, and gives us a confident assurance into the future that, with our God, all will be well.

Let's not lose our hope!

Love originates from our eternal Father for *God is love*. It is without bound and is for all people whom God created. This love has been enlivened in us through the gift of the Holy Spirit. When we respond to it, it becomes the binding agent between us and our Father and between each other. Living in His love brings us peace, contentment, and security. His love becomes the catalyst for our thanksgiving and our profession to all of His salvation *for all*.

Let's not lose our love!

Twelve years ago, Chief Apostle Leber conducted a divine service in New York from the verse in 1 John 5:18 - *...but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him*. Dear ones, as we complete this unusual year and step into a new one, let us keep ourselves in faith, hope, and love, as we draw nearer to our completion.

With loving greetings for Christmas and the New Year,



A close-up photograph of a gift wrapped in brown kraft paper. A red twine string is wrapped around the gift, with a small bundle of green pine needles tucked into the center. Two hands, wearing a green textured sweater, are gently holding the gift from the bottom. The background is dark and out of focus.

*Giving
is
Secret*

We are on a journey of becoming whom God has called us to be.

It is a never-ending journey, but it is one that can be filled with much joy when we recognize that our almighty, loving God is with us each step of the way. While the journey can be a joyful one, it is also one filled with struggles and challenges as we battle to defeat our old nature and allow the new creation to blossom within us and flow out in all we do. As we grow into the likeness of Jesus, we begin to separate our thoughts from the worldview of today and, instead, see the world with a kingdom perspective. We are no longer driven by the desire to be known and the need to put everything we do on display for others to see. We no longer need to show what we are doing for others and try to tell as many people as possible. We stop shining a light on ourselves and focus instead on becoming whom God created us to be and doing all things to glorify Him.

What is the motivation behind our desire to give?

What is the motivation behind our desire to give? Do we share the good things that God has blessed us with to draw attention to ourselves and gain the praise of our fellow man? Or are we willing to share and give without any desire or need for it to be known? When we are conscious of the omniscient and omnipresent nature of God, that He sees everything that we do and knows what motivates us, we should not be fearful or ashamed, but be humbled and rejoice that He knows us so well. Then, in a god-fearing manner, we give in secret, knowing that our audience of One is the only audience that matters. Knowing that we are loved by God should free us from the entanglements of arrogance and the desire for self-praise, and allow us to bask in the light of His glory so that we can reflect His love to the world around us.



...do not do your charitable deeds before men

In Matthew 6:1-4, Jesus teaches a lesson to the Pharisees, and to all of us, on keeping our giving a secret to encourage humility and avoid self-promotion. Jesus said,

“Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.”

Matthew 6:1-2

Jesus warned that the recognition and admiration of others is the reward the hypocrites receive from their generosity, but their action is not rewarded by God. Plainly stated, Jesus teaches us not to seek an audience when we give. Have you ever delayed your involvement in helping someone in need because there was no one else around to see you do it? What message does that send to the one who is in need and what does it say about the condition of your heart? If we tend to only give openly in the presence of others, then we must think that our gift is quite noteworthy. But giving in secret implies a certain modesty as we realize that our giving is quite negligible compared to the giving of the eternal One. He is the great giver of all things and our giving will never outshine His. All that we have been given comes from God, and He places us where we can share what we

have received. Since He is the only audience that matters and He always sees all, we should never delay helping because there isn't a crowd to witness our actions.

Next, Jesus says that there is no need to announce your work when you care for the needy so that others will know what you did and honor you with praise. As we read in the Gospels about all that Jesus did while on earth, we never once see Him seeking praise for His works of kindness. Instead, we often read of Him retreating to be alone and to pray. *God is the One who has equipped us* with what we need to be able to help those in need. When we truly recognize that and know we are His humble servant, we realize the foolishness in making a loud fuss about what we are doing. Even if we may find reasons to justify why sharing our good deeds is okay or necessary, we don't have to take advantage of any of the platforms available (i.e. social media) in order to make it known to everyone how great and generous we are. As we grow in our faith, we know how meritless it is to seek the praise of our fellow man for what God has done through us. It is such a rewarding experience when we are able to jump in and give much needed help to someone, and then simply walk away with the joy and fulfillment of knowing that we used the tools given to us by God to share His love with someone. If you find that you need to celebrate what you've done, give praise and worship to God, and make a loud noise in His direction.

"But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly."

Matthew 6:3-4

Jesus is teaching about the motives behind giving when He talks about your left hand and right hand. Are you motivated to give because you know that you will get something back in return? Are you only willing to help someone else because you know they will reciprocate your "kindness"? Our motives to give must be pure. They must be born out of our love for God and our love for others. In the example of giving that Jesus shares in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, He teaches what it looks like to give without thought of reciprocation or fanfare. The Samaritan had compassion upon

the man who had been wounded. He bandaged him, took him to a safe place, and cared for him completely.



*Our giving
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out of our love for
God and our love for
others.*

Then the man departs only with a promise to repay whatever is spent to care for this stranger in need.

Nowhere in the short story do we see the Samaritan seeking or receiving praise, nor does he say he'll come back to get what he was owed. What drove him to show such mercy and compassion? He was simply fulfilling the commandments to love God and love his neighbor (see Luke 10:26-28).

Our love for God drives us to be obedient to His will and moves us to be open-hearted towards others. As children of God, we must learn to give without any thought of what we will receive in return because we know that our heavenly Father will always care for us. This is contrary to human and societal ways; for some, this is a way of business and of life. But God rewards us each day in ways we recognize and truly in many more ways that we don't, and He will continue to do so for all eternity. Simply, our relationship with Him is the greatest reward. An old choir hymn expresses:

The greatest goal this side of heaven...that is a gift which God has given, it is to be His child in life.

The Greatest Goal

As we are becoming whom God has called us to be, let us rejoice in giving in secret because we know that our giving furthers the work of the kingdom and glorifies the One who is most deserving of praise. - LRK / MJB

Names of Jesus

RESOURCES FOR YOUR
2020 ADVENT SEASON

WORSHIP EVENING • SATURDAY, DEC 19 • 8PM EST / 5PM PST

VISIT WWW.NAC-USA.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION



FREE WILL

God created man and woman in His image and gave them some of His attributes. Highlighted among these is the ability to choose freely, *free will*. Throughout the course of humankind, we can observe how this great gift could bring people into God's proximity under His blessing and joy, or separate them from the Almighty, resulting in sorrow and even disaster.

God allows us a free will to be able to decide for Him or not, to love Him or not.

In the Lord's Prayer, we express the words,

*DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE.*

We can understand that the Lord gave us this phrase in relation to our concern about the decisions we make with our free will. It is during the time of decision-making that we are most exposed to temptation. Our free will allows us to do whatever we want, but we need to ask ourselves, "Just because I *can* do something, does that mean I *should* do it?" Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10:23,

*ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL FOR ME,
BUT NOT ALL THINGS ARE HELPFUL;
ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL FOR ME,
BUT NOT ALL THINGS EDIFY.*

As a clear example of how to manage our free will when making decisions, let us look to Jesus when He was tempted in the wilderness by Satan.

Satan first tells Jesus to satiate His hunger, since

He had not eaten for forty days, by turning a stone into bread. Jesus responds with,

"IT IS WRITTEN, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, BUT BY EVERY WORD OF GOD.'"

LUKE 4:4

Even though it seems to be a logical choice, the temptation is to act, being driven by an earthly desire, and in doing so, comply with Satan's wishes. Jesus resisted, quoting Scripture, and realized that Satan's offer was not a choice that would lead to sustenance.

Let us also not invest in something that will not sustain us. Examples of this may be to only focus completely on a profession or a relationship. We should always seek God's will in these matters and ask Him, "What is the best thing for me? What can sustain me into the future?"

Another temptation that Jesus faced is when the devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and claimed that He could have authority over all if He worshiped him. Jesus responded,

"GET BEHIND ME, SATAN! FOR IT IS WRITTEN, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND HIM ONLY YOU SHALL SERVE.'"

LUKE 4:8

We may also be presented with different kingdoms in our own lives that make us feel like we are in



...BUT FOR WHAT?

control. The internet has made these kingdoms available to us very easily by showing and offering us many things that are of interest to us, that make us feel good. These offerings can validate our own opinions and reinforce our egos as algorithms connect us with people who have the same views. We can be deceived into thinking that what we see on the internet is the *only* reality, and that others with different perspectives are wrong.

And while the internet can help us connect with others, it also may alienate us as it consumes our time and attention. This consumption of time and interest could be considered akin to worshipping, as it is something we give worth to by spending our time with it. We should always be aware of what we give our time and attention to, asking ourselves if these “kingdoms” are truly worth it.

A third temptation we see in the account of Luke 4 is when the devil brings Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple. He says to Him,

“IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD, THROW YOURSELF DOWN FROM HERE. FOR IT IS WRITTEN: ‘HE SHALL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE OVER YOU, TO KEEP YOU’” ... AND JESUS RESPONDED, “IT HAS BEEN SAID, ‘YOU SHALL NOT TEMPT THE LORD YOUR GOD.’”

LUKE 4:9-12

At times, we may be lured into taking a risk for the sake of a rush of adrenaline or pleasure. Or, we may be drawn to push the boundaries of

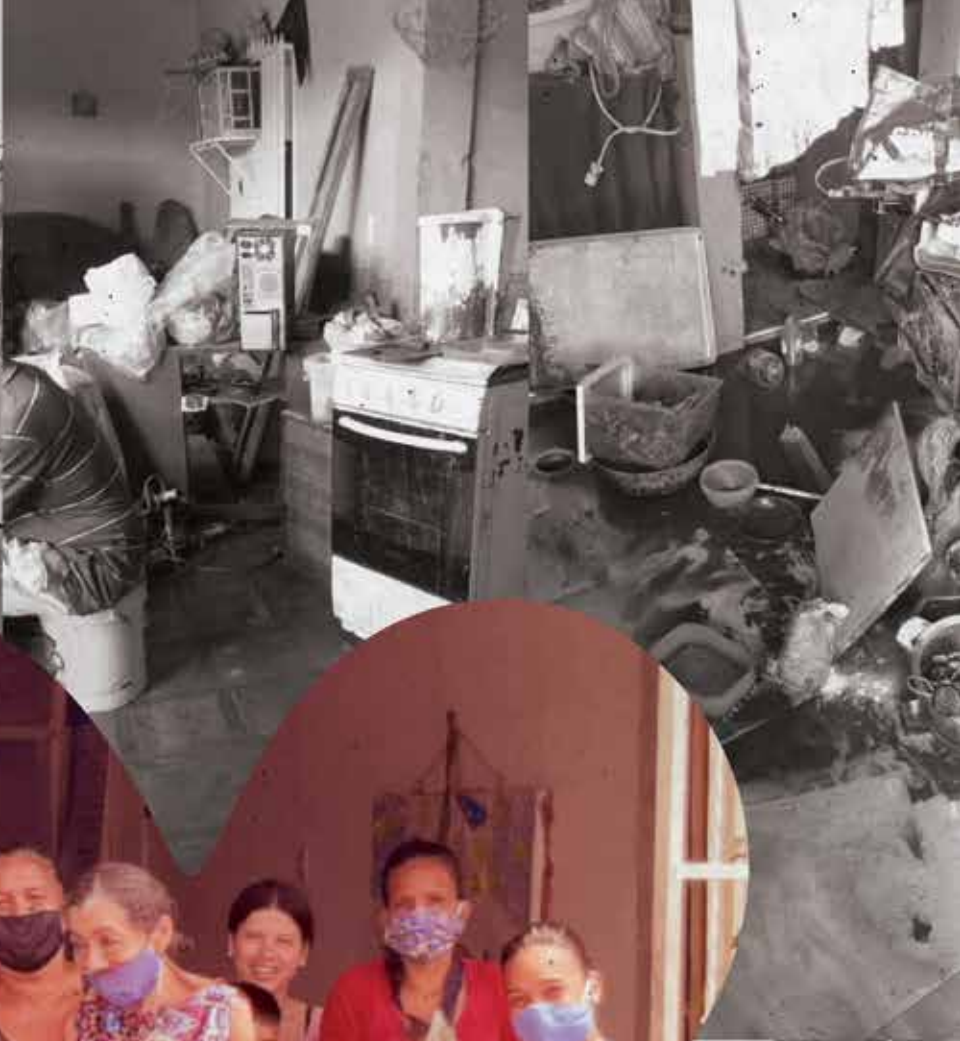
ourselves or of others. The unspoken question becomes, “How far can I go?” How much can I get away with? How far away from God can I go and still have His protection? Jesus’ lesson is clear: do not tempt God and push Him to act. If we truly love Him, why would we hover at the boundaries of His care? Rather, we should fight our tendency to wander, and seek His proximity and presence.

Consider the third verse from *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*:

O TO GRACE HOW GREAT A DEBTOR
DAILY I’M CONSTRAINED TO BE!
LET THY GOODNESS, LIKE A FETTER,
BIND MY WAND’RING HEART TO THEE.
PRONE TO WANDER, LORD, I FEEL IT,
PRONE TO LEAVE THE GOD I LOVE;
HERE’S MY HEART, O TAKE AND SEAL IT;
SEAL IT FOR THY COURTS ABOVE.

In these moments of temptation, where our free will is tested, we need to trust God to provide for us the right path, be sure of and strive to fulfill our purpose, and be convinced that God’s will is best.

God has given us the gift of free will. However to grapple with this correctly, when we pray the words, *Do not lead us...*, we are asking God to help us govern our free will, to realize the great benefit in aligning our desires with what God desires. His will is what we strive to fulfill, looking to Jesus as the ultimate example in accomplishing the Father’s will. - **LRK / VA**



Overflowing in rich generosity

They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity...For they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will.

2 Corinthians 8:2-3 NLT

A report from Apostle Fendt:

For a number of years already, the people of Venezuela have been suffering under great economic hardship. Since 2016, the overall rate of inflation is reported to be well over 1,000,000%. At times, one week's wages for the average worker were only enough to purchase a dozen eggs. While the cost of everything has increased, people's ability to earn a living has diminished. It goes without saying that the pandemic has only made the situation much more difficult.

In the midst of all these circumstances, the people suffered another blow when heavy rains recently caused severe flooding in the area of Maracay. The rivers overflowed, and many families lost most of their possessions. The District Elder who is responsible in this area learned that 60 New Apostolic families were among those suffering great loss. He organized the members in the capital city of Caracas (who are also dealing with the severe economic circumstances of the country) to gather donations of food, blankets, and clothing. These donations were brought to a church in Maracay where they were distributed to the families. They also shared a meal together.

The sharing did not go in only one direction. Those who *provided* the assistance were encouraged when they experienced that their brothers and sisters in Maracay did not question why they had to live through these additional challenges, on top of the difficulties already plaguing Venezuela. Their relationship with the Lord did not change; they retained their focus on that which is of eternal importance. They could see how the Holy Spirit enabled them to stay faithful, and that His power is not diminished by any circumstance.

I would like to share a personal note. Apostle Barrera in Venezuela provided the information for this report, along with some photos. When I looked at these photos, I was overwhelmed with emotion. On one hand, it hurts to see the need and suffering of the people and our members. In addition, I sorely miss being able to visit with them and provide support. When I pondered these emotions, it became clear that, in part, they are "correct," and in part, they are misplaced. Surely, we should be concerned over the plight of our neighbor and their suffering, and it should move us. However, the thought that their faith depends on my presence, either as a brother in faith or as an apostle, is inappropriate. It is God, our almighty, heavenly Father, who will protect His people and ensure that their faith does not fail. This experience highlights the fact that our Father does, indeed, care for His own, and that He is constantly working to preserve and strengthen their faith. And, as it is with divine activity, this can also be a source of comfort and strength for all of us.

Flooding in Jamaica:

At the end of October, there was also severe flooding in some regions of Jamaica. One of our churches, the Swansea congregation, was affected. The congregation was closed for some time until the water subsided and a thorough cleaning was able to be completed.



TESTED BY FIRE

To close 2020, our Chief Apostle has given the thought **trials of faith** for us to consider, using a verse from the first chapter of 1 Peter:

*In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is **tested by fire**, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

1 Peter 1:6-7

A trial can be defined as a test of faith, patience, or endurance through suffering or temptation. How has your faith been put to trial this year? What does it mean to be *tested by fire*, as mentioned in the Bible verse above? This term comes from the process of *refining*.


In metalworking, refining is the process of purifying a tainted metal through the use of heat. The final material is chemically identical to the original, only it is purer. Many times in the Bible, God is referred to as our Refiner, allowing trials and suffering in order to bring us closer to Him and His Son. Today, we'll explore this analogy to help us understand why God uses this refining process with us.

*For You, O God, have tested us; **You have refined us as silver is refined.***

Psalm 66:10

THE REFINER BREAKS UP THE NATURAL ORE.

In biblical times, the refiner began by breaking up rough ore into small pieces. The ore was made up of minerals such as tin, copper, and zinc, but could also include gold or silver; this step was meant to expose those precious metals to the fire. Have you ever felt broken or fractured? What part of your character could God have been exposing? What precious gifts might be hidden under the surface?



THE REFINER THEN PLACES THE ORE INTO A CRUCIBLE AND PLACES IT IN THE FURNACE.

A crucible is a fireproof melting pot able to withstand extreme heat. After the ore is placed into the crucible, together they are put into a furnace and heated to the temperature where the silver begins to separate from other metals that would mar its quality. Proverbs 17:3 says;

*The **crucible** for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tests the heart.*

The psalms often describe circumstances that leave the nation of Israel hopelessly struggling and helplessly in need of God, such as our beginning verse from Psalm 66:

For You, O God, have tested us; You have tried us as silver is tried. You brought us into the net; You laid a crushing burden on our backs... We went through fire and through water, yet You have brought us out to a place of abundance.

Psalm 66:10-12 ESV

Throughout its history, Israel, the nation chosen by God, repeatedly rebelled against Him. They were often overtaken by their enemies and suffering through these trials, would cry out to God for deliverance. When they turned to Him, instead of relying on themselves or foreign gods to sustain them, He came to their rescue.

As the crucible is heated, and the ore melts, the “dross” or impurities rise to the surface and are removed by the refiner. When God allowed the Israelites to live through suffering and trials, their sins rose to the surface. What dross in our hearts is God trying to separate and remove through our trials?

It’s important to note that the crucible has a higher melting point and so is not affected by the heat of the fire. The ore, though it is melted by the heat, is never touched by the fire because it is held by the crucible. So it is with us: *God holds us*, and though we are affected by the heat of the fire, we are never burned.



THE REFINER RAISES THE TEMPERATURE TO A HIGHER DEGREE AND CONTINUES TO REMOVE IMPURITIES.

After the refiner skims off the dross, the heat is turned up and the crucible is put back into the furnace. Psalms tells us that this could be repeated, even up to seven times;

The words of the Lord are pure words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

Psalm 12:6

As more impurities are skimmed off, the silver or gold is left more gleaming and precious than before. To check progress, the refiner looks for his own reflection on the surface of the silver. The more impurities that are removed, the less distorted the reflection.

Our Chief Apostle recently defined “blessing” as a gift or favor from God that brings us closer to Him. From this perspective, we understand that blessing could be *increase* in our lives or *decrease*. As we are put into the fire of suffering, and sin is exposed and skimmed away, our reflection of Christ becomes more evident and less distorted. This means that sometimes we must decrease. In the fire, in suffering, we begin to recognize what is valuable, and what we must cast off. Perhaps we have experienced this in different ways over the past year, realizing the true value of relationships, family, presence, hope, acceptance, and trust. Other things have been lost in the meantime; experiences we thought we would have, material wealth, perhaps we have given up opinions or priorities. But what have we gained? Clarity in what is important, purpose in our lives, stronger faith in God, and more love for those around us. When we are required to forgive, even in the face of injustice, we reflect Christ. When we are required to show compassion, to put others before ourselves, we reflect Christ. And ultimately, when a circumstance requires us to yield our will and trust God, we reflect Christ.

Just as the silver and gold requires many degrees of testing by the heat, so we are also tested many times in our lives. When we look at the life of Peter, we see that he endured many tests and trials, most notably his denial of Christ. Through the stories in the Bible, we know Peter at times seemed arrogant, judgmental, and prejudiced, and it wasn’t easy for him to gain victory over these sins. Peter had to endure the fire to be refined and transformed. And through these trials, we see Christ extending grace, forgiveness, and restoration. As Martin Luther so beautifully wrote in the familiar hymn, *A Mighty Fortress is our God*:

*Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing;*

*Were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God’s own choosing...*



Alone, we do not have the strength to gain victory over our suffering and trials, but with Christ, we can endure. Just as God waited for the Israelites to come to Him for deliverance, He waits for us to turn to Him and put our trust in His plan for us. In Corinthians we read;

*No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; **but God is faithful**, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

1 Corinthians 10:13

THE PROCESS OF REFINEMENT IS COMPLETED ONLY WHEN THE REFINER SEES A CLEAR REFLECTION OF HIMSELF.

Our trials and suffering give us hope. We are in God's hands! He is drawing us closer to Him, forming us to be like His Son, and His work will bring us through, to the *place of abundance*. His faithfulness to us, even when we're unfaithful, is reason to praise Him. And this is precisely the psalmist's response:

Blessed be God, who has not turned aside my prayer, or His loyal love from me.

Psalm 66:20

Through our refinement, in the heat of our sufferings and trials, we are taken through a process that brings us closer to God and makes us more wholly devoted to Him.

- KAH

This too shall pass

Sooner or later, in one form or another, trial comes to everyone. It is one experience that we all have in common. Some break under it and lose their faith. Others face it, overcome it, and strengthen their faith.

Trial is not an unfair or capricious interruption in the normal processes of life, but it is a necessary part of everyone's life.

At Valley Forge, during the American Revolution, Thomas Paine's courageous statement still rings out: "Let us thank God for this crisis for it gives us the opportunity to prove we are men."

...whatever our aims and ambitions, if they be worthy, they will not be attained without trial, and often with tears. However, we may well be reminded of the words of the Apostle of old when he said: *The trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ* (1 Peter 1:7).

Trials are like the tests we had when we were at school. It shows how well we have learned our lessons... Of course, none of us will ever receive a perfect mark, except through the earnings of Jesus Christ; for only He was perfect, but we are also marked for "effort" by our Lord. In this, all may receive a good mark.

Finally, we refer you to the words of the beloved Apostle Paul, written to the early Christians: *We glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed: because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given to us* (Romans 5:3-5).

Excerpt from a letter written by the late Bishop William Ferritt - circa 1960, New York

FOUND BY A RETIRED PRIEST IN HIS PARENTS BIBLE



ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment is a new term in the concept of ministry. Assignments are bestowed (conferred) upon individuals performing specific services within the church that have a spiritual emphasis, for example, teachers and youth leaders. A person performing these services may or may not carry an ordained ministry, but should possess the personal and professional competencies the service requires. When a person is chosen for an assignment, there is a formal act in which God's blessing is requested for the proper performance of such service.

A "service" is anything that people do for the Church of Christ, that is, for the fellowship of all those who believe in Christ and are baptized in the name of the Trinity. Some services are *organizational* while others, like teaching activities, are more *spiritual*. Ministers and members will receive assignments for responsibilities that have a *spiritual* focus.

First, an overview:

- A **ministry** (Deacon, Priest, Apostle) is bestowed by way of **ordination**.
- A **leadership function** (District Apostle, District Rector, Congregational rector) is bestowed by way of an **appointment**.
- Additional **spiritual services** (Bishop, District Rector delegate, Rector delegate, youth leader, children's leader) are conferred by

way of **assignment**. In the USA district, rector delegates can be *Shared Leadership Team* members, who focus on the 4 objectives of health (Divine Service Experience, Pastoral Care, Culture, and Structure).

Assignments, as do appointments, allow for the flexibility required today.

Additional direction was given in the June 2019 District Apostle Meeting concerning assignments of functions that do not require a ministry. The following decision was adopted: "brothers and sisters who are active as principal teachers in pre-Sunday School, Sunday School, religious instruction, and confirmation instruction, both at the congregational and district level, will be assigned to their function."

Assignments are imparted to members of the congregation who will be active for a term (i.e. 2 years), as teachers, youth leaders, or members of the Shared Leadership Team. Ministers can also be assigned to certain functions: delegates of district and congregational rectors, lead Apostles, as well as District Apostle Helpers and Chief Apostle Helpers. A priestly minister can be assigned as a Bishop to serve as an assistant to the Apostle.

Once the responsibilities and prerequisites of an assignment have been discussed with, and agreed upon by, the volunteer, the assignment

can be scheduled. In order to offer the safest environment for our children and youth, and in keeping with educational standards in society, we believe the following prerequisites are necessary for anyone that has accepted the responsibility to work with minors:

- background check
- sexual abuse awareness training
- acceptance of the NAC USA Minor Safety Policies and Procedures document

The official act of an assignment starts with an address and prayer, and the assignment is conveyed by shaking hands, either during or after the divine service in front of the congregation, or in the circle of the children or youth.

Assignments will follow the prescribed liturgy as summarized below:

- In front of the assembled group, the minister executing the act will ask the brother or sister receiving the assignment whether they are willing to assist their rector in providing pastoral care to the children, confirmands, young people, or members in the love of Jesus Christ.
- The brother or sister will reply with their “yes”.
- The minister will pray that God will accept the “yes” given, and grant what is needed to fulfill this responsibility and plead for God’s blessing, strength, and support in the exercise of the assignment.
- The minister will shake the brother’s or sister’s hand and briefly describe to the congregation the duties associated with the assignment, and conclude with a few words of blessing.

When the assignment term comes to an end, the assignment will be formally acknowledged by an expression of thanks either during or after a divine service, or in the circle of the children and the youth. Because assignments are intended to provide flexibility, it is possible for a person to renew their commitment and assignment if mutually

agreed upon, or the volunteer can receive another assignment immediately, or be assigned to the same or different spiritual service at a later date.

Shared Leadership Teams and other ministerial assignments will happen throughout the year as needed.

Due to the prerequisites that are necessary for working with minors, starting in 2021, the New Apostolic Church USA will follow a seasonal approach for children’s leader and youth leader assignments.

- **January and February 2021:** District and local rectors clean up children leader and youth leader lists by deleting any old entries, adding new leaders, and explaining the online training and onboarding procedures to children and youth leaders now on the list. For children and youth leaders added in previous years, in 2021 it will be necessary for them to renew the required prerequisites.
- **March and April 2021:** Window for youth and children’s leaders to complete necessary training and respond to all onboarding invitations.
- **May and June 2021:** Assignments take place in local congregations so that new youth leaders are ready for any summer activities. Existing children and youth leaders that have renewed their commitment for a new term will also be assigned during this time.

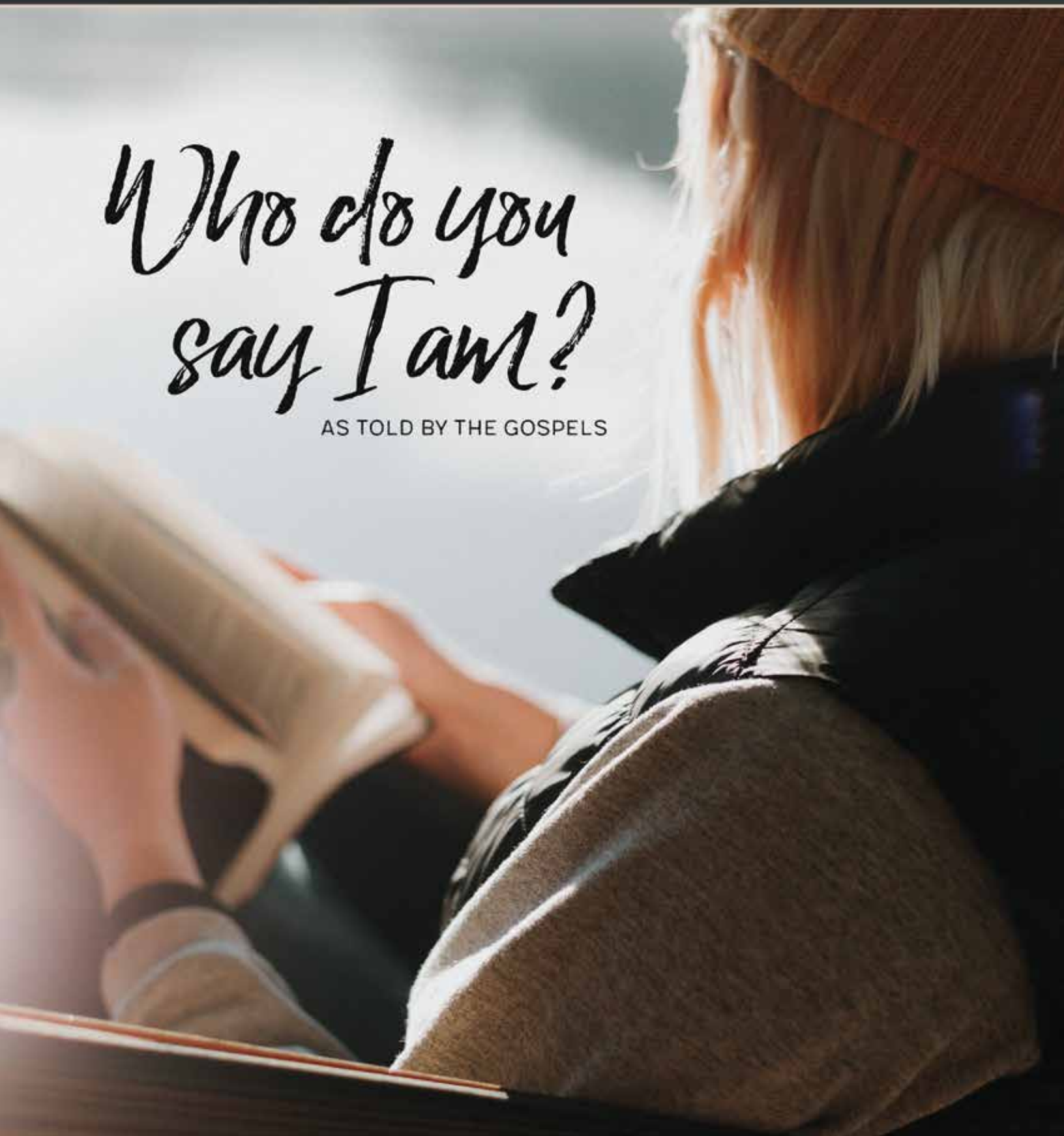


JANUARY & FEBRUARY SMALL GROUP THEME

CONTINUING OUR SERMON THEME FROM NOVEMBER, WE'LL BE EXPLORING
THE CHARACTERISTICS OF JESUS:

*Who do you
say I am?*

AS TOLD BY THE GOSPELS



2020 BUILDING UPDATES



ADDISON, ILLINOIS

Already last year, a building was purchased in the Chicago suburb of Addison to become the home for the central congregation of Chicago. This building was originally a large grocery store and then a catering hall. It is now being renovated to become our church, including a sanctuary, multi-use room, classrooms, and meeting rooms. In addition, it will also house the NAC USA Museum, currently in the Northside church on North Troy Street. The building includes sufficient space for leasing, which will provide additional income for our church. The entire renovation project is expected to be finished in February 2021, and will be dedicated thereafter.

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

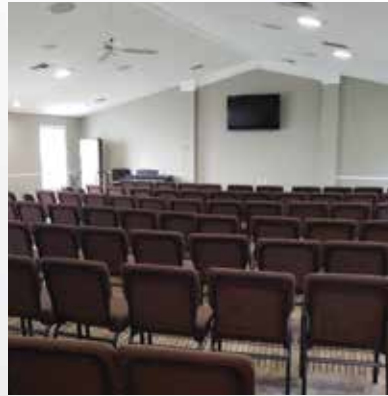
The Anaheim church building, originally constructed in the 1960s, received some much-needed upgrades, which were finished in December. Most of the work was done in the sanctuary, along with some renovations in the bathrooms and fellowship space.



CRUCIBLE, PENNSYLVANIA

The Crucible congregation received some updates, such as new carpeting, a re-finished fellowship area and kitchen, and new padding for the pews.





FORT MYERS, FLORIDA

A new addition for the Fort Myers congregation was completed in August with a special celebration to re-dedicate its new sanctuary. The previous sanctuary was converted into a new fellowship area.

WALL, NEW JERSEY

In order to remedy the lack of space due to the combining of congregations a few years ago and to make better use of the existing space, an addition was added onto the church building in Wall. Interestingly, the entire addition was built off-site and was then delivered and connected to the church. The addition includes three new Sunday School rooms and the sacristy. The congregation also received a few other updates, such as carpeting and painting, and the renovations will be completed by the end of the year.



KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

The congregations of Overland Park, Kansas and Raytown, Missouri merged to create the new Kansas City congregation. A new rental space was renovated, which is right on State Line Road, where one side of the road is the state of Kansas, and the other side is the state of Missouri.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY METRO, CALIFORNIA

The San Francisco Bay Metro congregation is a merger of the San Francisco, San Pablo, Walnut Creek, and Hayward congregations. Together, they moved into their new church building, where they have been celebrating divine services since the building dedication on October 11.





NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE
NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH
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NAC | USA POSITION AVAILABLE: *Member Services Manager*

The manager of Member Services is the “face” of the department to all the ministers and members who count on its support. The manager is the formal system owner of our data base, (iMIS), caring for all transactions that flow out of our events as well as the integrity of our data. Additional duties include management of product inventory, Holy Communion supply orders, inbound and outbound mail, and special projects such as international statistical reporting and ad-hoc reporting for our ministerial body. The manager will be responsible for maintaining a customer service environment where each one is served with care and professionalism, so ministers and members get what they need on a timely basis. One of the pleasant by-products are the many interactions with our membership.

The position is based in our Chicago office and requires on-site staff management.

The recommended skill sets that would be necessary for this job are:

- ANAC member who has, or can quickly gain, an understanding of how things work internally so that lead-time to full productivity is brief. Inquisitiveness becomes confident decisiveness.
- Strong ability for all forms of communication. Staff management experience preferred, but evidence of professional maturity for those just out of university may suffice.
- Service oriented work ethic and personality. Professional yet courteous demeanor.
- Demonstrable experience with standard office software and business tools required.
- General understanding of and experience with databases is strongly preferred.

We welcome all interested members who feel there is a match between their talents and our needs to submit their resume with a cover letter, inclusive of salary expectations. All submissions can be emailed to Randy.Bauer@nac-usa.org by December 31st.

