



THE VISION

Quarterly Newsletter of Providence Missionary Baptist Church

Breakthrough

"No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it." 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NRSV)

Throughout 2016 we heard or read stories (testimonies) of our fellow members concerning their personal journeys and how they made it through. Some faced employment issues; others had very difficult pregnancies; while others faced abuse and we all know many with various illnesses. For each story, we saw where God stepped in and got them to the other side. Each person had a breakthrough and survived the troubling times.

We can think we can do it all by ourselves; sometimes we mistakenly think we have the power to figure out any situation we may face. But, the wise among us know we are powerless without God. Those who have witnessed a miracle or faced our mountains that appeared insurmountable and came out victorious know we did

not do it alone. God is always there; it is up to each of us to call upon Him in times of need.

He will give you the knowledge, energy, ability to meet the difficult task.

We have so many examples in the Bible where we see His power. We know David defeated Goliath; we read about Daniel in the Lion's Den, Jonah in the whale, the three Hebrew boys in the fiery furnace and escaping. All of them had faith in God even if they did not have faith in themselves.

We must live our lives in such a way that each obstacle we face is conquerable.

Use 2017 as your time to claim your breakthrough and know God is standing right next to you.

*"Now to him who
by the power at
work within us is
able to accomplish
abundantly far more
than all we can ask
or imagine."*

Ephesians 3:20 (NRSV)

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Reverend Damon P. Williams, Ph.D., Senior Pastor and
Reverend Khalia J. Williams, First Lady

You are Forgiven, Accepted and Loved

SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony" Revelation 12:11

By John Belizaire

Isaiah John Claudy Belizaire is an only child. That being the case, he used to crave a lot of attention. Craving attention can sometimes make a child act or do things that are not always right. Having said this, it's not a surprise to learn that Isaiah had a reputation of being the class clown. His Dad used to tell him that it's not a good thing when people are laughing at you, not with you. Life for Isaiah started getting very difficult around the 7th grade. That's when he really started getting into trouble at school. His mom was constantly making trips to the school to meet with his teachers and administrators about his behavior and school work. At the end of the eighth grade, many of Isaiah's peers at Kipp South Fulton Academy were being accepted to well known private high schools and boarding schools. Their future looked bright; Isaiah's future was uncertain.

Not wanting Isaiah to go to the neighborhood high school, his parents, other family members and friends prayed for something better. Prayers were answered when one of the schools he applied to declined him at first, then accepted him after his mom asked the school to reconsider and give him a second chance. She asked that he be interviewed. After being accepted, Isaiah was said to be a distraction to other students during his freshman year and was asked not to return. So now his only option was to attend a high school that was ranked near the bottom in the state of Georgia. It was not acceptable for him to stay there. He needed to be in an environment where he could learn discipline and accountability.

The tough decision was made to send him off to Georgia Youth Challenge in Hinesville Georgia. It is four hours away from Atlanta and he would live and finish his high

school on a military base, Fort Stewart. There he had army style training. He was only allowed one 7 minute phone call home on Sundays. For good behavior, he was allowed one additional 7 minute call on Friday nights. His activities were controlled from the minute he woke up at 5:30am until lights out at 9:00pm. Isaiah during one of his phone calls told his parents that he thought his bed and pillow were made out of sand because they were so hard. He missed the comforts of home and a regular life. He was quickly reminded as to the reason he was sent there in the first place.

Billy Briggs was Isaiah's assigned mentor. A requirement for Youth Challenge is to have a mentor that is well respected in the community. We all know about Billy's credentials. Aside from having to drive there for training, several times, he did the four hour trip one way to go see Isaiah and take him out to encourage him. Isaiah really appreciated the time Billy spent with him at Fort Stewart. Billy is very busy and his sacrifice of time is commendable. "It takes a village to raise a child" is so true in regards to Isaiah. Isaiah had many people praying for him; Providence Missionary Baptist Church Members interceding on his behalf. By the grace of God, he turned his life around and was able to graduate from high school at the age of 16. Now he is attending Georgia Military College with grown adults whom he does not want known that he is only 16. As we reflected on the turn of events in Isaiah's life so far, we are reminded of these words from an awesome song, "We come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord. Trusting in his holy word, he's never failed us yet."



With his village



With his mentor, Billy Briggs

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A Word From Our Pastor

Have I Given God A Chance?

By Reverend Damon P. Williams, Ph.D., Senior Pastor

In the 12th Chapter of Acts there is an amazing narrative of the Apostle Peter's miraculous escape from prison. King Herod had arrested Peter for belonging to the Christian movement and disturbing the peaceful relationship the kingdom had with the Jewish people. The night before Peter was to be beheaded for alleged crimes against the King, God sent an Angel to meet him in his prison cell and facilitate his miraculous escape. The story is amazing, because Peter was stuck in a circumstance without any human means of escape, yet scripture tells us that despite his situation he was

fast asleep when the Angel came into his cell!!! Very few of us find the comfort to be sleeping peacefully when we are stuck in such seemingly hopeless circumstances. We worry, stress out, and try all manner of different things to try and get ourselves out of whatever situation we have gotten ourselves into. As we proceed through the beginning of 2017, let's ask ourselves when we find ourselves in such situations, have we given God a chance? Do we give God an opportunity to facilitate our breakthrough?

There are times when we are so focused on fixing things ourselves that we forget God is ready, with an

army of Angels, to help us and bless us. There is a popular saying that 'God helps those who help themselves!' However, any honest person knows that say-

ing cannot be true because many of our testimonies are centered on the fact that God helped us when we were both helpless and hopeless. Consider God's redemption of the world when he sent Jesus from heaven to suffer and die for all of our sins. In no way, did humanity offer any help to ourselves or to God, prior to God's gracious act of sending his only begotten Son. In fact, quite the opposite was true!



The Williams Family, feeling festive on Christmas morning

We have an opportunity in 2017 to fully depend on God to, as the Proverbist says, "trust in the Lord with all your heart" (Proverbs 3:5 NRSV) In so doing, we will give God a chance to demonstrate in our lives, the unwavering grace that is demonstrated in the scriptures. God desires not only the opportunity, but the trust to be the sole source of your breakthrough. If we make the commitment to give God the chance to do so, history has taught us that He won't fail you.

God bless you my beloved Providence and may heaven continue to smile upon you.

OUTREACH

Partnership Award

Crystal Mayfield Jones, principal of Beecher Hill Elementary School was the recipient of the 2016 Torch Award given at the Celebration of Women Awards Luncheon, sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, honoring Women of Outstanding Service and Achievement held in April 2016. She was recognized for fostering a partnership with **Providence Missionary Baptist Church** for a program that uses church members as tutors and volunteers. Additionally, the church provides financial support and incentive programs to the school. The partnership won the Atlanta Public Schools (APS) of the Year for the Mays School Cluster.

Food and Clothing Ministry

The food and clothing ministries have grown over the past year. Food is given to those in need on Fridays but also on Wednesday. Wednesday give-away was added during the summer, primarily fruits and vegetables to seniors.



PMBC Garden

The Food Well Alliance formed a partnership with Atlanta Community Food Bank, which exists to connect members of Atlanta's local food movement around building healthier communities, transforming our local food system and improving lives. Their vision is to see locally grown, healthy food in the hands of everyone. The Alliance understands farmers want to feed the people who most need it in Atlanta, but cannot afford it, and organizations implementing nutritional programs in low-income communities are looking for easier ways to source healthy food from local farmers. They also give grants to those organizations. We are pleased that the **PMBC Garden** is a 2017 recipient. Our garden is recognized as being a neighborhood revitalization through urban farm expansion in Cascade Heights.

Dorcas Christmas in July

The Dorcas Ministry has given toys to the Children's Healthcare Organization of Atlanta, Hughes Spalding location for many years. The toys are delivered in July, for their annual "Christmas in July" outreach effort. The toys are eagerly accepted by the staff and enjoyed by the children going through trying circumstances





PMBC's Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministry –

@CONNECTED – has been on the move in 2017! They have hit the ground running. The ministries have been rebranded – CHOSEN (elementary school students), neXt (middle school students), NOW (high school students), and TRANSFORMED (young adults) – and there is a new energy that is spreading like wildfire.



Has a special children's church available on both 2nd and 3rd Sundays, Message and a Movie (M&M) and Word & Worship (W²), respectively. The children move from their Sunday School classes right into their very own unique experiences (in N321 for both Sundays). Word & Worship's 2017 launch was successful and allows for a 45-minute arts ministry rehearsal before the children's devotion and lesson.



iFlow has continued for neXt and NOW on 2nd and 3rd Sundays. The youth completed beautiful vision boards this month and will present them on the 2nd Sunday in February in iFlow. iStudy, a teen bible study, also launched in 2017 with an incredible attendance, zeal and potential. Dinner will be made available for all children and youth at 6:45pm weekly.



TRANSFORMED also had a launch in 2017, a monthly bible study (Bible Study & Brunch – B&B) that addresses the holistic needs of young adults 18-34 years of age. The young adults have continued their monthly service at the Carrie Steele-Pitt Home; this has been a project that the young adults have been consistently committed to for the past two years. They have not missed a 2nd Friday ever – in rain, shine, snow, holiday or the like. This is what we call true Christian service!

As you can see, God is doing a new thing here at Providence Missionary Baptist Church through CONNECTED. We ask that you continue to keep CONNECTED in your prayers as we seek to re-open the Nursery and revamp the youth space. Your support and love have carried us this far and we know that with God we will continue to grow.

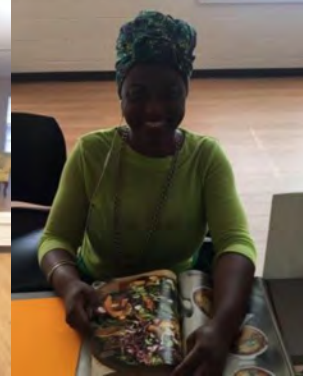
<p>iFLOW Worship Service Youth Service EVERY 2ND & 3RD SUNDAY iLEARN 9:30AM iWORSHIP 10:30AM iJAM 11:30AM PROVIDENCE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 2295 BENJAMIN E. MAYS DRIVE ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30311 FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT REV. D. AT DROBINSON@PROVIDENCEATLANTA.ORG</p>	<p>iSTUDY Wednesday Night YOUTH BIBLE STUDY Dinner 6:45pm Class 7:00pm Providence Missionary Baptist Church 2295 Benjamin E. Mays Drive, S.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30311 Rev. Damon P. Williams, PhD, Senior Pastor FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT REV. D. AT DROBINSON@PROVIDENCEATLANTA.ORG</p>	<p>CHOSEN ELEMENTARY MINISTRY MESSAGE & MOVIE EVERY 2ND SUNDAY 10:30AM - 12:30PM M&M is a fun way of teaching your children about God and how He works in the world. We will have a friendly animated story and lesson. This special space every 2nd Sunday immediately after Sunday School 10:30am-12:30pm. For more information email: Children, Youth & Young Adult Pastor drobinson@providenceatlanta.org</p>	<p>CHOSEN ELEMENTARY MINISTRY WORD & WORSHIP EVERY 3RD SUNDAY 10:30AM - 12:30PM W² is our version of children's church. The children will join the middle and high school students during the morning portion of their flow every 3rd Sunday right after Sunday School. They will be transported into their small group session using the Chozen online app which includes music, worshiping, skills, activities and much more based on a bible passage. For more information email: Children, Youth & Young Adult Pastor drobinson@providenceatlanta.org</p>	<p>TRANSFORMED Young Adult Ministry B&B & Bible Study This mid-day bible study is designed for young adults to discuss the realities of educational, vocational, occupational, family, financial, health, business, relational goals and so much more from a biblical perspective. The bible study is held every 1st Saturday of the month at 11:45am at PMBC. A light brunch is served. Time: 11:45am-1:00pm EVERY 1st SATURDAY For more information email: Children, Youth & Young Adult Pastor drobinson@providenceatlanta.org</p>
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@Connected Activities

Creating Vision Boards



Learning the Word



Outreach at Carrie P. Steele House



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ONGOING EVENTS—WEEKLY AND MONTHLY

Monthly



The 3rd Thursday of each month you are welcome to join the Bingo group in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM. It is a fun time with food, prizes and fellowship.

Weekly



PMBC is reading the Bible in 100 days. Reading started on January 8th and will continue through April 16th. The weekly Bible Study, Sunday Worship Service Sermons and Sunday School lessons are designed to support the Reading Plan. Please join this venture and become more spiritual and Biblical aware.



Wednesday Night Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall. Many were in attendance to learn and study God's word.

2017—Prayers

DONZALEIGH ARRINGTON

As GOD has blessed my family and me with yet a NEW season in our lives, my prayers are those of not just thankfulness, but to be forgiven of our past season and to hold true those lessons we have learned! My prayer is that as a family our faith in GOD will increase...to listen to his guidance...to trust his strength...to lean on him more...and to fill us up with passion and gratefulness for all that he will order and direct us to do in 2017.

CARR HAWTHORNE-KNOTT

It is my prayer that in 2017 forward, God places in our hearts and minds to reach out to our younger sisters that are in need of the prayers, guidance and emotional support that we are blessed to share with them as elders, being more experienced women of God.

DEACON JAMES PORTER

My prayer for 2017 is the same each year:

Psalm 51: 10-12

Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew

Steadfast spirit within me.

Restore to me the joy of your
salvation and grant me a willing
spirit to sustain me.

JARETT MILTON

I pray that in all things, Love
prevails.

FRED TUCKER

In 2017 I pray that we all have
great health, financial well being,
and spiritual peace.

TAYLOR HATCHETT

To seek God wholeheartedly and
experience His glory like never
before and to be in perfect
alignment with his perfect will for
my life, not his permissive will.

JEWEL BIGGS

My prayer for everyone going into
2017 is a famous quote: "Lest We
Forget...." Including how much HE
has done for us, so that we may do
for others

TRACY SHIPLEY

I pray that God continues to bless
us during this transitional year. We
are changing governments and
many are transitioning into other
areas of their lives. I pray for
continued coverage and peace
during this time.

ROXANNE SMITHERS

My prayer for 2017 is to continue
my journey of becoming the person
God would have me to be and
receiving all that he has for me —
nothing more and nothing less.

REV. KRISTA FORBES

May the children of God, God's
own creation, see God in the face
of the other, who was also created
by God. And I pray that love,
patience and kindness towards one
another is soon released into the
atmosphere by all who hold on so
tightly and never share it with
others. Amen

A Wonderful PMBC Christmas Season



The True Meaning—The Advent and the Birth of Christ



The True Spirit—Giving To Those in Need



The True Joy—Singing and Fellowshiping

PMBC had a joyous Christmas Season. It was a mixture of emotions. From the very small to the elderly, all participated in the many activities planned. It was understood that giving to those in need and the birth of Christ is the primary reason for the season.

A Magnificent Christmas Day Worship Service



Christmas Day was a BLESSING. It was filled with singing, dancing, a Dedication Service of our babies and youth, a sermon and to cap it off, the MANNEQUIN CHALLENGE. Everyone left the church filling up-lifted and touched by the special-ness of the day.

Look Forward

An Editorial Opinion

25 "Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you.

26 Keep straight the path of your feet, and all your ways will be sure.

27 Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil" .

Proverbs 4:25-27 (NRSV)

A new year is upon us. Many of us can say "Thank God I got through 2016". It was a bear of a year. We witnessed strife around the world, violence performed on the innocent, marching in the streets, a horrible Presidential campaign season, the unexpected results of the Presidential election and the departure of our beloved President Barack Obama and his lovely wife, Michelle Obama.

In the midst of all of that we must hold to our undying faith and belief in God's power over all. We must stay focused on what God created us to be. Often we allow ourselves to become enthralled in the worldly goings on and lose our way. We look at television and relate to fictional characters or made up reality. We follow social media and feel the need to compete and show our "stuff" to "friends". We watch the lives of musical artist and want to emulate their lifestyles and values. Eventually we forget who we are and our connection to God.

For 2017 we should get that connection back. We need to ignore our television and focus on our inner vision. We need to stop looking at what others have which may result in making us feel bad when we don't have the same thing and look to the Lord which provides all our needs.

This upcoming year should be an opportunity for all of us to look out for one another. If you know someone who is lonely, depressed, heartbroken, sick, or in financial straits, go to them, talk to them, do what you can to help. You will never know what that gesture means to them. You be the difference in their lives. Don't wait for someone else to step in.

In 2017 put forgiveness in your heart. If someone has wronged you, in your opinion, make this the year that reconciliation takes place. Forgive them and forget about it. The past is the past. If you by chance have made someone feel bad, ask them for forgiveness after the apology. If you carry shame, embarrassment about your past, ask God for forgiveness and wash that shame away. Stand with your head high and your back straight and know you are a child of God.

Give time to study and read the Word of God. In doing so you will receive clarity on what God wants you to do with your life. You will gain a closer relationship with Him. And you will live a life that is pleasing to Him. The best way to do that is to follow the Bible Reading Scripture Calendar Handout.

This is the year to "Move Forward".

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Sponsored By
January		
8th through April 16th	100 Day Bible Reading Challenge	Church Wide
February		
	Is Heart Disease Awareness Month	
4th	Bible and Brunch—11:30 AM	Transformed
10th	Family Game Night—Fellowship Hall — 6:30 PM	Church Wide
25th	AARP Driver's Training—Room E218 9:00AM—2:00PM	Dorcas Ministry
March		
	Is Kidney Cancer and Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month	
1st	Ash Wednesday	
4th	Bible and Brunch—11:30 AM	Transformed
11th	Arts Ministry Workshop—Fellowship Hall—10:00 AM	Arts Ministry
18th	Domestic Violence Seminar—Fellowship Hall—10:00 AM—2:00 PM	Church Wide
24th—26th	Young Adult Retreat	Transformed



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