

August 2021



WILL YOU BE A WINNER? Winning isn't always easy, but it is always possible. The key to winning is not quitting! *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"* (Philippians 4:13). Note, God strengthens **you** to complete the task, He doesn't complete the task for you. If you're like me, you're facing challenge after challenge as we adjust to our new normal. Just as we are celebrating relief as vaccination rates increase, we now face the powerful Delta variant, and possibly the need for booster shots. Does that mean we quit because it's hard, or because we're experiencing a setback? To the contrary, we **continue** to listen to the science; limit touching high-traffic surfaces; mask-up when in large groups; and ask God for discernment and direction. What if Joshua and the Israelites had walked around the walls of Jericho six days, not the seven days as directed – and simply stopped; the victory would have been lost. It's amazing how the answer to life's problems are often just around the bend, if we can keep the faith and hold out. *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not"* (Galatians 6:9). Maybe walking is not your challenge, but we all have something that challenges us. When, or should I ask how many times, have you almost lost your way? almost felt like you couldn't take another step; almost couldn't face another obstacle; almost threw in the towel – **but** the Lord came through just in time. In those oh so dark moments, did you hear the familiar lyrics playing in your heart – *"If it had not been for the Lord on my side where would I be."* Organizations of all sizes, small or large, are struggling to adapt to this new normal, and the church is no exception. During these past 18 months we've learned a lot about ourselves as leaders and individuals, a lot about our church, and a lot about the awesome character of our members. We've come to better appreciate the unique gifts God has placed in each of us and how much stronger we are when we all pull in the same direction. The value of work done for years in the background, out of sight of the masses, has been magnified – and all to the glory of God! *"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). God is calling the church to be a light to the world **today**, and He is calling PMBC to be a light on this corner – truly the friendly church on the avenue. How well we perform depends on how well our team is prepared. What role has God called **you** to perform on his team? Will you share your gifts? Will you provide financial support? Will you pray? Will you be an encourager? Will you be a winner? I labor with a heart of love, longing to one day hear him say *"...well done, thou good and faithful servant"* (Matthew 25:21).



Your Servant, Pastor Earl C. Stuckey

A PICTURE WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Close your eyes and imagine the perfect sunset. If it is setting on the West coast of California, the East coast of Washington DC, or on one of the beautiful islands of Hawaii – chances are *Deacon Terrence Sims* may have the actual picture. Many of us



know and appreciate Terry, from photos he has taken at events at PMBC, our weddings, anniversaries or birthday parties, or family portraits. His best picture wasn't captured on his camera. It's the special glow that is present whenever he looks into the eyes of his "good thing", his beloved wife of 37 years, Sandra. Terry has used the gift of capturing beauty in people, nature and objects to explore entrepreneurial opportunities ~ "Terrence Sims Imaging". As amazing as the pictures he has taken, the most important "pictures" are those of the lives he has helped change from years of ministry. The amazing grace of God and His unmerited favor, that carried Terry when he couldn't walk upright on his own, is evident in the love and compassion he has for those who walk in the shoes he once wore – is evident in his approach to life and ministry. Terry was the first facilitator of our Celebrate Recovery Ministry and is a facilitator in our New Members class. When he prays and thanks God for His "many blessings and benefits" – it's more than words. It's a conversation from a thankful son, to a loving father. We are blessed with a benefit – when Terry stands in the choir stand with the choir or male chorus and renders music from the soul. Yes, he really is a "soldier on the battle field fighting for his Lord." The benefits continue when he stands for corporate prayer; or when he facilitates a Sunday school lesson. Terry is a native son. His roots go deep in the City of Oakland where he was born and grew up supported by two loving parents and seven brothers, and seven sisters. Proof positive good things come out of Oakland. Proud father of one son, Terrence Jr., loving father figure to two other sons Curt and Derek, and doting grandfather and godfather. Terry is intentional in his life. A devout lover of anything chocolate, but strolling down the street hand-in-hand with Sandra is pure joy. Few things interfere with the mandatory, daily breaks for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Not well suited in the kitchen, he more than makes up for it on the backyard BBQ grill where he is famous for his ribs, chicken and beef brisket. Terry is intentional with his time, always making time for family; his church; and travel. Terry will soon retire, completing 35 years of exemplary service in the automotive industry, most recently the Ford Store (San Leandro). Terry faced many challenges over the years, but his faith in God was unwavering, allowing him to work as unto the Lord – and earning a reputation as a just and fair man with his co-workers and customers of the dealership. Terry continued to support the PMBC family throughout the pandemic utilizing his gifts to facilitate the weekly worship service recordings; attending the Men's Sunday school class; and finding ways to safely connect with the brothers. Brother, Deacon, Terry you're a brother beloved, and we love you back.



Photo by Terrence Sims

Happy Birthday *Deaconess Elga Kendall* ~ 103 years blessed on August 9th. Oh to know the good life, aware of your surroundings, activities of your limbs, reasonable health and strength, surrounded by family and friend. All praises to God! *The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy; and with my song I praise him*" (Psalms 28:7-8).



TASTY TRIVIA

1. It wasn't food for health reasons, but God told us as His people to eat a meal of lamb, bread, and bitter herbs, even as a plague was raging in Egypt. What was this meal called? (Exodus 12:1-10).

Passover; Pentecost; Feast of Tabernacles; Yom Kippur; the Day of Atonement.

2. I was placed in a golden jar and put in the Ark of the Covenant along with two other things. What were the other two items placed in the ark? (Exodus 16:33; Hebrews 9:3-4).

4). Lamb and wine; Budded rod and stone tablets; Fish and chips; Pork and beans; Beef and barley.

3. My name is Elijah. God always provided. He miraculously took care of me in the wilderness. What did He do? (I Kings 17:1-14; 19:6).

Provided bread from ravens; Gave water in the Kerith Ravine; Provided oil in a jar; Gave bread and water for a journey; All of the above.

4. I was a prophet in Israel. Some of my students ended up making a pot of deadly stew. God directed me to put flour in the stew and, miraculously, it was no longer poisonous. What was my name? (II Kings 4:38-41).

Moses; Joshua; Elisha; Elijah.

5. We were four young men who were deported to Babylon. We refused to follow orders when it came to our diet. What foods did we consume for healthful reasons? (Daniel 1:11-16).

Water and vegetables; Fish and chips; Manna and quail; Roasted lamb and wine.

6. One of my protégés had stomach problems. I urged him to take a little wine for the stomach to help with his frequent ailments. What was the name of my young friend? (I Timothy 5:23).

Titus; Mark; Timothy; John



WWJD. Remember, a few years back when “What Would Jesus Do” (WWJD) was the thing to say?” We came across this article. As you read it, consider “What Would You Do” (WWYD)?

An anthropologist showed a game to the children of an African tribe ... He placed a basket of delicious fruits near a tree trunk and told them: The first child to reach the tree will get the basket. When he gave them the start signal, he was surprised that they were walking together, holding hands until they reached the tree and shared the fruit! When he asked them why you did that when every one of you could get the basket only for himself! They answered with astonishment: Ubuntu. That is “how can one of us be happy while the rest of us are miserable?” Ubuntu in their civilization means: “I am because we are.” That tribe knows the secret of happiness that has been lost in all societies that transcend them and which consider themselves civilized societies!!” “...*the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control...*” (Galatians 5:22).



SAY IT LOUD!

There exists inside each of us a need for acceptance from our earthly parents, family and friends. Note these simple but profound statements and share them honestly and often.

1. I love you
2. I'm proud of you
3. I'm sorry
4. I forgive you
5. I'm listening
6. This is your responsibility
7. You've got what it takes

OUR HEALER Sickness hasn't taken a backseat to COVID. Many in our family are dealing with illness, frightening diagnosis, surgeries, and extended treatments. But GOD. Thank you to our prayer warriors who petition the lord on behalf of the PMBC family. “...*the effectual, fervent, prayer of a righteous man availeth much...*” (James 5:16).



TASTY TRIVIA

- 1) Passover
- 2) Budded rod and stone tablets
- 3) All of the above
- 4) Elisha
- 5) Water and vegetables
- 6) John