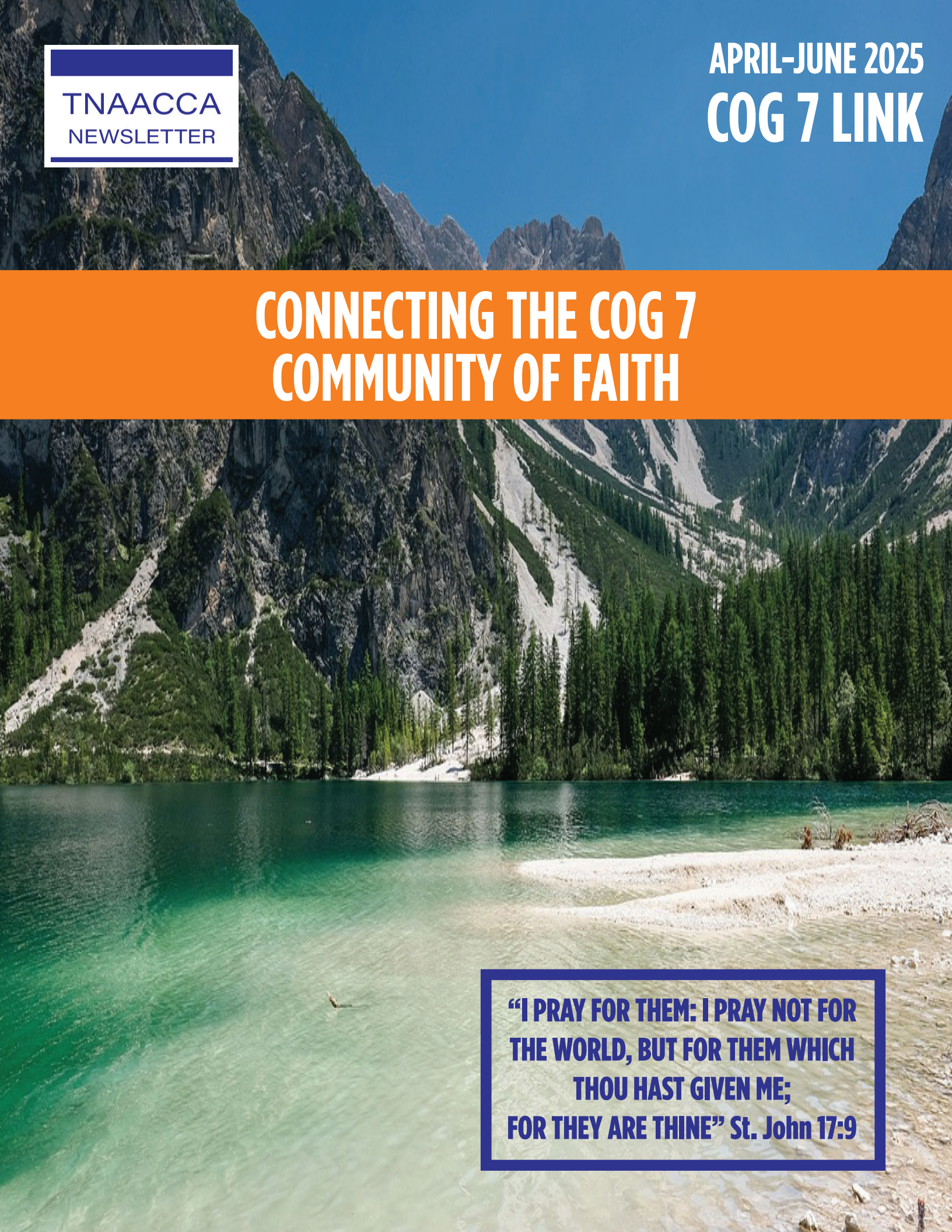




**TNAACCA**  
NEWSLETTER

**APRIL-JUNE 2025**  
**COG 7 LINK**

# **CONNECTING THE COG 7 COMMUNITY OF FAITH**



**“I PRAY FOR THEM: I PRAY NOT FOR  
THE WORLD, BUT FOR THEM WHICH  
THOU HAST GIVEN ME;  
FOR THEY ARE THINE” St. John 17:9**

**APRIL - JUNE 2025**  
**COG 7 LINK**

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# Individualism and Egotism

It's Harm to the Church's Witness.

There is a popular slogan often referenced in sports, "players win games. teams win championships." Of course, we can all agree that some things require the contribution of more than one person.

Christian leaders struggle to think and act in step with this truth. That in part because thoughts, habits, and societal incentives have permeated our culture, rob us of the clarion intent in Jesus's commission.

Instead, we see imbalanced tendencies toward autonomy, self-sufficiency, and (perceived) uniqueness in our administration and delivery of the gospel. When individualism is all we know, we filter everything we see or think through this lens.

## Cultural Blindness

Have you Thought, for example of the basic, of how we choose to describe ourselves?

Very few of our christian leaders are inclined to truthfully answer the question about our identity.

In an individualistic culture, relationships are simply not the primary lens through which we understand our identity, and that is a problem because individualism negatively impacts three areas critical to the great commission.

## Individualism Isolates the Purpose of Evangelism.

Before his ascension, Jesus identified several sets of instructions for advancing and continuing the work he had entrusted to the disciples (Matt. 28:18-20). Each phase of that work revolves around this command: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15).

Sadly, present - day christian egotist read these biblical commands and attaches their own interpretations to them. Often, we read Jesus' instructions as instructions for individual fulfillment, rather than commands given to communities. Surely, this assumption persists despite the clear ambiguous fact that majority authors of the new testament addressed their writings to churches, not individuals.

Many christian leaders have removed the communal intent of Jesus' commission and have often pursue evangelism primarily as a rational discussion between individuals. This individualistic conception of evangelism deprives the gospel of the power. Yet this is a feature the scriptures highlight as central in the conversion of most people after pentecost (acts 2:42-47).

## Individualism - Lucifer's Weapon Against the Church

After conversion believers are baptized into an identifiable community of Jesus's followers, who are self-consciously organized for the purpose of carrying out the church's mission.

**“Jesus sacrificial death was not to rescue isolated individuals; he died to create the church”**

Individualistic approaches to mission, however, are prone to lose sight of the centrality of the church.

Instead of seeing church planting as the necessary end to faithful evangelism; our pursuits often reduce the church to an optional facet deficient of the power Jesus promised for His church.

This also tragically reduces salvation to the concept of an individual “ticket” to the kingdom. In contrast, Paul explicitly says of Jesus, “He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people for his own possession, eager to do good works.”

Simply put, Jesus did not die to rescue isolated individuals; He died to create a church for His own glory. Thus, any approach contrary to His commission, which omit the unity of purpose necessity for church planting among unreached people, minimizes the glory for which Christ died.

## Individualism Fundamentally Redefines Discipleship

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he applies Jesus's command regarding the need for “teaching [new believers] to observe everything I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:20). Paul explains that this task is the responsibility of the entire church and that only by working together will the church see the growth and maturity of its members (Eph. 4:12-16).

This corporate responsibility does not eviscerate the unique contributions of individuals, of course (Eph. 4:7-11). Rather, it emphasizes the primary purpose for the expression of gifts.

As Paul says elsewhere, “a manifestation of the spirit is given to each person for the common good” (1 cor. 12:7) this communal focus also makes sense of the many “one another” commands in the new testament. Indeed, these commands are all but impossible to fulfill apart from regular interaction in the communal life of the church.

## Clarity of Purpose - the Church's Mission

It is expected from the moment of our salvation, that we abide in Christ and He in us. Abiding means we must seek to stay focused on Christ's original purpose for His church. That is, in all our various roles and responsibilities, we continuously draw from His direction.

That we maintain a moment-by-moment internal awareness of the need for His indwelling spirit. As a branch is dependent on a vine for life and nourishment, we must be reliant and accepting of the power of Jesus to complete the work of His kingdom. Christ's kingdom is independent of our personal egos and self-gratification.

Of course, abiding is not automatic. Without effort, we naturally drift toward self-sufficiency. So, we must establish habits that help reconnect our spirits with the spirit of Jesus.

C.S. Lewis summarizes dependence in the quote: “A car is made to run on petrol, and it would not run properly on anything else. **God has designed the human machine to run on himself.** He is the fuel our spirits were designed to burn or the food our spirits were designed to feed on.”

**The result of our spirits feeding off the life-giving spirit of Jesus is that we bear “fruit” for the kingdom.** These fruits are manifested in our actions as well as our character. After all, what good is it if we accomplish tasks for Jesus in an un-Christ like manner?

So, before us we have a choice to make. How have you been handling all your responsibilities? **Have you been abiding in him or trying to run your “human machine”** on some other kind of fuel? Bear in mind that Jesus whispers to us

the same thing that he told his disciples: “apart from me, you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

## Self - Evaluation

While this startling statement should make us evaluate our lives, the converse is also true. Without Him, we can do nothing. But in him, we can do anything he asks us to do. At some point in the life of leaders in our churches, roles and leadership responsibilities, delegation of duties, succession plans, and inclusiveness come into question, and these do need thoughtful review.

Editorial





## Collaboration Critical to the Mission of the Church

As leaders in the Church of God we have realized that the mission of the Church must be broader in scope than the capacity of our councils, conferences, ministry, individual church.

A basic understanding of Jesus' commission to his disciples in the Gospels indicate that the mission is universal, global, worldwide. It should therefore be apparent that collaboration is necessary if the mission is to be accomplished.

### Bonding in Anticipation & Belonging

The benefits of collaboration go far beyond the confines of individual congregations or organizations. In a world that is becoming more complex, diverse, and challenging, the ability to work together at least on common matters is essential for the growth, development and sustainability of individual efforts.

When church leaders collaborate, they strengthen bonds of fellowship, when they share ideas, resources and support one another they create a network of mutual aid that is encouraging to leaders and members alike.

A sense of belonging is fostered and commitment to the spiritual journey is enhanced.

There is no question that as individual churches and organizations we face limitations in terms of capacity and resources of various kinds. Collaboration provides the possibility that what is lacking in one situation may be complemented by availability from another.

Where leaders and churches have strong children/youth ministries, or outreach programs, community services or other effective ministry activities, they can be assets where there is commitment to collaboration.

It should also be noted that when individuals with different perspectives,

Ideas and approaches come together, there is a possibility that creative, innovative and productive outcomes will be generated.

Collaboration facilitates empowerment of leaders by expanding their sphere of reach and influence by creating awareness, providing opportunities to advocate for change, support social issues and address critical issues.

We should not overlook the area of trust that can be improved or enhanced by collaboration. We know there are questions that are asked genuinely concerning the reason for differences and divisions among us as churches. Often these questions remain muted or unasked in the appropriate forum or the right way, so they remain unaddressed, avoided, or unanswered and in the end nothing changes.

Collaboration will help to create a culture of trust and transparency that will contribute to leadership growth, membership growth (particularly understanding) and spiritual enrichment among all concerned.

As we journey along this collaboration pathway we have made meaningful steps. These steps may not have come at the pace at which we would like, given the need and the fact that we should be farther gone in this direction.

I am making an appeal, however, for us to re-

main committed to the values of collaboration and urge others to become engaged for the good of the work of the Lord.

We have this newsletter that has been produced as a tool and I am urging participants in the collaboration effort to make use of it and see it as a channel through which issues can be raised, concerns expressed, and discussions done to strengthen our endeavor.

May God prosper this collaboration effort for the glory of His name.

H M. Harley





## TNAACCA'S Report & Updates

The North American and the Caribbean COG 7 collaboration association bimonthly meeting began at 2 pm on March 16 via Zoom. Thirteen members of the 32 active participants gathered for the usual business meetings. The association's facilitator pastor Henry Harley gave his usual heartfelt welcome to all participants present, expressed his best wish for those members present, then prayed for direction on the proceedings. Enquiries were also made of absentees and reports from leaders of the association.

For context and in the spirit of progression and assimilation we moved into a review and reflection. Cognizant of members and attendants who were present for the first time, the leadership provided an overview of the progress of the association to date.

The assistant secretary Nadia Broderick seized the opportunity to share a summary report, highlighting progress on collaboration discussions, business items, strategies with fellow Cog7 church leaders and friends present for these meetings.

"It's always a pleasure to share with you what's

happening across the division," said sister Nadia, TNAACCA assistant secretary, as she began her report on activities for the year 2024. She continued, "In November at our last meeting, attendees were asked to give a brief introduction stating their affiliation, then each were given two questions which occupied parts of the discussion". Concerns were expressed, but ultimately, we agreed that we shared more similarities than differences, as such we should focus on what unites us rather than what separates us.

After further discussions, we agreed on the following areas of overarching commonality amongst our congregations. First, there was consensus on the belief "There is one God Elohim", and Jesus Christ the son of God, through whom we have redemption of our sins.

There was also the expressed identity in our common belief in the sacredness of the 7th Day Sabbath and the coming kingdom of God. Salvation by grace and not of ourselves, and the common view on the observance of the annual feast of the Lord's Supper.

The secretary further advised that in previous

meetings, this group discussed six areas of interest. Among the top 3 was a focused on the framework for building a youth initiative, with the goal of providing improved collaborative relationships among COG 7 groups, and a further lasting solution to the current state of our communities.

After further discussions and contributions from the leaders the following points were highlighted:

- Come as you are- an approach to evangelistic outreach-this to be followed by teaching.
- Second, establishing a leadership team to develop a structured resource mentorship program, which would allow our youths to utilize their various skills in areas of technical competencies or expertise. After their training and certification they would then be able to identify areas of interest within our various bodies. We would provide training initiatives, solutions, and community support in those areas. Some of those areas of mention were technology and mental health, among others.
- The program or framework should be unique, attractive, meaningful, and beneficial to our youths, to ensure support and engagement from our various congregations.
- Lastly, it should contribute to the advancement of the gospel. Pastors Howard Green and Lloyd Lewis were tasked with the development of a proposal to be examined and discussed in the next meeting.

The theme for the near future, “together in collaboration-restoring God’s church.” The idea here is, we are stronger together, can go further together, and accomplish more together.” She highlighted the second half of the commitment — “Effort by TNAACCA to initiate a youth initiative” — which would align with the global church’s strategic focus.

From this point, the facilitator pastor Henry Harley re-emphasize discussion points shared in previous discussions. Previously the collaborative focus was divided into three areas of strategic focus. The facilitator expressed his hope for meaningful engagements that will help to address some of those areas which have been identified in our discussions as areas in which we can improve. He noted that in a vast, diverse, and rapidly changing context such as North America, these intersecting points help us advance God’s mission more effectively.

## Perspectives on the Hinderances to Unity

Introductions of new participants provided opportunities for the association leadership to quest for answers to the questions: (1) what are some of the issues leaders have recognized, which need to be addressed, to improve relationships among COG 7 communities. (2) What are some obstacles yet to be identified which in the view of leaders have existed for some time and are preventing the church community; or how can we breach the gaps that may be there because of the divisions that we have encountered.

Pastor George in response hinted “I think what has divided us is less than what we have in common.” He suggested, if we were to build on the commonalities, the differences might subside to some degree. “If we were to cohesively understand what our similarities are and then build on those and let those be our guiding principles for all of us.” “Perceived obstacles may not be intentional.” “The things that are strong that are established, the things that we can work towards and work with, we should commence there; and adjust collectively, not allowing what is small to keep or hold us back.” “Probably we need to exert more efforts at getting to know each other with greater involvements in deep fellowships.”

Concerns for unity among COG 7 communities in St Martin were expressed by sister Saban of the St Martin COG 7. Pastor Harley in response emphasized the need at the leadership level for improved communication — identifying coaching, and equipping leaders — to navigate this wave of concerns. he challenged

leaders to consider how together we can mentor and create solutions to the next generation of COG 7 leaders.

## Highlights and Feedback

The facilitator pastor Harley continued with an emphasis on relationship building strategic focus, noting that there is a relationship deficit currently existing among COG 7 leaders. He argued for ways in which these ongoing collaborative efforts can provide a framework for addressing these issues that have been used as basis upon which we have had differences. He further solicited a discussion on how we can deal with these differences in ways that are non-threatening. Sincere ways must be found to deal with these issues he continued, otherwise we will be viewed as only pretenders. As a church, we're barely scraping the surface of our potential. He suggested that, just like the pioneers before us, the collaboration efforts have an opportunity to utilize the benefit of the recently released COG 7 (TNAAC-CA) magazine as an effective tool to convey the messages and concerns that are most vital to the unity of the church in these regions.

## Feedback on the Magazine

Pastors George, Holland, and Williams leaders of the COG 7 all expressed satisfaction and optimism for the content, layout and efforts placed into the development of this first edition of the magazine. Pastor Henry Harley further shared, that the magazine could be utilized as a tool to improve COG 7 relationships among disparaged groups. He emphasizes where the magazine could be useful in generating an appreciation on issues if presented properly.

The facilitator shared the view where the magazine could become a forum for sensitive issues to be presented properly for discussions and consideration. As he continued, there are times when we may talk about what makes us different; but that the article could present those thoughts in a way that can be objectively considered and objectively examined, which we never necessarily had an opportunity to. This magazine can become an avenue, an op-

portunity, facility to create a presentation that highlights a particular issue, or concern that may have been an issue that contributed to someone making a decision that they cannot fellowship with another group.

## Building Bridges – Improving Acceptance of the Magazine

- Pastor sterling of COG 7 spoke, and in his view felt the e-copy of the magazine would be more accepting, considering the society's short span for large volume of information. Making for shorter content of each article would be welcoming.
- Pastor george suggested also accessing the views of the youth community of the church as we develop the contents.

## Youth Initiative - Framework Presentation and Discussions

Pastors Green and Lewis were asked to develop and provide a draft document representative of a youth initiative framework. In the absence of pastor Green, pastor Lewis gave a brief overview and promised to share the draft copy with each participating leader. After brief exchanges, prayer was made to take the meeting's proceedings to an end.

## Magazine Secretariat





## Identity Concerns How did we get Here?

If the mission that originated, united, and organized COG 7 into a movement exists only in the books of history, but not in daily operation, another mission—or visions—must be operating among us.

No single organization in the Christian Church at large, can adequately function without a mission and vision direction. Leaders within our Christian denominations often choose to interpret knowledge of the scriptures, based most often through complex interplay of perception, experience, reasoning, and memory, actively constructing meaning from information rather than passively receiving it.

### Concerns for Biblical Misinterpretation

If our pursuit of the mission and organization of the church is not grounded, founded on the inherent principles, rooted in biblical interpretation and patterned according to Christ's own framework He share with His disciples; then the mission or visions we have and continued to invest our energies toward, may have been consciously or not, drawn from our own human culture, feelings and persuasions.

As such, there is the risk of disintegration from within. Division is evident not only in the various fields of specialization, but also, and more importantly, in the way we think, interpret the Bible, worship, and understand spirituality. Let me highlight the example and controver-

sy over issues of worldliness evident in the church. Committees are appointed; articles persuasively written on the issue; leaders have met requesting the direction of the Holy Spirit over these deliberations. Yet, in the end we yet to cohesively understand the scriptural teachings and efficacy on these issues in diverse ways.

### Christ's Promise for his Church

Is the Spirit not present and guiding? Why are we still not of one mind and spirit in these issues? Perhaps the spirit wants us to realize we have a methodological/hermeneutical problem that affects not only this current disagreement but everything we are and do.

God wants us to learn something far greater and important than the issue of worldliness in the church. Some of those involved in the discussions are individually arriving at this obvious conclusion.

Might our present disagreement on these and other issues be related to the systemic forgetfulness of real mission Jesus gave to the church? What if engaging our churches administration, and institutions in the process of retrieving the vision would help us solve this potentially divisive issue and prevent many more that will no doubt press the church in the future, diverting time, energy, and funds from our real task of preaching the message to the world?

Thinking through the mission and relating it to the goals guiding our pursuit, provides reflections on the causal relationship that exists between our understanding of Jesus' charge for the completion of the mission of His kingdom.

Something new, something detrimental to the life of the church is forming in the church, reaching even the leadership. A new period had already begun. Something has changed from earlier years. The most explicit difference between the early years and this period appears under the church's disunity, as a change from spiritual to doctrinal unity. As the church, however, continues to rely on the teaching of their leaders, rather than on personal Bible study, an imperceptible change is beginning to shine on the horizon, from an explicit embracing of idolism.

The major visible difference, in my view is not theological but spiritual. To use a now-familiar term, head knowledge/experience is replacing spiritual knowledge/experience. If ever the church is to move forward, she must overcome the spiritual situation as is existing presently.

Only when biblical spirituality is restored will the church agree doctrinally and methodologically. Will the church attain the experience of justification by faith? What is the divine prescription to experience such spirituality among the leadership?

Personal Bible study with prayer applied to daily life. The church needs personal discovery of divine truth as presented in Scripture, so as for the Holy Spirit to produce the righteousness/justification experience. This requires individual, time-intensive work.

## Doctrinal Illiteracy

Resulting from this personified gradual spiritual change, a very different church is emerging. This new era church and its institutions have grown in numbers with obvious deficiencies. Doctrinal illiteracy punctuated with subtle changes are clear indicatives. The unity of the early years no longer existed in the whole church. The absence of these essential guiding principles in the minds of leaders and church members indicates that they had started to

use their own sources, vision, and system of thinking.

What happens in the mind directs actions. The results of these mind changes directly affect the life of the church. Church mission, collaboration and church growth are slow and uneven. Evangelization is directed only to the already churched, programs are replicated, implying that we need not evangelize and convert Christians on the outside of our denomination. This is a serious modification when we consider the understanding of the global mission Matthew 28:19-20.



Lloydel Lewis





## Hindrances to Collaboration

### Introduction

Jesus prayed one of the most profound prayers recorded in Scripture, emphasizing the necessity of unity within the Church: “that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me” (John 17:21, NKJV). This statement captures the essence of the Church’s mission—oneness in Christ. However, despite the divine call for unity, various hindrances impede true collaboration within the body of Christ. These obstacles often stem from theological differences, personal ambitions, and cultural divisions that weaken the collective witness of the Church. Addressing these barriers is essential for fulfilling the Great Commission and demonstrating the love of Christ to the world.

### Hindrances to Collaboration

One significant hindrance to collaboration within the Church is not necessarily doctrinal differences, but the prioritization of personal

interests and beliefs that are often rooted in tradition. When churches or denominations prioritize minor differences over the fundamental truths of the gospel, they create unnecessary separation. Additionally, personal pride and leadership conflicts can obstruct effective partnerships. The Apostle Paul warned against selfish ambition and encouraged believers to value others above themselves (Philippians 2:3-4).

Without humility and a Christ-centered perspective, personal egos can disrupt the collective mission of the Church. Furthermore, cultural and denominational biases can hinder collaboration. Historical prejudices, racial divisions, and traditional practices sometimes take precedence over the biblical call to unity, making it difficult for different church groups to work together toward a common goal. While I am not advocating for a physical coming together or a merger of congregations, I do emphasize the importance of facilitating God’s mission by demonstrating true unity to the world.

## What Church will we Attend?

The question of church attendance is a fundamental one for many families, particularly those who prioritize their faith as the cornerstone of their lives. For my family and me, this question became especially significant six years ago when we migrated to the United States. As dedicated churchgoers, our commitment to faith extends beyond Sabbath services—it influences every aspect of our lives, from our choice of residence to our vacation plans.

The search for a church home, however, is not a matter of convenience or personal preference alone; rather, it is a spiritual and communal decision that requires discernment, prayer, and alignment with biblical teachings. In a new country, the challenge was not simply finding a place of worship but identifying a church that upheld sound doctrine, fostered genuine fellowship, and provided opportunities for spiritual growth and service. The Bible emphasizes the importance of corporate worship and Christian community, as seen in Hebrews 10:25, which urges believers not to forsake assembling together but to encourage one another in faith.

The question of “what church will we attend” arose not merely due to the overwhelming number of churches—over thirty-two (Church of God 7th Day), within our immediate area in the state of Florida—but because we were seeking a spiritual home that could nourish our souls with the unadulterated Word of God, free from the distractions of internal strife or doctrinal compromise.

Beyond the preaching, we needed a church deeply committed to intentional discipleship, one that fosters spiritual maturity and cultivates a culture of service aligned with the mission of Christ. This was especially vital for our newly converted teenage son, who was in a

formative stage of his faith journey and needed a nurturing environment that would guide him as he sought to establish his own relationship with God.

## A Collaborative Church

A collaborative church is one that reflects the biblical mandate of unity and mutual participation within the body of Christ. Collaboration, from a biblical perspective, is the “intentional act of working together in harmony to fulfill God’s purposes”, exemplified in passages such as 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, where the Apostle Paul likens the Church to a body made of many parts, each uniquely gifted yet interdependent. The Greek term *koinonia*, often translated as “fellowship,” implies not just communal relationship but active partnership in ministry (Acts 2:42; Philippians 1:5).

In a collaborative church, believers operate not as isolated individuals or competitive ministries, but as co-laborers in God’s vineyard (1 Corinthians 3:9), unified by the Spirit and committed to advancing the Kingdom. Such a church models Christ’s prayer in John 17:21, seeking to be one in purpose and love, so that the world may witness the transformative power of divine unity.

## Hindrances to Collaboration

Collaboration within the church is central to fulfilling the Great Commission and building a spiritually unified body of believers. However, despite biblical imperatives toward unity (Ephesians 4:3-6), many congregations struggle to work together effectively. Hindrances to collaboration often stem from interpersonal, theological, and institutional barriers that erode trust and communal mission.

These divisions can manifest in subtle forms, such as a reluctance to share resources, or overt ways, like denominational rivalry and doctrinal disputes. The Apostle Paul addressed similar issues in the early church, urg-

ing believers to avoid factions and instead be “perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment” (1 Corinthians 1:10, NKJV). A collaborative church must first identify and confront the barriers that undermine its collective purpose and witness. Some of these barriers are:

## 1. Old Wounds That Have Not Been Healed

One of the most significant, yet often overlooked, obstacles to collaboration within and between churches is the presence of unresolved emotional or spiritual wounds. These can stem from past conflicts, leadership failures, racial or cultural exclusion, or personal betrayals experienced in a church context. Such wounds create an atmosphere of distrust and defensiveness, making it difficult for individuals and ministries to engage openly and cooperatively.

As Hebrews 12:15 warns, “See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.” A healing process rooted in confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation (James 5:16; Matthew 5:23–24) is essential for restoring relationships and making collaboration possible. Churches that prioritize healing and restoration cultivate a climate where unity can thrive.

## 2. Style of Worship and Church Break-aways

Differences in worship styles can also impede collaboration among churches. Preferences regarding music, liturgy, preaching styles, or expressions of spiritual gifts can become dividing lines, often rooted in cultural or generational distinctions rather than theological essentials. While diversity in

worship is a reflection of the body’s richness (Revelation 7:9), an unwillingness to appreciate or respect different traditions can lead to fragmentation.

This fragmentation is further intensified by frequent church breakaways, where disagreements—sometimes over secondary issues—lead to new congregations forming in isolation rather than unity. These separations, though occasionally necessary, can foster a cycle of division rather than reconciliation, echoing Paul’s lament to the Corinthians: “Is Christ divided?” (1 Corinthians 1:13). A church committed to collaboration must strive for unity in essentials, liberty in non-essentials, and charity in all things, promoting mutual respect and shared mission above stylistic or structural differences.

## Forging a Solution

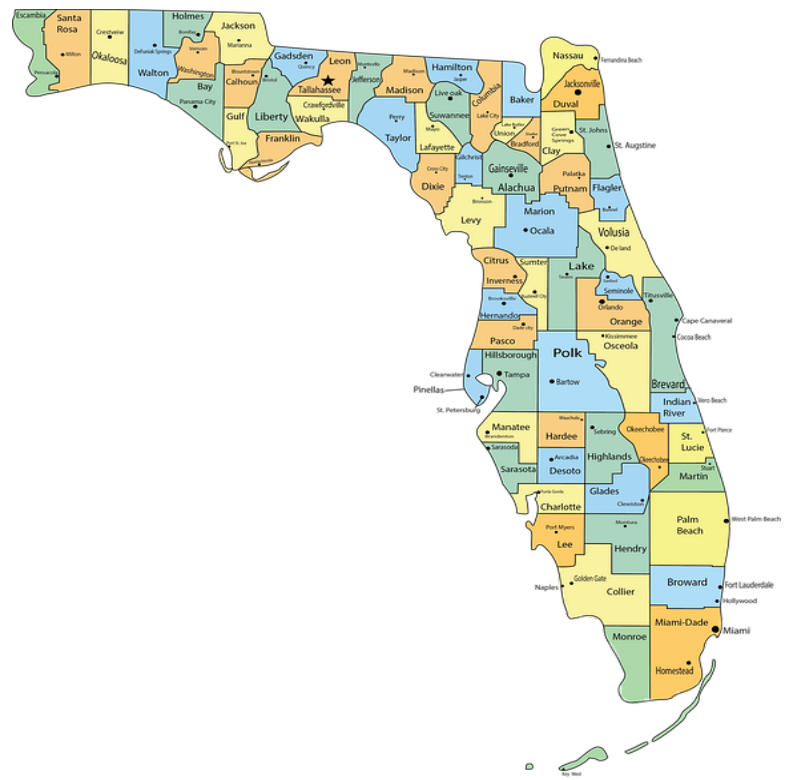
Barriers that hinder collaboration within the Church requires intentional efforts rooted in humility, biblical truth, and Spirit-led discernment. The Apostle Paul provides a foundational principle in Philippians 2:2–4 (NKJV), urging believers to be “like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord of one mind,” and to act with humility, “esteeming others better than himself.” This attitude is essential in addressing old wounds, embracing diverse worship styles, and bridging denominational or congregational divides. Healing must begin with open dialogue, where leaders and members alike are willing to listen, repent, and extend forgiveness for past wrongs. Churches can establish reconciliation ministries or inter-church fellowships to foster safe spaces for restoration, shared prayer, and cooperative mission planning. Furthermore, a renewed focus on kingdom-mindedness can shift the Church’s perspective from competition to cooperation. When churches prioritize the mission of making disciples (Matthew 28:19–20) over institutional self-preservation, collaboration becomes a strategic and spiritual necessity.

ty rather than an optional pursuit.

Worship diversity should be seen not as a hindrance but as a reflection of God's creativity and inclusivity, where unity is maintained not by uniformity but by mutual respect and shared purpose (Romans 12:4-5). Finally, theological training, community service, and corporate worship initiatives across congregations can serve as practical bridges for building trust and fostering long-term partnership. In forging such a solution, the Church moves closer to Christ's vision of oneness that leads the world to believe in Him (John 17:21).

## Conclusion

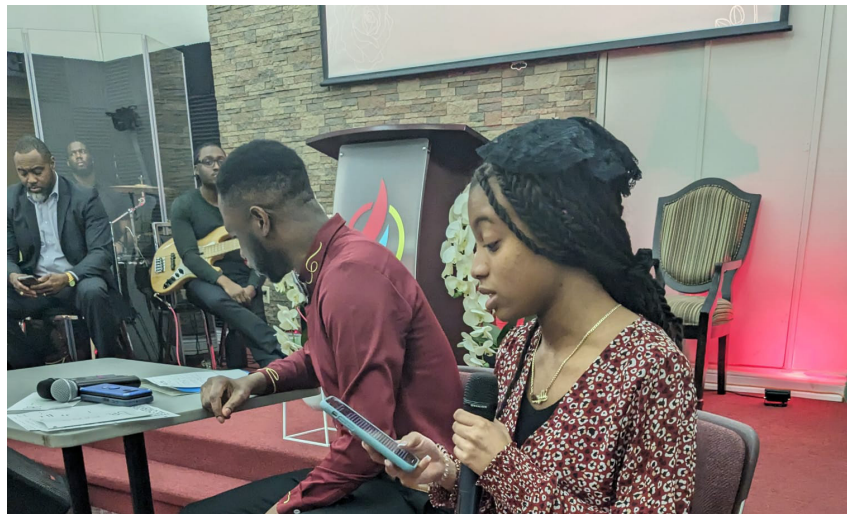
Collaboration within the Church is not just a good practice; it is a biblical mandate. While various obstacles hinder unity, overcoming them through humility, communication, and shared purpose strengthens the Church's witness. As believers, we are called to reflect the unity of the Father and the Son so that the world may see and believe (John 17:21). By addressing these hindrances, the Church can move towards true collaboration, fulfilling its divine mission.



Dalkeith Moore



# WE WELCOME EVERYONE





## Eastern Caribbean Reports

The Trinidad and Tobago Conference of the Church of God Seventh Day is a registered non-profit organization. Its registered office (headquarters) is #2 Hill Lane, St. James. Port of Spain. There is a Board of Directors consisting of eight men. There are three branches in Trinidad. The four Elders are members of the board. Overall membership is about three hundred. Ministries within the organization include Women's, Children, Youth, Care for all. Presently, we are doing a once-a-month Evangelism/Outreach on Sabbath afternoons.

This has been going on over the last 12-16 months at the national level.

We are attempting to push the brethren to be actively involved. So far, it has been successful. The membership response has been tremendous. All of Evangelism/Outreach have been in the northeast side of the country, The south-central part has not been exposed to these meetings yet, but we are working towards this.

Over the years, the COG7 in Trinidad has had a healthy relationship with COG7 Tobago (Jerusalem). This continues.

Links with the brethren in Guyana continue. On my last visit to them, February 21st to Feb-

ruary 23rd, 2025, to celebrate their 50th Anniversary Celebration, discussions were held with Bishop Terry Slowe for continued dialogue. Baptisms have been achieved during the past year even as recently as two weeks before Lord's Supper. The Women's ministry, Prayer ministry, Children ministry and Youth ministry are functional at the branch level. There has been some infusion to use these at the national level.

The use of online zoom services for prayer meetings on Monday nights attempts to get all members on board. It's not where it should be, but we are hoping for increases in coming months. There is an opportunity for face-to-face prayer meeting at St. James on Tuesday night. Bible studies are on Thursday night on Zoom. From the Cumuto branch, live Sabbath services are streamed.

Training has been an issue. We have linked up with the Jamaica brethren to help us in this regard. There will be a session of training before

The New Year's End. Carnival Camp 2025 was a success. We did have some people who have not yet accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. This Camp has been reinstated in the last 3-5 years.

In summary, the efforts to grow the church in the coming months continue. Efforts to get all members on task continue. As I reflected on the night of the Jewish New Year, over 50 years in a country is a long time. Still some

people claim they have not heard of the COG7. People then and now, link us to the Seventh Day Adventist. Our efforts with prayer, fasting and continued outreach programs will help to establish the COG7 in Trinidad and Tobago.

**Pastor Dalrymple**

# TNAACCA NEWSLETTER

## St. Martin, Eastern Caribbean



# Family Life Focus

**“Family - where life begins,  
and love never ends.”**

‘In family life, love is the oil that eases friction, the cement that binds closer together, and the music that brings harmony.’ - Friedrich Nietzsche.

## **Attracting Godly men to Church**

If one should examine the church today, you will arrive at the known conclusion, that most churches are predominantly populated with women congregants. The question therefore arising and remaining unanswered is, what are some obvious mistakes and missteps been repeated by leaders in our Christian and religious settings. What can or should some other strategies be employed, to create turnarounds and lasting solutions to a situation heading into a crisis?

How and what are some best practices missing; which if they were to be employed, we would attract males, especially young men, to the church? Young men are the foundation and building blocks for the next generation.



There is a clarion call for men to lead in the proclamation and extending of the gospel to the next generation.

A man's glory is most evident as they exhume strength in their youth (Proverbs 20 v 29). Even at creation men were created for leadership, provider and protector.

My question therefore is, are our men fulfilling those roles? Are our churches making it feasible for men to be partakers of God's glorious gift? What can we do to attract, inspire and refocus the hearts of men and bring them into the fold? There are so many of our men who are in need of direction. Are we satisfied enough have been done to encourage those

men whose souls are heading in the wrong directions?

## A Manly Pastor

Men's acceptance and attraction to churches are usually most evident through their own impressions of the pastors. They will gravitate to pastors who project healthy masculinity. Men are attracted to spiritual leaders whom they can look up to and emulate.

Men desire their pastors to be an example, leading people in the right direction. If you should ask a man about his church his first discussion point will be about the pastor, not his ministries, facility, or program. Jesus preached the gospel while He was on earth, and He left an example for us to follow.

Look at all the patriarchs of old, Paul, Peter, John to name a few who preach and lived by the word. Not only were they convinced but they were convicted. How can we get men to be convicted and stay true and faithful to God?

Power-hungry pastors are distasteful to men because they consider them selfish and egoistic. A pastor who is comfortable in the position that God has placed him and one who is a transformational leader is someone that is relatable to men.

## Excellence is Vital

Men gravitate towards growing churches that offer excellence and feeding the flock with the word of God. Men regard excellence in preaching and teaching the gospel which keep their minds critically thinking, giving them room to search and explore the word of God.

Being a part of different ministries such as music, singing, preaching, will keep them busy for Christ. Keeping them occupied and doing their best for the Lord will validate their worth and allow them to feel worthy of the vocation

which they are called.

David said, "I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness" (Psalm 84 v 10).

It is important not to "sugar coat" the words to bring men into the glorious light but teach them from the start that the road to the kingdom is going to be a daily fight and our reward is not in this world but in the world to come. Coming from a male perspective, and I quote, "Men are less forgiving of anything that's bad", so as Christians we should set a good example so we can attract them to the church and for them to commit their life to God.



Orlene Reid





## Advice for Unmarried Women

Special acknowledgement to the sisterhood of unwed Christian women. The term unwed includes young maidens, spinsters, widowed and eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven. Yes, you are all daughters of the King of Kings, of the Royal Priesthood, decked with crowns of righteousness.

### You're a Designer's Original

God's plan for you is uniquely designed, just as each beautiful flower was crafted in creation yet varies in many ways. Jeremiah 29:14 states, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not evil, to give you an expected end." When this scripture is taken to heart, we acknowledge that our loving Father in his infinite wisdom has the masterplan (His Will) for you to enjoy a successful life which will lead you into his eternal kingdom of paradise.

So then, you may wonder ...how and when will I know His Will for my life? Firstly, God is the revealer of secrets (Daniel 2:47). Next, He knows your heart and will reveal His Will for your life in His time. Rest reassured, there is

nothing to fear or be anxious about for his word confirms...'And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.' Romans 8:28

James 4:3 speaks about asking with the wrong motives 'Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.' The later verses give guidance that our hearts should be focused on submission to God and humility. These attributes should be a part of our nature as Christians in general, and not just an attempt or performance in a relationship for marriage preparation. Therefore, if you have a problem with submission or humility, then you need to examine your motives.

Mary the mother of Jesus reflected the heart of a young woman who in total submission was ready to receive her masterplan. We remember her words '... be it unto me according to thy word.' How about using these words in sincere prayer, which may go something like this...'Heavenly Father, here I am your humble servant, I ask that your will be done and not my own. May you reveal your destiny for my life which will lead me to success and fulfillment from now unto eternity, in Jesus Mighty name, Amen.'

### What about my desires and needs?

It is natural to have the desire for companionship, for God created the woman so that the man should not be alone. There is seemingly an innate magnetic force for male and female to be joined together as one. Love, unity and equality will be some of the fine attributes the right connection will produce.

However, the success of a marriage union depends on the position of Christ in your equation. One may argue that there are non-believers with happy marriages. This may be true as they are equally yoked in unbelief. For us Christians, Christ is the invisible yet active yoke that joins the two as one. He is the third cord in 'the knot' and harness for the 'hitched'. With Christ at our center, your marriage will last a lifetime.

Our first desire should be to know and be known by our savior Jesus Christ. Some helpful verses that build our foundation of desire in Christ include Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Psalms 37: 4-5 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

## Brides in Waiting

Often enough these questions may flood the mind 'but how long do I have to wait?'... 'what's wrong with me?'...'will I ever get married?'...'why doesn't he love me?'

Although your wait for prince charming to sweep you off your feet may be long in coming, have you fallen in love with Jesus? Do you have a relationship with him?

Our relationship with God is founded upon love. 'We love him, because he first loved us.' 1 John 4:19. In love God created us, gave his son, who has become the anticipated bridegroom we must be ready to meet. In love God guides us through this life towards an eternal union with him.

As brides waiting on the Messiah, Revelations reminds us that He is our 'first love'. Be passionate for our Lord, love him, seek him out, live to please him, serve him with joy and gladness and put him first.

When your priorities are well aligned in God, the Word confirms that you may 'ask and you shall receive' for 'no good thing he will withhold from you.'

## Find Joy in the journey

Your joy should not be solely based on whether you have 'the man of your dreams.' Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit of God which will not fade or be turned on or off based on circumstances, it is constant. As the chorus goes... 'this joy that I have... the world didn't give it to me!'

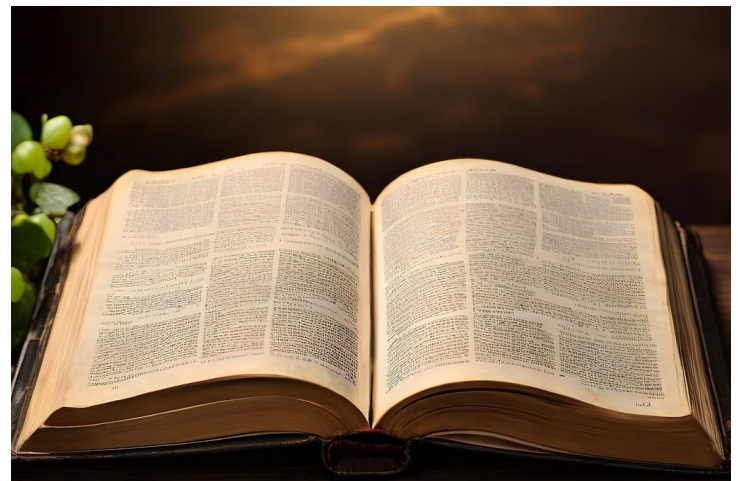
The joy of the Lord is not just an outward show of exuberance which can be instantaneous like flashes of lightning. The Joy of the Lord is your strength, spiritual cheerfulness of the heart and soul that lives on despite life's challenges and disappointments.

While on the journey, you can appreciate the opportunity to positively develop yourself in various ways such as:

- Practice positive personality traits; the fruit of the Spirit, integrity, dignity etc. Adjust where necessary, get feedback from trusted sources.
- Endeavor for excellence. Do everything with all your might as unto the Lord.
- Become involved in ministry. Learn new skills and share your talents.
- Equip yourself with the awareness and qualities of a good helpmeet such as homemaking, prayerfulness, counselling, giving sound advice, brainstorming for creative solutions, hospitality, multitasking, budgeting, and good communication.

So, my sisters, I encourage you to submit to God's will, wait patiently on Him, and be prepared for what He has in store for you both now and eternally.

**Denielle Taylor- Trinidad**





## A Young Unmarried College Graduate Story

Is attracting a godly man good reason to grow in my faith?

**We ended our relationship because it posed too many temptations for him to stray away from his walk with Christ.**

I recently got out of a brief relationship with the most wonderful guy. We were in college, shared similar teenage conversation, studied as full-time students, lived in resident dormitories on campus, but he was a Christian, devoted to his walk with God. I really respect that about him; however, I was not so devoted in my walk with God.

I grew up with Christian parents in a Christian home; he did not. It amazes me that someone as young as he was, who did not grow up in a religious home, could have so much fervor for God. Growing up, most of the youth I knew were devoted not because of our intense love for God, but because of our parents.

Sadly, our relationship ended, as it posed too many temptations for him to stray away from

his walk with Christ. I was highly respectful of that, but I really like him.

He really likes me, but evidence was, he was hesitant because we were in two different places spiritually.

I am firmly aware, the Bible speaks clearly of us not being “unevenly yoked.” So, I respected his maturity and wisdom and decision in this situation.

But now part of me wonders how I can attract someone like him into my life. Assuredly, my wish would be for him, in retrospect I realize he is not mine to have and that only God knows who is meant to be his bride. As a grown adult the impact is beginning to be felt on me: As I compare and contrast him to another male relationships of mine who was not a Christian, I see that this guy is a good man and that I lost out on him because of my relationship — or lack thereof — with God.

I'm confused, as I should not because of this experience be thinking to draw closer to God, because of an attraction to a man. I should be drawn closer to God because of my own inner conviction to, not because a relationship with a godly man has made me want to.

My own view is if I do move closer to God, I want it to be pure and genuine, not because of another person. But part of me thinks that that is why I was given this experience with this Christian man.

Friend, I am so glad I can share some advice, a man I was attracted to pointed me to Christ. And so, I say with wholehearted enthusiasm, go to God for God, not a guy. I thank God all the way that He used this man to point me to Him. His obedience to God is worth celebrating, especially as far as it has opened my eyes to my own situation. Thank God for a man who is faithful to Christ!

If you are aware of your sin, your separation from God, your need for salvation — if you are now aware that the faith of your childhood was not truly your own, but allegiance to your parents' convictions — this is the Holy Spirit at work in you. Rejoice! And repent. Believe. Trust in Christ.

Listen to what Jesus says in Matthew 11:27-30, All things have been handed over to me by my father, and no one knows the son except the father, and no one knows the father except the son and anyone to whom the son chooses to reveal him.

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Your desire to grow in faith, to “move closer to God,” is a gift. Embrace it. Pursue Christ. Repent and believe. God told us He would use people to spread the good news of His grace,

of the forgiveness of sins, of the gift of eternal life.

God uses all manner of circumstances to draw people to Him: wars, natural disasters, illness, financial woes, troubles at work, and yes, romantic heartache.

But we know this for certain, regardless of the circumstances He uses to get our attention, it is the Father who draws us to the Son (John 6:44), and it is the Son who reveals the Father to us, and it is always the Word of God preached that the Spirit uses to bring us to saving faith.

If you have inklings of faith, do not get distracted trying to figure out if they're “pure and genuine,” run to God! Repent, believe, be saved. Today is the day of salvation! I pray this in the Name of the only One who saves, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Editorial



**WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR UNWAVERING  
PRAYER AND SUPPORT**

**Cancare Child Care Centre- Calgary AB**



## What Is Attractive - Unattractive to Godly Men?

This topic continues to overwhelm unmarried women especially. It seems to me that it is one of the most frustrating issues that many of my single brothers and sisters are dealing with - figuring out how to attract a potential romantic partner who is a believer in Christ, and how to avoid being "unattractive" to godly members of the opposite sex.

This is not an expert version on this issue - unfortunately for you. However -we believe there are some wisdoms to share - and we are certain that there will be much discussion, in the comments that may help fill in any gaps we may have in this article.

These suggestions may not be applicable to all men. Infact we are here to focus on Godly men - men who truly desire to live for and honor Christ as Lord of their lives.

The suggestions to prayerfully consider according to the Scripture's command, are for women to only marry men who "belong to the Lord": Some notable suggestions:

- Please do not date anyone but godly men.
- Please do not date a man who is violent, who cannot control his temper, who is abusive, who has no problem with keeping sin in his life, who does not seek God first, who does not live with Christ as LORD.
- Please do not date an unbeliever or a man who says he is a Christian but is not interested in the things of God.

- Please do not date a man who says he might become a Christian in the future.

### Be sure- focus on becoming the woman God desires you to be!

The idea about being attractive to godly men are personal features women can work on and change in themselves. Some of these things are not things we can change as easily. Rather than trying to please men - women please pray for the will to seek to please and honor Christ with your faith in Him, you're abiding in Him, our obedience to Him, our being full of His Spirit and in the way we celebrate the gifts He has given to us so generously.

### Things That Tend to Repel Godly Men:

- An unfeminine appearance or more masculine appearance
- An argumentative, contentious spirit
- A woman who says she is close to Christ, but whose life does not match her claim - who does not have the fruit of God's Spirit in her life.
- An uncontrollable tongue
- An uncontrollable temper
- A lack of interest
- Too much interest/smothering
- Masculine-looking clothing on a woman
- Not much care or thought being given to physical appearance.

- A very loud or overbearing personality
- A take-charge/domineering/bossy personality
- A spirit that tries to control or change a man or dictate to him what he “should” do.
- A total lack of ability to think for oneself and a lack of one’s own opinions, beliefs, convictions, and ideas.
- Immodest dress / behavior
- PRIDE or arrogance.
- Selfishness
- An independent spirit that pushes the idea, “I don’t need a man!”
- A spirit that embraces some of the ungodly ideals of feminism
- A desire to pressure, nag, push and force him into deeper commitment.
- Lack of manners or rudeness
- Disrespect
- A sense that he is her “project.”
- A trust in self instead of in God
- Idolatry of self, being in control, having a man, marriage, children, a guy, looks, weight, food, money, or anything else!
- Coldness
- Manipulation
- Demands
- Wide emotional swings (emotional lability)
- Deception
- Materialism
- A sense of entitlement
- Greed / Selfishness
- Self-righteousness – looking down on others.
- A critical/judgmental spirit
- Gossip
- Disloyalty
- A promiscuous lifestyle and attitude

## What Values Resonate with Godly Men:

- A lot of smiling
- Classy, feminine clothing (skirts, dresses, flowing fabrics, etc.)
- Meekness (“bridled strength”)
- Self-control / Friendliness
- Signaling her interest in him clearly.
- Honesty and truthfulness in a spirit of love
- A cooperative spirit
- Admiration / respect
- Modest clothing / behavior
- Youthfulness/a feminine figure/physical beauty

- Chastity / Virginity
- A willingness to be part of a team with a man.
- The ability to be “dependent” on a man in a feminine, godly, healthy way.
- Humility
- Understanding that he has feelings, emotions, and sensitivity to seek only to bless and not to wound him.
- A peaceful spirit from God
- Kindness
- A willingness to follow his leadership (particularly the closer a relationship gets to marriage) – this does not mean you must submit to a guy you are interested in or are dating. But, if a godly man is interested in you, part of what will attract him is your willingness to consider his ideas as being important, and your ability to express yourself respectfully and your willingness to seek to honor his leadership. (If a man is demanding that you submit to him or “obey” him or is trying to coerce you into sin – that is not good! Seek godly counsel ASAP!)
- Gentleness – in speech and in demeanor and in words and attitude
- Patience – in all things, including in waiting for him to commit or to propose.
- A friendly and curious desire to understand his heart, his perspective, and his world.
- An interest in what is important to him.
- A willingness to encourage him to dream and pursue what God desires him to do.
- Accept him for who he is.
- loyalty – protecting him, not bashing him/criticizing him/disrespecting him to others (if you are in danger, then you do need to seek help, please!)
- A strong belief and conviction that divorce will not be an option once she is married.
- A nurturing spirit
- Tasteful makeup (some men even prefer extraordinarily little make up or none)
- A purposeful rejection of worldly wisdom and the world’s ungodly ideas
- Compassion
- The love of God in her heart
- A deep desire to know God more, to find contentment in Him alone and to seek to joyfully live in total obedience to Him.



**ENGAGE WITH TNAACCA ON THIS MISSION  
“FOR GLORY AND FOR BEAUTY GOD DESERVES A  
BEAUTIFUL CHURCH”**

**TNAACCA MEETS BY WAY OF ZOOM EVERY TWO MONTHS.  
OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON JULY 20th 2025.  
MEETING ID: 522 518 8004 – PASSCODE: ctz271**