

# Young Lives for the Kingdom

## Are you Saved?



God has put it on my heart to speak with you about **Salvation**. Young People, ARE YOU SAVED? Parents, ARE YOU SAVED? It is often assumed that those of us who attend church on a regular basis are saved and on our way to Heaven. I submit to you today that this is a dangerous assumption. Our churches are filled with people (young and old alike), who mistake church membership and good works as a substitute for salvation. We MUST accept the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior in order to be saved, otherwise we are eternally lost. Titus 3:5 says *He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us because of what Jesus Christ our Savior did.* This scripture clearly tells us that we are NOT saved by our works but only by what Jesus did on the cross.

Salvation can only be found in Jesus. Not works, not being a good person, not volunteer work, not singing in the choir or serving on the usher board, not preparing and serving chicken dinners, none of these things will save you. Acts 4:12: *Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.*

Every Sunday Pastor Williams, as a messenger from God, appeals to us to accept Christ as our Lord and Savior. Yet too many of us harden our hearts against this appeal. Harden NOT your hearts! Hebrews 3:7-19 says: *So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did. That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'Their hearts are always going*

*astray, and they have not known my ways.' So I declared an oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.' See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion." Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.*

You will not enter into the kingdom of Heaven unless you accept Christ as your personal Savior.

You may ask, how do I become saved or how do I accept Christ as my personal Savior? Here is the plan:

1. No one is good enough: There is no one righteous, not even one. Romans 3:10
2. You are a sinner: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23
3. God loves us, even though we are sinners: But God demonstrates His Love for us, in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8
4. The provision—God's Gift: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23. For by grace you have been saved through faith,

and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. Ephesians 2:8-9.

5. There must be repentance of sin (turning away from sin): Repent and believe the Good News! Mark 1:15
6. The required action—believe and confess: That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, YOU WILL BE SAVED. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:9-10
7. The result—SALVATION: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord WILL BE SAVED. Romans 10:13.

Accept Christ Today! If you choose Christ, and in so doing choose eternal life over death and destruction, pray this prayer:

*Dear Lord, I know that I have sinned and done wrong. I want to turn away from those sins and I need your help. I believe that you died on the cross to wash away those sins and you did it just for me. I believe that you were raised from the dead and ascended into heaven. I ask you to come into my life today and take control of it. Please forgive me of my sins and help me to turn away from them and completely toward you. I receive you as my Lord and Savior right now. If I died today, I know I would go to heaven to be with you forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Once you accept Jesus your new life begins. You are now a new creature and must begin to live for Christ. God loves you and so do !! Questions? Holla at your girl...

Marsha

## Young People's Division

During the months of March and April Ward YPDers continued to serve the Lord, carrying out His Great Commission. The young people served in the Feeding Ministry's quarterly Community Feeding. YPDers continued their service by participating in the pulpit on 2nd Sundays.

We held our Easter Story Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 7.

The Mother Sunbeams searched for Eggs and found 12 very special eggs. These Eggs contained items such as a nail, thorn, etc. that represent events that led up to the crucifixion of Christ. The Golden Egg was an egg that was empty, representing a Risen Lord! Thanks to Sis. Ramona Toliver for telling the Easter Story to the Sunbeams!

The Allen Stars went on a Easter Story Scavenger Hunt. They searched for Eggs which also contained items representative of the events leading up to the crucifixion, however they had to match those items with specific scriptures, they then told the Easter story in their own words. We had 3 teams of 5 and the team to find the eggs and match the item inside of the egg to the corresponding scripture won.

The Young People's Auxiliary also went on a scavenger hunt like the Allen Stars, however, theirs was a bit more challenging. They matched the items with the corresponding scripture and then had to place the scriptures in the order that the events took place leading up to the crucifixion. We had 2 teams of 5 and the team to finish first won.

**The prizes were donated by our wonderful WMS President Sister Brenda Walker!**

In the month of May we celebrate the Connectional Self-Denial Program. The first Self-Denial Program was held in January, 1948. The program was later changed to Self-Denial Week and is observed each year during the week of May 7th-14th. Part of the Self-Denial Program are the Self-Denial Contests: Art, Poetry, Story, Essay or Oration in which YPDers should creatively express the 2007 Self-Denial theme: "New Creations in Christ: A New Beginning" 2 Corinthians 5:17. The age breakdown is as follows:

bibliography to judges prior to oration.

Several of our YPDers participated by submitting Self-Denial Projects! Praise the Lord!

Youth Weekend Revival 2007  
 Victory Through Faith in Jesus Christ  
 1 John 5:1-5  
 Sunday, June 23-Tuesday, June 26

Our revivalist will be Pastor Najuma Smith, Pastor of St. James AME Church, Los Angeles  
 Pastor Najuma will preach both Sunday morning worship services (7:45 & 11am) on Sunday, June 23. She will also preach Monday, June 24 and Tuesday, June 25, 7pm at Ward. Please invite as many youth as you come in contact with for this awesome sharing of the word of God.

As is our custom at Ward, there will be Youth Day T-shirts available for purchase after each service.

The cost of the shirts range from \$10-\$15 depending on style and size.

Please order your shirts ASAP as the order is due by Saturday, May 26, 2007.

See Sister Aarolyn Haynes to order your T-shirts.

Everyone will wear their Youth Day T-shirts to service on Sunday, June 23

## Table Talk

Table Talk is designed to encourage parents and children to discuss the word of God as it relates to the family. Please feel free to add additional questions and encourage the youth to share those questions with the group the next time that we meet.

This month's Table Talk scripture is : Matthew 3:16 This scripture tells us that God sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to us so that we would not perish, but have everlasting life. Only a little more than 6 percent of the world have accepted Jesus Christ as their savior. Those who have not and whose names do not appear in the book of life will be cast into

the lake of fire of everlasting punishment (Revelation 20:14-15, Matthew 25:46). Of course, God does not want anyone to lose the chance for eternal life.

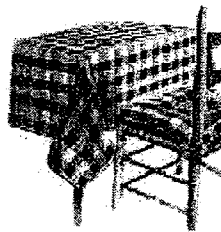
Discuss the following:

1. Define salvation according to the word of God.
2. Go around the table and ask each of their family members if they are saved. If anyone answers no or is not sure PLEASE talk to them about salvation.

**Note:** This may be a young person talking to a parent.

3. What can we do as a family to witness to those who don't know Christ?

Please take the time to discuss as many questions / items as possible as time permits. It will be a blessing.



## Announcements:

Don't forget that the YPDers ROLL every 1st Friday of the month, 7pm at World On Wheels Roller Skating Rink. Come join us as we praise while we skate. (Every Friday is Gospel Skate Night at World on Wheels)

The Southern California Branch YPD Green & White Pageant is scheduled for Saturday, June 2, 2007 at the Radisson Hotel—Midtown Los Angeles. Tickets are \$50. If you are interested in attending, please see Marsha Myers.

Our Youth Retreat is coming up this summer, August 24-26, 2007 in Cambria, California. The cost of the retreat is \$140. We will begin to take sign-ups and payment (if you have it) on Sunday, April 15, 2007. Payment in full for the retreat is due on Sunday, June 10.

Informational brochures regarding the retreat are circulating. Please see Dawn Comer, Marsha Myers or any of the YPD advisors, Pamela Sanders, Lutherene Moore or Claressa Epps for further information. The theme of the retreat is Total Trust in the Lord. "It is better to trust in the Lord, than to put confidence in man". Please begin to pray for a move of the Holy Spirit during our retreat.

Please help me update our youth directory parents! If you do not receive regular emails from me regarding youth activities then you are not on my list. I do not want to leave anyone out. Please email me with your contact information: [adeevasani@aol.com](mailto:adeevasani@aol.com).

**Ward African Methodist Episcopal Church**

1177 W. 25th Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Rev. C. Dennis Williams, D. Min., Pastor

**Youth Ministries**

Millicent Collins—Jubilant Praise Youth Choir  
Ramona Tolliver—Angels Without Wings Youth Choir  
Brenda Harvey-Williams—Sunday School  
Superintendent  
Tina Littleton—Youth Usher Board  
Kweli Umoja—Youth Bible Study  
Dawn Comer—Youth Praise Dance Ministry  
Marsha Myers—YPD/ Youth Ministry

**Youth Ministry Covenant**

As a member of the Youth Ministry at Ward AME, I acknowledge my need for meaningful relationships with other believers. I agree that this ministry exists to help me deepen my relationship with God, Christians, and other people in my life. I commit to the following:

**Consistency** I will give my best effort to attend every time our group meets.

**Honesty** I will take risks to share in truth about the personal issues in my life.

**Confidentiality** I will support the foundation of trust in our ministry by not practicing in gossip. I will not reveal personal information shared by others during our meetings.

**Respect** I will help create a safe environment for our small group members by listening carefully and not making fun of others.

**Prayer** I will make a committed effort to pray regularly for the people in our ministry.

**Accountability** I will allow the people in my ministry to hold me accountable for growing spiritually and living a life that honors God.

GET INVOLVED YOUNG  
PEOPLE...  
IT IS FUN TO SERVE THE  
LORD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Youth Ministry Mission Statement:**

**Ward AME Youth Ministry exists to bring young people to Christ, to instruct them on how to be Godly through the development of a Christ like mind, and equip them through the teaching of the scripture for ministry in order to magnify the name of the Lord and honor God with their lives.**

**“And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to live in obedience to him, let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him, so you will grow in faith, strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught”**

**Col 2:6-7**