

July, 2022



THE CONGRESS

NEWSLETTER

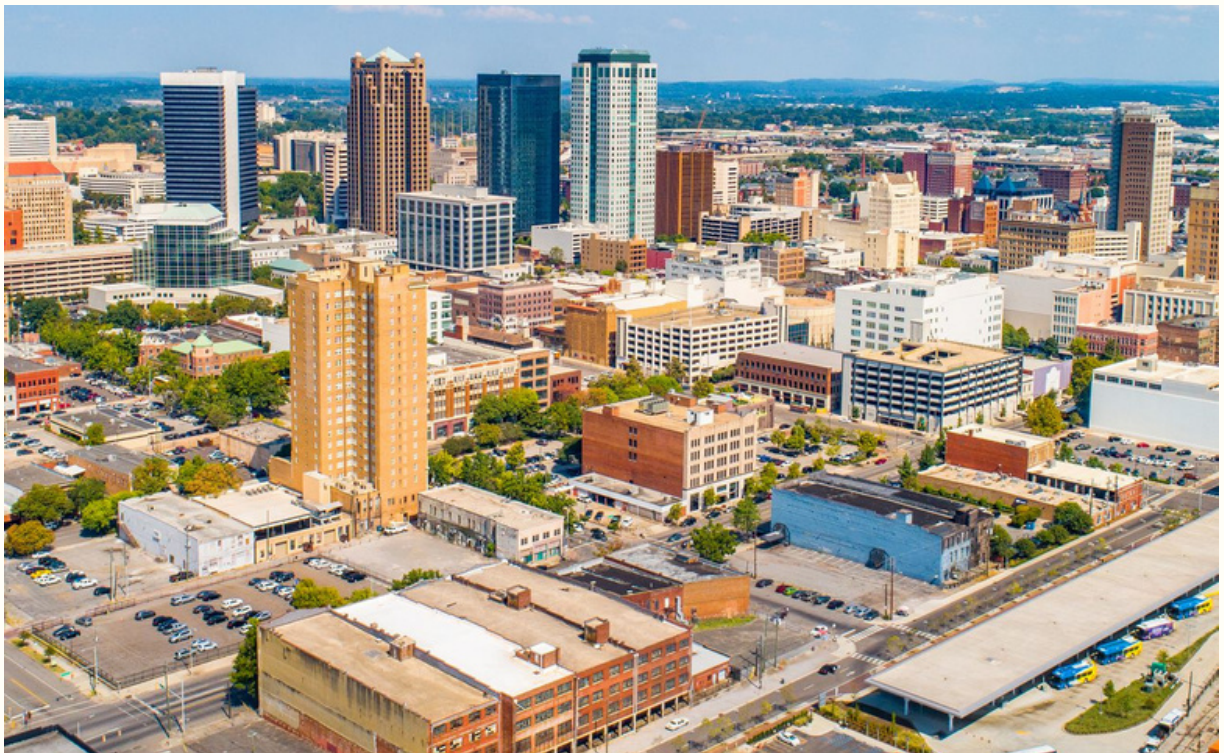
Pre-Congress Highlights of the 82nd Annual Session of The National Sunday School and H.Y.M. Congress of the Church of Christ (Holiness) U.S.A.

LIVING OUT LOUD

Theme Song: I am Wholly Sanctified

Bible Quiz: Galatians 1-6

Theme Scripture: Galatians 2:20



BIRMINGHAM, HERE WE COME!

www.cochusacongress.org

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Birmingham, Alabama, here we come!!!

Coming from the north, south, east, and the west are members of one of the greatest gathering the city has seen. The Church of Christ (Holiness) USA is on the way!! In preparation for all of you who will meet us in Birmingham, we have prayed, planned, and prepared for your arrival. From the moment you arrive you will see that you were first on our minds. Every child, youth, young adult, and adult will be met with opportunities to be inspired, challenged, and transformed. Conventions for every age and sessions for every ministry need will be offered to all in attendance. But none of it will happen before we hit the community with our Operation Giveback on Thursday morning. That's right, we are going into the community and engaging with all the children and youth in the area! Serving is going to be a blast!!

Your Congress Team is excited about hosting you! When you come to this year's convention, plan to attend high worship services, but also plan to actually see the city of Birmingham - its historical sites, family fun attractions, southern dining, and other unique attractions. Let's take Birmingham by force... the only way we know, the COCHUSA way! See you in July!

Elder Fred Taylor, National Congress President

A vibrant, space-themed poster for the 2022 National Congress Children's Convention. The background is a dark blue space with white clouds at the bottom and yellow and orange streaks representing meteors or rockets. A rocket with a red nose cone and blue fins is launching from the bottom left, leaving a trail of white and grey smoke. Two stylized, colorful eyes are depicted as if floating in space. The text is centered and uses various colors and fonts to create a dynamic and inviting look.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!

2022 NATIONAL CONGRESS

CHILDREN'S CONVENTION

OUT OF THIS WORLD FOR JESUS:
FAITH MISSION ACTIVATED

AGES 6-12

JULY 22-23 | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

The logo for the Church of Christ (Holiness) USA, featuring a white cross on a blue shield with the text "National Congress Church of Christ (Holiness) USA S.S. H.Y.M." around it.

Born on July 1, 1986 to Darrell Nealy and Michelle Hall, Darrell was raised in Atlanta, GA. He received Christ as his Savior & Lord at a young age and was baptized at the Elizabeth Baptist Church. In September of 2003, at age 17, Darrell accepted his calling into the ministry. He preached his first sermon, "Turn Right and Keep Straight", in April of 2004. Min. Hall received a Bachelor of Arts in Religion in 2008, a Master of Arts in Christian Studies in 2010, and a Master of Divinity in 2016 from Luther Rice Seminary. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree from Beeson Divinity School at Samford University.

Darrell has developed as a preacher and leader under the tutelage of Dr. Craig L. Oliver, Sr. Beginning in 2004, Min. Hall served the Lord as a lay minister supporting his pastor and church. In October of 2010 Rev. Hall joined the staff of E.B.C. to offer pastoral care to the youth. Ordained January 24, 2015, Rev. Hall currently serves as the Campus Pastor of EBC's campus in Conyers, GA.

Rev. Hall's ministry paradigm is constructed upon his calling to preach the Word of God with integrity and freshness to hearers of all generations and nations. His mission is to love all people into Christlikeness through the practicing and preaching of the Word. Colossians 1:25NASB serves as his personal theme verse. As a member of the Academy of Young Preachers he has two published sermons ("The Panacea for Every Problem" 2013; "Why am I Anointed but Alone" 2014).



Rev. Darrell Hall, Friday Guest Speaker

In 2022 Rev. Hall released his first book, "Speaking Across Generations: Messages that satisfy Boomers, Xers, Millennials, Gen Z, and Beyond." In this book, Rev. Hall sheds light on how each generation receives verbal messages and how generational science can equip you to communicate effectively.

Rev. Hall is a man of faith who looks humbly and expectantly at what his future will bring. He desires to invest into others all that God put into him. The joy of his life is his best friend and the wife of his youth, Eboni. They are the parents of sons Dylan Elijah, Daniel Elisha, and Dixon Emmanuel.

Friday Night Guest Music Artist
Brandon Mitchell & SWAP





**RAINER B. WILSON FELLOWSHIP BANQUET
2022 GRADUATES FORM**

CALLING ALL GRADUATES
(HIGH SCHOOL, UNDERGRADUATE, GRADUATE AND SPECIALTY DEGREE)

Email your video submission to: RBW.cochusa@gmail.com

VIDEO REQUIREMENTS	VIDEO MUST HAVES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 second video maximum • Video format maybe .mov or mp4 • Due by: July 1, 2022 (strict deadline) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name, Diocese, Level of graduation, Institution, Local Church, Major, goals, hobbies, anticipated degree and /or anything you would like us to know.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL : 773-370-1724
LISA WILLIS, GRADUATE COORDINATOR



WE WANT TO SEE YOUR CREATIONS

**MAUDE CONIC
FINE ARTS AND CRAFTS**

ALL ENTRIES WELCOMED
"SHOW US WHAT YOU WORKIN' WITH"

EVERYONE OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOMED TO DISPLAY YOUR GOD GIVEN TALENTS...
WHATEVER THAT IS!

SUBMISSION PROCESS

- EMAIL YOUR ENTRY TO FineartsandcraftsCOCHUSA@gmail.com
- FORMAT: .MOV or MP4
- PRESENTATION SHOULD BE 30 seconds per entry

CABINETRY/ CANNING / SEWING / KNITTING / CAKE DECORATING
PHOTOGRAPHY / MOSAICS / POTTERY
PAINTINGS / DRAWINGS / ETC.



JUST 'CAUSE I DIDN'T MENTION IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULDN'T SUBMIT IT

FULL FINE ARTS AND CRAFTS PRESENTATIONS WILL BE SHOWN ON SATURDAY, JULY 23, 2022 DURING THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE DIOCESE WITH THE MOST ENTRIES.

SEE LISA WILLIS, SETH CASTILLA, OR ALEXIS DIXON FOR MORE INFORMATION

What's going on at the convention?

JULY 23RD

**M.R. CONIC
Oratorical Contest**

THEME:
LIVE OUT LOUD

HIGHLIGHTED RULES

At the time of entering the contest, each contestant must:

- Have written his/her own oration
- ALL High School students (grades 9-12)

1. The subject of each contest's oration will be the current theme of the National Sunday School and HYM Congress.
2. Each contestant will deliver orations from memory at each level.
3. Each contestant shall submit a copy of his orations to the Supervisory Committee at the time of the contest at each level.
4. Each contestant shall be judged in the following categories:
Originality of thought, Orientation, Coherence, Deliberation, Articulation, Gesticulation, and Time.
5. Each contestant in the contest at level four shall register with the National Sunday School and HYM Congress on the opening day of the Congress.

All Diocese 1st place winners should submit a contestants data form to the National coordinator.
For More Information on Contest Rules, visit www.cochusacongress.org or Contact Coordinator - Ciara Weary @ 337-781-4592



Kerry J. Allen Scholarship



Lois Emmanuel, Western Diocese

"The Kerry J Allen Scholarship was very helpful in my journey through college. I won the scholarship in 2016 and received the award for four years while I was a student at Alcorn State University, earning my Bachelors in English Literature. The scholarship allowed me to prioritize my studies instead of worrying about finances. I used the scholarship money to furnish my dorm room, buy textbooks, and pay for LSAT prep and testing fees. I maintained a 3.96 GPA while working as Writing Center Consultant and serving as co-founder and president of the Alcorn Pre-Law Society. I was recognized as "Outstanding Graduating Senior" in 2020.

Upon graduation, I accepted a full-ride scholarship to the University of California, Hastings School of the Law. While in law school, I have completed internships doing corporate work for startups and litigation assignments for million-dollar cases involving well-known companies. I also had the pleasure of externing for a judge in the Complex Civil Litigation division of the San Francisco Superior Court. I am now entering my final year of law school.

After law school, I've secured employment with a large, international law firm where I will specialize in intellectual property and startup corporate work. Going forward, I want to pour into Christian students financially, via programs that poured into me, like the Kerry J Allen Scholarship."

A vibrant, colorful poster for a youth convention. The background is a mix of purple, pink, and yellow with abstract patterns. In the center, there are silhouettes of people in various poses, some with arms raised. A large white circle contains the text "YOUTH CONVENTION LET'S GET LOUD". Below this, a yellow banner reads "LIVING BOLDLY FOR GOD". At the bottom, a purple box contains the text "THE YOUTH CONVENTION WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE NATIONAL CONVENTION". In the top left corner, it says "JULY 23 2022". In the bottom left, it says "THEME SCRIPTURE: GALATIANS 2:20". In the bottom right, it says "AGES 13-17". A small logo with a cross is in the top right corner.

As a child growing up, youth ministry was very active and the church was full of youth, however 20+ years later, it's drastically different. It's almost as if youth ministry doesn't exist. What happened? What changed? Why did the young adults walk away from the church at the age of 18? What could we have done differently? Were we relying on the church and the church only to share the gospel? Did we make any changes to retain and re-engage our youth after they turned 18?

One of the reasons our churches are losing the youth is because we are teaching them how to operate within a church setting and not teaching them the full extent of the gospel message. It's great that we are bringing kids to church to share their Easter Sunday speeches, but if that's the focus on why they are coming to church, what is the purpose for the Sunday after that?

Prepare yourself for this next part...The church shouldn't replace what should be planted and nurtured at home. Let's break it down. Your child is in church for one day out of the week and when you break it down further, they are in Sunday school and/or children's church for three hours out of that day. That's three hours out of a 168 hour week. I'm not that good at math, but that seems pretty off. That's not enough time for true growth. We need to change the scales and figure out creative and relevant ways to connect with the youth outside of the four walls. The church shouldn't be the activator of sharing the gospel, but the reinforcer of what is being shared throughout the week with your children.

One of my favorite passages in the Bible is Psalm 34. David speaks on tasting and seeing that the Lord is good but he doesn't stop there. In verse 11, he invites children to come in and learn about God and how to fear the Lord.



Urgency of the Gospel

Eric Cummings

Rather than the focus being behavior and etiquette within the church, the focus is to learn and grow in reverence for the Lord. This requires us as Christians to build and share with the younger generation about our God Almighty. This requires discipleship. Discipleship is allowing and inviting others to walk closely with you, while not only teaching them the gospel, but teaching them how to walk the Christian life outside of the four walls of the church.

We're losing the youth to the streets because we are expecting them to walk in the doors of the church. If they won't come to us, let's go to them. Sometimes we need to leave the four walls of the church to reach those that are lost. As Christians, we are not called to live comfortable lives. Let's change the method, not the message.

So you ask, how urgent is it for us to share the gospel to the youth instead of just relying on them to go to church when they are young? EXTREMELY URGENT!!!

CALLING ALL YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS!

OPERATION GIVEBACK

FUN DAY EDITION

THURSDAY JULY 21 | 9AM

@FIRST CHURCH
WORSHIP CENTER

637 Bell Ave Birmingham, AL 35217



PLEASE MEET IN THE HOTEL LOBBY AT 8:00AM
ANY QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT SIS. MALIKA WILSON AT (601) 214-6008

What's going on at the convention?

YAM

ACTIVITIES & OUTINGS

3:00PM THURSDAY, JULY 21ST

"MEET & GREET"
HYATT REGENCY LOBBY

11:00PM SATURDAY, JULY 23RD

DAVE & BUSTER'S
RIVERCHASE GALLERIA MALL

10:45AM FRIDAY, JULY 22ND

"WHAT'S THE WORD?" WORKSHOP & BRUNCH
MERK'S TAVERN & KITCHEN-HYATT REGENCY

10:00PM SUNDAY, JULY 24TH

"RAP SESSION"
HYATT REGENCY HOTEL MEETING ROOM

9:00PM FRIDAY, JULY 22ND

PAINT PARTY & GAME NIGHT
HYATT REGENCY MEETING ROOM

12:00PM MONDAY, JULY 25TH

"YAM SEND-OFF"
HYATT REGENCY LOBBY



PLEASE RSVP BY SCANNING THE QR CODE!
ANY QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT SIS. MALIKA WILSON OR MINISTER DANIEL KENNEBREW



An Argument For Change

Christina Hardy



My mom often says that “All you have is today”. And in a verse that I’ve often overlooked, the bible often seconds this thought in Proverbs 27:1 when it says that, “. . .You do not know what a day will bring” yet the way I live, you’d think that I have all the time in the world and that the life I dream of will somehow just happen one day without me changing anything in my life to make it so. But as above, my mother has another saying that in so many words is summed up as, people think that they can change their life without them changing.”

But the fact is that when YOU are different, your life is different and so with no guarantee of a lot of time on this earth, I’ve come to the realization that – it’s not going to get any easier, it’s not going to “just happen” on its own, if I want to live a life of my dreams what better time to take action towards them than right now?

But to live said life, means a separation or a death of sorts of my current identity or who I know myself to be at this time must take place. This new me that I so desire to be, well she takes different actions, has different thoughts and different perspectives than I hold currently and while admired, those things are not familiar to me. They don’t feel comfortable and can often be labeled as “scary” – which may explain why I haven’t been in a hurry step into them.

But. . .all I have is today.

And, for me, not living a life of my dreams is non-negotiable so, in pursuit of such happiness, much of my recent education has been surrounding the topics listed above, the discomfort, courage and fear. Because new things – new identities and new ways of being, well they require new teachers. Experts who speak on living a life out loud, embracing new identities, and therefore new uncertainties and being bold in the face of the both, proceeding through discomfort and trying on a way of being in this world that while admired, has been foreign and can at times (because of what it requires) can sound less appealing than a root canal yet it’s often the path to our dreams.

And hence why many of those dreams lay unfulfilled because as one person recently said, “Sometimes to have the impact you desire, you have to become known.” And that can be quite conflicting for those of us who address our fears and discomfort in life by hiding. So trying on this new self, and taking a chance you may have to gain some familiarity in being seen. That being sometimes accomplished by raising your hand and speaking up while for another it may be doing something that you just have never done before and for some just very thought of that may make you recoil.

Often when we avoid doing something to avoid a feeling that action may cause, we deny ourselves of a good feeling on the other side of it and while that’s all well and good we also withhold from ourselves something even more important: knowledge!

One of my favorite questions I ask myself when faced with a decision to do something or not in the face of my daunting goals is, “What won’t I know if I don’t do this? What clarity will I have or encounter that’s on the other side of this? Life is about embracing the process, the journey and all of the things you learn and adjust along the way as well as the person you become– a journey that at times can be challenging to take alone.

Because facing fears, “taking chances” etc. is only considered because you’re trying to reach a goal.

So, when I was asked to write this article about facing your fears, being bold etc. I knew exactly what I was going to say. Because of my journey, I no longer perceive taking action in my life to become or procure something as taking as chance, making a gamble etc. not knowing where the die may fall, or being fearful of what the outcome may be.

Because if God be for us who can be against us?
Because when you understand, as I now do, you're not taking a chance because you know. . .

- All things work together for the good of those who love the Lord;
- You consider the thought that, even though I didn't know it, it was always going to go happen this way;
- You're figuring out what you want;
- You know you're getting better at feeling your feelings and embracing the uncomfortable ones that you'll encounter along the way;
- You know that you're submitting to the process and the journey of the dream;
- You know that you're living in the present moment and the NOW lies your power to choose;
- You know that you're getting better at making decisions and that includes embracing mistakes, failure and uncertainty.

- You understand the power of your thoughts
- You understand that you're not failing, you're learning.
- You understand that chances are not taking chances but they are you living the life you've been given, pursuing your dreams boldly in the face of fear and you're not afraid to risk it all for a life that brings a smile to your face.

After all, all we have is today. Still nervous? Afraid you'll make the wrong decision in pursuit of this dream? Well, the bible says in Proverbs 3:6, In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. And I would suggest that you do just that. Ask him – and then decide. You get better at making decisions by making decisions. After all, according to Romans 8, "All things work together for the good of those who love the Lord." You can't go wrong with that. See you on the other side of your dream life.

What's going on at the convention?

THE *Rainer B. Wilson*
BANQUET
LIVING
Out Loud

HYATT REGENCY BIRMINGHAM
THURSDAY JULY 21ST @ 7PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30

GUEST SPEAKER

ALBERT TATE
AUTHOR AND PASTOR OF FELLOWSHIP MONROVIA

SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST

TARYN JOHNSON

\$60 TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED AT WWW.COCHUSA CONGRESS.ORG
ATTIRE - COLORFUL, SUNDAY BEST-FORMAL



2022 South Central Diocese

Youth Retreat Report

In January 2022, the South Central Diocese Sunday School & HYM President, Brother Henry Jenkins, Jr., announced that the South Central Diocese would return to Timber Creek Camp to host its second youth retreat on May 20-21, 2022. The district presidents were on board and helped in various ways to make the event happen.

The host for the retreat was the very talented Todd Jenkins of Sweet Rest COCHUSA. Special guests included the National COCHUSA Congress President, Elder Fred Taylor, and four of his children. The speaker for the event was Elder Anthony Miller, from the Southwestern Diocese, who is also the COCHUSA Congress Vice President. He challenged the attendees to improve in various areas of their lives. He reminded the participants that we are fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God and that we should engage in activities that line up with a faith walk and fill our lives with the things that glorify our Creator.

The sessions included numerous drawings for prizes, including free meal gift cards and free entry to trampoline parks, skating rinks, paintball sites, and other venues. Exciting individual and group competitions filled the building as lots of prizes were won by participants during the main sessions. Night activities included a pizza party and access to nontraditional games such as 9 - square, human foosball, and basketball in a lighted/covered outdoor facility. Other activities included tetherball, kickball, bean bag games, table tennis, billiards, board games, hiking, and boating. The Lord blessed us to have great weather this year!

The sleeping arrangements proved to be a great camping experience for us. The Timber Creek Camp staff was very helpful in ensuring that our needs were accommodated. Most participants spent the night in the cabins, while the others joined us on the morning of the second day. The total number of participants was 140. To view 2022 South Central Diocese Youth Retreat Pictures, visit: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjzRdrU>

The SCD Youth Retreat committee members are Elder Bryan and Sister Alicia Jefferson, Brother Marquavious Hughes, Sister Lori Greer, Sister Lisa Willis, Brother Randy Reynolds, and Brother Henry Jenkins, Jr.

In His Service,

Elder Bryan Jefferson, Sr.
Retreat Coordinator





**2022
NATIONAL
CONVENTION**



COCHUSA Takes Birmingham!

Enjoy time with friends and family during the National Congress Session - have fun, make memories, and LIVE OUT LOUD!

July 23
12PM-6PM



**BIRMINGHAM
CIVIL RIGHTS
INSTITUTE**



Family Time - Saturday @ 12PM

A best-selling curriculum for the African American Church.

Churches using Echoes will witness: Changed Individual Lives, Changed Families, Changed Churches and Changed Communities. Echoes lessons are certain to keep your classes engaged with relevant Scriptural content and will strengthen the entire church body.

Echoes Features:

- Bible-based lessons
- Quarterly Sunday School Superintendent's Handbook
- Free weekly resources on RealLifeDownloaded.com to add optional relevancy to lessons
- Quarterly Highlights in Black History features
- Ministry tips, ideas, and quick references to assist teachers with lesson preparation
- All Generations (toddlers – Adult) will grow together

Additional David C Cook Ministry Resources:

- Best-selling Commentaries, including Standard Lesson Commentaries
- Women's Ministry materials
- Pastor/Leader's Resources
- Small Group/Large Group studies
- Digital and Print resources



Standard Lesson Commentaries, available in KJV or NIV translation.