

Voice

NEW VISION

New Vision Church

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Families and Spiritual Warfare: Be Encouraged

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As spiritually threatened families fight spiritual wars to maintain and advance their territory, we stop by to encourage you on your way.

I am in the zone of my life as a leader to work as God's agent to help you grow and accomplish his mission in the midst of your struggles. We are being tested on every level, but more determined than ever to win our race.



A Message From
Pastor Crawford

One of the fringe benefits of a protracted battle is patience. When you wait on the Lord He gives you the means to fight the hope that you will win in the end; and you will, so be encouraged. Remember, the battle is not yours, but the Lord's.

You know my family is working through our battles, and you are working through yours, so let's keep trusting the Lord together.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV) says, "*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.*"

Slice of Life Testimony

The first day I came to New Vision was Easter 2006. It blew my mind. Everyone had on Football Jersey's, and the pastor was down-to-earth. I was saying to myself, "This is different."

I joined that very day. I knew that New Vision was for me and my family. When I went to the back room where the Altar ministry representatives introduce you to the church, Elder Moses, said to me, "I see you put on your paper that you are married; so where is your husband?" I had to tell Elder

Moses the truth. I replied by saying, "Oh, my husband doesn't do church."

But here we are a year and a half later, and my husband and I are involved in ministries, the kids are in children's dance ministry, and we are connected to a community group family. The relationships formed in our community group have allowed my husband and I to help another group member with eliminating the high costs of before and after care by letting their daughter come to our home after school. Our kids now call each other

"God" cousins, and we have gained new grandparents, the Harpers. They come and show their support for our son by attending his football games without announcement – they just show up.

Thank you Pastor Crawford, First Lady and my community group members.

New Vision has moved mountains in my family; and we appreciate everything.

By Lakisha Honesty

mission statement

Making Contemporary Disciples to Confront the Problems of a Contemporary World
The four steps to discipleship are:

To become a Believer:

Reaching out to God for your life;

To become a Worshipping Believer:

Putting God at the center of your life;

To become a Growing Believer:

Applying God's principles to your life;

To become a Serving Believer:

Making an impact with your life.

Family Matters

Stepping Up Our Game: What God Expects From Us

New Vision's Worship, Community, and Learning Zone ministries pulled back the curtain on our families. The Learning Zone series, *Family Matters*, made men, women, and children more aware of what God expects from them in their family roles, using Ephesians 5:22-30 and Ephesians 6:1-4 as the rod.

"There are issues in families, and they've played themselves out in our members," said Reverend Alexander Dabney. "Each of us is vital to the survival of the family. The expectation is that we step up our game."

Children and teens have a job too:

Family Matters leaders emphasized that everyone has a responsibility in the family; no one can just sit and chill. Children and teens have a job too, primarily chores at home and school work.

"As kids progress in their lives, God has a responsibility for them under the covering and leadership of their parents. There is a ministry for them," Dabney said.

I think I love my wife:

This sentiment was tossed out the window along with pride, when husbands gathered in transparency during the Learning Zone to deal with common spiritual and practical family issues. Husbands were taught to be mindful that they are the covering of their wives, understand that their wives have a love language, and know that God's expectation is greater than what they expect for themselves.

"I haven't mastered this, but I have come up with a plan. It starts with my relationship with God," said Renaldo "Lamar" Harper.

A man needs to gain the respect of his wife and family. You get respect by standing for something, Harper emphasized. If husbands follow the spiritual principles of love,

they will realize that men have full responsibility to provide covering for their family through provisional, emotional and spiritual support, consistently.

"Take a leadership role and learn your wife. Learn her by observing, communicating, listening, and participating, and be consistent," said Harper, who urges husbands to make a conscious effort to do these things. "You have to choose to love her and do the things that will keep you loving each other. Once you do that, she will respect you. If you stand for something and you're consistent, your wife will feel a sense of security."

Are you an asset or liability to your husband?

A wife needs to be an asset to her husband, instructs Proverbs 31:10-12, and 28. To be an asset, *she brings him good, not harm, all the days of his life*. To bring him good, wives also need to accept that they are different from their husbands, and that it is ok. Romans 15:7 says to accept one another just as Christ accepted us, in order to bring praise to God.

"Our drive is to complement our husbands, not compete. We have to accept our husbands, appreciate our differences, and learn to work together," said First Lady, Brenda Crawford. "Most things you will not be able to change and you should not try to change them."

Wives learned that submission is not a dirty word – it's a gift from God – and to be successful in marriage, it takes more than being compatible. You can do all the right things, but it takes keeping Christ in the center of your marriage to make it. It's a three-some, not a two-some, stressed First Lady Crawford.

"Your marriage has to continuously grow like your spiritual relationship with Christ," she said. "You cannot rely on what you know today. You change, they change,

and the relationship changes. It's a continual process, it is continuous work. You cannot sit back and relax."

Singleness is a gift:

Singles of New Vision learned that the Lord allows them to be single at this time because He has ministry that needs to go on, and they have the time to do it – girded by Proverbs 3:5-6.

"He is watching you and has a great call for your life – holiness," said Reverend Dabney, "and He will accept nothing less."

Singles should use the time as an opportunity to minister to the Lord, to serve the church, and to allow themselves to be available emotionally and spiritually to the things of the Lord. Single people should stay connected with others, including people who are married. Put in the effort to be around people so you can still grow, encouraged Natasha Parker during the Learning Zone for singles.

"Single does not mean I'm not married, singleness is a gift. It's an opportunity to live," Parker said. "It is not about having a constant state of duration to be married. It is an opportunity to be closer to the Lord."

It is also time of preparation. Singles can maximize the moment by doing the things they love in a different capacity. There are a lot of things that can be done; they just need to be done in a way that's against the world's standards for singles.

"The point is to position yourself to see your state of being single from God's perspective," emphasized Parker, "and know that in our humility we can get grace from God to find out how to live the way that He sees our lives, or has appointed the season, and to be complete in Him."

By Lawanda Abernathy

Ephesians 22-30 (NIV)

²²Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰for we are members of his body.

Ephesians 6:1-4 (NIV)

¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²"Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth. ⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

NV Church Plant Highlight: Destiny Church

We do not always know what is going on in the lives of others — this holds true even inside New Vision. God uses all of us in different ways to shine his truth and light to the world. This feature highlights one of our very own, Pastor Kevin Jones, who served under Pastor Crawford's leadership as a NV Minister for more than eight years before heeding the call of God to plant The Destiny Church (DC), in Stafford, Va.

NV VOICE caught up with Pastor Jones to get an update on (DC).

How are things going with DC?

Pastor Jones: The Destiny Community Church family is doing well. We want folks to know that even though we moved to Stafford – it is still close enough for folks to visit on occasion. We miss our NV family but are excited about where God has placed our church ministry. It is taking root and we are touching lives.

What are some of the challenges of a new ministry?

Pastor Jones: One of the greatest hurdles for startup ministry is not being able to actively promote its presence in the community through print and radio advertisements. But for Destiny, we have learned to be creative in our promotion efforts by participating in local community events. It allows us to connect with the community and to let them know about our ministry.

Pastor Jones how can people help support DC's ministry?

Pastor Jones: We have what we call the 12-25 Club. It is specifically for friends who do not attend Destiny on a regular basis. Friends can commit to support the ministry for 12 months by donating \$25 a month that will go towards our expenses associated with our church service.

What is ahead for your ministry?

Pastor Jones: My wife Krissy and I are blessed to have such an excellent core

team of people who are married to the vision of Destiny Church. I often share with my core team that we have to be patient enough to grow downward in ministry in order to reach our potential as a vibrant ministry. I like using the analogy of the bamboo tree. A bamboo tree shows no outward signs of growth in the first several years. But in its season of growth, the bamboo tree begins to grow 1 foot a month. The roots have been firmly planted and fertilized sufficiently to allow the bamboo tree to grow to its full potential in height of 10 feet. We will also reach our full potential as we go deeper in ministry and begin to penetrate the ground that God has planted for us.

Over the past three months our Sunday services have averaged 25 people—which tells us that Destiny Church is taking root in the community. We are excited about what is taking place in the ministry, and look forward with great expectation of what God is planning for us here in Stafford, VA.

By Wendy Harper

Ministry in Review: TPHAS

NV's TPHAS ministry is made up of youth (ages 13 to 18). An acronym for Teens Prayer House of Anointed Stones, TPHAS is the light that helps to steer the youth of New Vision toward establishing their own identities while navigating their challenging teenage years.

TPHAS' mission is to build a godly foundation in our teens for biblical thinking with the vision of raising a generation unwavering in their faith.

Mike Roach and the TPHAS team all agree that:

A lot of our teens know who they are, but through peer pressure, they're scared to live out who they really are. It's rare to see young people be themselves instead of being influenced to feel like they have to act a certain way around different people.

The main scripture reference for TPHAS is **Proverbs 24:3 (NIV)**, *By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established.*

The teams' desire for teens:

"We want them to stay in contact with one another and stay involved in each other's lives. Our teens need to have an 'operation life church' mentality," says TPHAS Leader, Mike Roach.



By Lawanda Abernathy

Upcoming Event: TPHAS Lock-In :

Friday, December 14 at 7:30pm thru Saturday December 15, at 8:30am

Attention: New Vision Teens age 13 - 18, Parents, and Friends of the TPHAS Ministry.

Teens, don't let "Fear" be a "Factor." TPHAS is 'lockin' you up with Christ!!! Come and experience a spiritual lock-in equipped with food, fellowship, and special activities at New Vision Church! Don't miss your chance to magnify the Lord - TPHAS style! Make sure you sign-up in advance. For more information and to learn how you can play an important part in the success of this event, contact the TPHAS Ministry Leaders, Robbin Crawford at robbin.crawford@nvision.org, Mike Roach at mike.roach@nvision.org, or the church office (301) 218-1555.

In Our Midst: A Visionary on the Move

Pushing the Dream Envelope — (Genesis 15)

Elizabeth "Liz" Mosely pushed the dream envelope and found tremendous favor by God in her career as an instrumental communicator at institutions of higher learning from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC, an honors institution) to a shining new role at her alma mater South Carolina State University (SCSU).

In August 2007, Liz relocated from New Vision and her home in Severn, MD, to serve as communications coordinator for SCSU's 1890 Research and Extension program, which conducts research to address problems affecting limited-resource communities in the state, and offers lifelong learning opportunities through outreach.

"I am so honored to have been a member of New Vision. I truly appreciate Pastor Crawford's vision for out-of-the-box ministry. He is so relevant," said

Elizabeth Mosely from her childhood hometown Orangeburg, South Carolina.

For the past three years, Liz felt convicted to move back to South Carolina. "Still don't know why, though, and I'm hoping it will be revealed to me soon! I never ever thought I would come back to little old Orangeburg," she said.

Although she has not yet found a church home in SC, Liz is grateful to have what she learned at New Vision. "Nothing compares to New Vision, and I often cry because I truly miss my NV family," she said. Lessons learned through the voices of fellow NV members helped prepare Liz for her move to SC.

"Mrs. Janice Sylvestre taught me that honoring my supervisors is important for professional advancement." Janice also told

me that I need to have a praise mentality looking for the good in bad situations when it concerns difficulties on the job."

"Through reading *Battlefield of the Mind* with Ms. Betty Hoskins, I learned that negative thinking is a choice. This is the hardest thing because you have to deliberately make yourself think positive even when you don't want to."

She said her NV family always held her accountable, which has been instrumental in her relationship with Christ.

"Pastor encourages each of us to grow in God by allowing us to learn not only from ministers but also from just plain ole' church members," said Liz. "He also taught me that ministry goes beyond the church walls, and I think that's so important."

By Lawanda Abernathy

Points of Interest

Three Zones With One Focus for December:

Our Worship, Learning and Community Zone focus is: Give Back

Scripture Reference: 2 Peter 1:3-4 (NIV): *His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.*

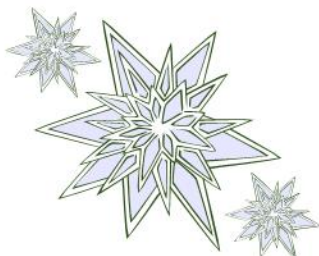
New Vision Launches Marriage Web Site

The web site designed by Michael Logan and Edward Henderson, Principals of GMG World Media, was initially launched in support of New Vision's 2007 Marriage Retreat. The marriage site will continue as a companion to New Vision Church main site, and focus on news and events relating to marriage and family. Check out the site at www.marriages.nvision.org and make it your portal to "sustained" health and vitality.



The Women's E-Prayer Network

Prayer represents our power connection to God. The women's ministry (TJAG) has launched its E-Prayer Network. They now have a dedicated prayer team that will receive your specific prayer requests 24 hours a day. All information shared in your prayer requests will be confidential and will not be shared without permission. The TJAG prayer team stands on **Ephesians 6:18, (NIV)**, *And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.* The TJAG E-Prayer Network is just a click away at www.nvision.org/e-prayer.htm



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The NV Editorial Team seeks to impact the lives of Christians and Seekers alike by sharing information and scriptures that equip, inform and encourage.

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