

# National Department of Christian Education

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## EDUCATE – ENGAGE – CONNECT

### Christian Education Department Monthly Newsletter



*Reverend Dr. Geraldine Crystal*

*Commissioner of Chaplaincy*

*National Chaplaincy Department CLC*

*Part 2 of 2*

### *“A CALL OR BURDEN”*

First, God will and does use ordinary people with an extraordinary awareness of the need and care. There are other ingredients that give Holy Ghost glue to say to anyone from anywhere needing anything. There is someone that cares for you. The Chaplain does not have all the answers, but he/she must know the one that does. God sent His Son in the flesh to be touched (or to feel) by our infirmities. To be touched or to care is the most important ingredient that one must have to be called a Chaplain. The ingredient is not just a word, but must be in your ministry. One of the differences in an Evangelist and a Chaplain is that an Evangelist is a soul winner, and the Chaplain is a care minister. The Chaplain is action involved with body, soul, and mind. The results of the care might be somewhat evangelistic.

The second ingredient is faith. You cannot work with the unlovable, the unreachable, the hopeless, without being able to say, “I believe in you”. A Chaplain must have faith to believe in the person when outwardly there is no reason to believe. They must have the faith to believe when a person does not have the faith to believe in himself or herself.

Third, an ingredient is being steadfast. The “stead” means a place or spot. The “fast” means firmly fixed in place. To be steadfast is to remain constant, to endure, to be firmly established, not to quit. The steadfast Chaplain does not fade out of the picture. He/she is steady and fixed in purpose. The Chaplain cannot be everything to everybody. So, know when and to whom God is going to use you and remain steadfast. Caution: Do not overload yourself. This is dangerous to your call. To avoid not being able to go where you are scheduled to go, you need to set boundaries. It is better to be steadfast in a few things than to be involved in many things and not be steadfast.

Fourth, dependability is as important to the call as any other ingredient. The definition of dependability goes beyond Webster's word "determine". Dependability is a spiritual term to the Chaplain—"when you see what we ought to be doing, nothing can keep us back."

Fifth, an ingredient in the called Chaplain is love, unconditional love. A Chaplain does not love people because you are called. You are called to be a Chaplain because you love people.

Sixth, the Chaplain must have muscle. The muscle works with what you know and then works above that.

Seventh, zeal is an ingredient each Chaplain must not only start with but maintain. Keep your zeal. Zeal must be coupled with wisdom. There is no wisdom without knowledge. Knowledge is knowing the facts, and wisdom is knowing what to do with the facts. Zeal without knowledge is like haste to a man in the dark.

Last, the called Chaplain must be ambitious. "A man without ambition is dead. A man with ambition and no love is dead. A man with ambition and love for his blessings here on earth is ever so alive." Pearl Bailey

The call to be a Chaplain, a divine appointment, will inspire in you a new awareness of the providence, provision and protection of God that is constantly at work, molding your life for usefulness in His kingdom in these critical hours of history. "Being a Chaplain must be your call and your passion," states Chaplain Judy Davis. Once we have had our own initial divine appointment with Jesus Christ, He works through us to reach people with the good news in action of God's love. "Champions are not made in the gym. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them—a desire, a dream, a vision," states Mohammed Ali. The Chaplain must have the champion's ability to reach inside of him/herself and develop a desire, a dream, or a vision.

Probably nothing is more important to the Chaplain's call than making oneself available to be a healing resource to others. To do so, the call is a demand for deep devotion and prayer.

The called Chaplain must know who they are, have their identity, and be real. You are not called because you identify with the person in crisis. You are a called Chaplain because you have identification with Jesus Christ. In other words, the call to be a Chaplain is a rescue mission. We must never attempt to rescue someone and allow ourselves to be overcome. The rule is, don't drown yourself trying to pull someone else out. Everyone will not be saved, and you will not be in control of every situation. So, the last word to say to a Chaplain is: "know when it's over your head; it is time to refer the situation to someone else."

Two things are very essential if you are called to be a Chaplain: One, you won't get a lot of pats on the back or appreciation. Two, the Lord will say, "enter into the joy of the Lord." It is truly a joy to be called to be a Chaplain.

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## How to Get People to Invite Guests to Your Church

*"And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled" (Luke 14:23)*

**compel:** to drive or urge forcefully or irresistibly

Most people are "nervous" when it comes to inviting guests to church. In fact, most people are afraid to even talk to someone about Church or about God. They are afraid that they won't have all of the right answers. They are afraid of rejection and many other things that the devil will use to get them to dislike outreach. So, how do we get our people to buy into inviting people to

church? We must first ask the question "Are the leaders of the church soul-winners?" Is winning souls something that drives us every day? Remember, the sheep will follow their shepherd.

**1. You can't sell something if you haven't yourself bought into it first.** If soul-winning is your passion and what drives you, it will come out in every message and in everything you say and do. It is a part of you. It is who you are. It's not a chore or an inconvenience to you, but it is part of your make up. You do it without thinking about it and it has become second nature to you. If you passionately preach and teach on soul-winning long enough, the people will feel your excitement and buy into what you are selling.

**2. Teach on this Biblical fact: Witnessing is a command.** Once we receive the Holy Spirit, we receive the Power to be a witness. Jesus instructs us that we **SHALL** be witnesses (Acts 1:8). He doesn't ask us if we want to or if we feel like it or if it fits into our schedule. He commands us to be witnesses. When we invite people to our church we are displaying our witness. We are showing them that going to church and learning more about God is what we enjoy doing and that it is part of our life.

**3. Have a "PUSH" service every week or every month.** A very productive way to encourage people to invite their friends and family is to have a service that is designed just for them. These "PUSH" services can be held every month. In these services, every aspect of the service is tailored around the guests. Every song, every message, and every word that is spoken is in an effort to reach out and connect with the guests. You can hold contests and competitions to see who can bring the most guests or family members. You can create charts and visual aids to help generate excitement to invite guests. But everything and every effort you do for those services are geared towards outreach. You can name these services Friend's Day, Family Day, PUSH service, or any other creative name you can come up with. These services are very important and should be at the top of our priority list.

**4. Give the people an easy 5 step plan to follow.**

a. First of all, how is our relationship with God? When everything is truly right with God in our lives, we will want to invite people to our church!

b. Keep a positive testimony before others. We all have our own little "world" that we come in contact with everyday. In our schools, on our jobs, in our neighborhoods and in the everyday places we go, we should make sure that we keep a positive testimony. This will greatly affect our outreach efforts!

c. Pray that God gives us a deep burden for the lost. We must love people to truly reach out to them. Pray that God gives us hunger and desire to win the lost. Pray that soul winning is something that will always stay on our minds throughout the day. Every person we come in contact with has a soul. That person will spend their eternity in Heaven or in Hell. Their final destination is in your hands. **That truth should motivate us to reach out to everyone we meet!**

d. Every day, pray that God would lead us to hungry souls and that we would have the opportunity to invite them to our church. Before we leave our houses in the morning, pray that God would open doors for us to meet people who are hungry and desiring more for their lives. **God will lead you if you are willing to be led!** Also, pray to be sensitive to His leading. God knows who is hungry and will order our steps to meet these people. When that opportunity arises, make sure you listen to the person and pick up on "life clues" that you can use to ask them to come to church. Life issues, traumas, sicknesses, or others can be key issues in getting that person to visit your church. You can say something like this: "My church is a place that will help you right now in your time of need. Will you be my guest this Sunday?"

e. Have faith that God will bless your efforts! We can be assured that God will bless our efforts every time! We can only plant and water, but it's God that gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:6). If we do our part, He will definitely do His!

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## *2011 - National Music Conference-Church of the Living God*

First Church of the Living God - 70 Whitney Street – Hartford, CT 06008 Phone #: (860)232-4461

**MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup> -26<sup>TH</sup>**

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(888)627-8649 - ALL ROOMS \$89.00 + TAX

*Minister Margaret Estelle, CLC National Minister of Music*

*Elder Angela Herndon, Administrator*

*Bishop Barbara Ward-Farmer, Liaison Bishop Music Department*

### *FEATURING:*

*Dookie Powell & New Element      Juan Powell formally of John P. Kee*  
*J. J. Hairston of Youthful Praise      Timothy Johnson of Israel & New Breed*  
*Praise Dancers, Mass Choir, Psalmists, Workshops, Praise & Worship,*  
*Teaching, Preaching, Wholesome Fellowship, etc. etc. etc.*