

MONTHLY UPDATE

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Christmas Is Coming! By Rishon Trevor Reid



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem "Paul Revere's Ride" (1861) made the name Paul Revere famous in American history. Revere's midnight ride on April 18, 1775 through Boston warned colonial leaders that the British army was approaching. His cry, "The British are coming!" alerted the local militias, known as the Minutemen, and helped spark the first battles of the American Revolution.

As I reflected on Revere's sense of urgency, I thought about our own call as disciples of Christ to sound a similar alarm. Christmas is coming! It's time to prepare not just for festivities, but for an opportunity to share the good news of Jesus' coming (both His first and His promised return).



1. Know Your Audience

While we may have wonderful Christmas programs, parties, and themed services, we should also look beyond the church walls. Think about reaching:

- Your neighbors
- Those currently incarcerated
- Local schools and fire stations
- Widows and refugees
- Children in foster care

If you're a church, join resources to bless an entire neighborhood. If you're a family, focus on a neighbor or nearby family. If you're one disciple, find one person or child to show Christ's love. Start planning now for who will your audience be?



2. Create Your Hook

How will you get their attention? Think of simple, joyful ways to connect:

- Caroling in neighborhoods or parks
- Hosting a Christmas party for children whose parents are incarcerated
- Partnering with a local school to give small gifts to children in need Remember: your hook opens the door for your message. Be creative and prayerful about how you'll engage hearts this season.



3. Share Your Message

Once you have your audience and they're engaged, focus on a simple, clear, heartfelt message.

- If you're caroling, have somebody briefly share how Christ changed their life.
- At a shelter, lead a small arts-and-crafts project depicting Gabriel's announcement to Mary.
- At a children's party, share a short spoken word or story about the greatest gift of all time, Jesus Himself.

Keep the message centered on hope, love, and redemption through Christ.



4. Pray and Prepare

Christmas is coming so let's bathe this opportunity in prayer! Ask God for:

- Inspiration to reach the right audience
- Anointing for your message and delivery
- Guidance in every detail of planning and outreach

It may not be perfect, but it can be powerful and meaningful when led by the Holy Spirit.



5. Sound the Alarm

The Lord is coming again, and we have a limited time to prepare the world for His return. That's why the Holy Spirit empowers us to communicate His message, to stir hearts, convict souls, and bring transformation. Just as Paul Revere rode through the night 249 years ago to sound a warning, we too must "ride through our communities" declaring:

"The Lord is coming! The Lord is coming!"

A Final Word

Disciples of Jesus, let's use this Christmas season and every opportunity to proclaim the message of the Gospel. Let's reach outside our buildings and remind the world that the Savior has come and will come again!

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." — Luke 2:10



State Bishop Trevor Reid



Heart 2 Heart Ministries

November 2025



Living an Invitational Life

"Every Christian is either a missionary or an imposter." — Charles Spurgeon

Last month, I ministered at the South Carolina Women's Leadership Conference. The theme, "Go. Make Disciples. Preach the Gospel," captured the heartbeat of the Great Commission. Each presenter reminded us of our shared responsibility to proclaim Christ and make disciples.

Awakened to the Need

One speaker addressed the sobering reality of human trafficking. She noted that Florida ranks third in the nation for reported cases, with most involving children and primarily related to sex trafficking. She reminded us that exploitation isn't distant—it's often right where we are. In fact, she had met a young woman in our hotel that weekend who was heading to the penthouse to "do business." I left that conference both alarmed and deeply burdened. I also left determined, seeing clearly the opportunity we have to bring the hope of Christ to women in Florida who are searching for light amid deep darkness.

Inviting Women to "Come and See"

Spurgeon's words challenge me: every believer is called to be a missionary in the ordinary spaces of life. We encounter women every day in grocery stores and nail salons, at the bank, in neighborhoods, classrooms, restaurants, and even hotel elevators. Many are hurting, broken, and longing for peace and joy that only Jesus can give. We, as women, understand one another's struggles, hopes, and needs. It is our privilege and responsibility to invite them into relationship with Christ. Imagine the ripple effect if each of us made space to invite just one woman into our lives—a co-worker, a classmate, a neighbor, or even a stranger.

When the Bio Becomes the Mirror

Whenever I speak at conferences, organizers ask for my bio. I try to keep it short, but they often ask me to add more. Each time it's read aloud, I feel a little uneasy—it makes me sound busy (and tired!). The Holy Spirit often whispers, "Aileen, in all that you're doing, are you making room to invite women to Me?" Sometimes the answer is no. That conviction has reshaped my habits, pushing me to cultivate a "come and see" lifestyle.

A Lifestyle of Invitation

Some women will need to "come and see" (John 1:35-40) before they can follow Jesus. They will watch how we live—how we handle struggles, manage our time and money, love our families, and care for others. Even small acts of kindness can open doors for authentic relationships.

When we were packing up to leave our home in North Carolina, I wanted to make sure I said goodbye to our mail carrier, Teresa. Our friendship began with a simple question: "How are you doing?" Over time, she began sharing personal struggles and challenges. She knew I worked from home, and sometimes she would bring our mail to the door just so we could talk. Trevor jokes that she looked disappointed when he answered instead of me! Over the years, I prayed with her, encouraged her, and helped when I could.

I've seen the same pattern with students and colleagues. I often invite students to our home during holidays. They cook in my kitchen, share stories, and experience Christian hospitality firsthand. Many are amazed because, in their home countries, professors rarely open their homes to students. These are sacred opportunities to live out the Gospel. Imagine the ripple effect if each of us made space to invite just one woman into our lives—a co-worker, a classmate, a neighbor, or even a stranger.

Your Invitation This Season

As we move into the holiday season, I want to encourage every woman reading this: be intentional about developing relationships with women who don't yet know Christ. Pray for opportunities. Invite someone into your home or to coffee. Share a meal. Listen. Offer prayer. Create safe spaces where women can experience love without judgment and see the grace of Christ at work in your life.

One simple invitation can open the door for someone to "come and see" the transforming power of Jesus.









Teach them about God as the giver

Help children understand that all good gifts come from God and encourage them to thank Him for things like their family, church, pets, and even the ability to play

...give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." I Thessalonians 5:18 [NIV]

Verbally express thanks

Acknowledge and thank the children in big and small ways. ie good behavior, kindness, etc

Model gratitude for others

Let the children see you give thanks to the Pastor, volunteers, even the parents. Children learn by example.



Be intentional

Special occasions are not the only times we should show gratitude.

Let's make it an everyday practice.

May God Bless you this Thanksgiving season Min Natasha Davis & Sis Sylvan Arnette CM Directors



Our office will be closed the week of

Thanksgiving November 24-28, 2025

We're back on Monday, December 1, 2025.

God bless you!



"In everything give thanks..."

Pastoral Care Letter

From my heart to yours...

November, 2025

Dear Pastoral Care Leader,

I trust October was a special one for your pastor as you celebrated "Pastor Appreciation Month." Thank you for all your efforts in making them feel loved and appreciated.

Soon we will be entering the season of "Thanksgiving," so let us be mindful of the One who blesses us each and every day! We read in the Scripture 1Thessalonians 5:18 "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I like the idea of a "Thanksgiving Love Basket." You could fill it with all the trimmings for their meal that day.

We are once again anticipating the most wonderful time of the year and that is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It isn't too early to remind you to receive a "Christmas Love Offering" for your pastor and family. I am asking you to do your best to ensure that they are well taken care of by giving them the best offering they have ever received.

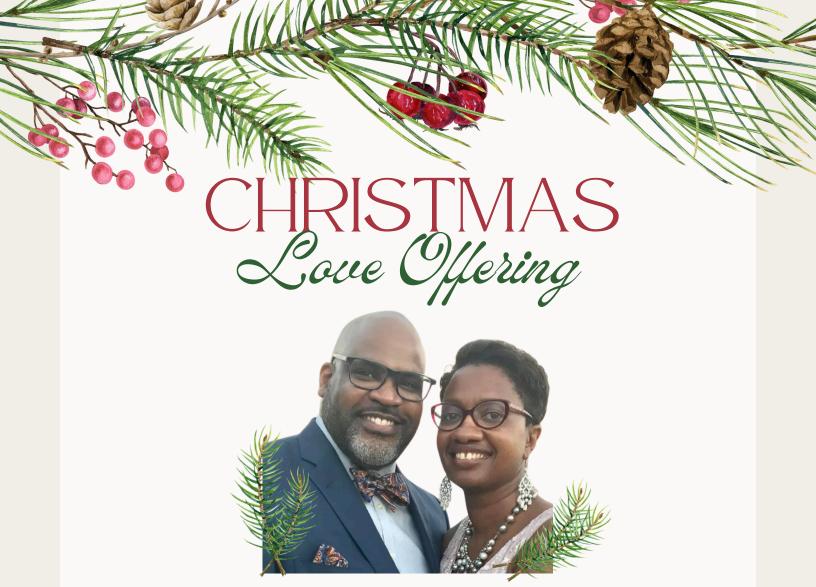
Please keep in mind that we now have a new State Bishop, Trevor & Aileen Reid and we want to show them just how glad we are to have them in our beautiful state by receiving a nice Christmas offering to bless them.

Finally, may you and your family be blessed as you serve your pastor and family during

this holiday season.

Happy Thanksgiving, Frankie S. Dotson State Pastoral Care Director





We are blessed to have our new State Bishop Trevor and Aileen Reid here in the state of Florida!

Let's show them how happy we are to have them with us and bless them this Christmas!

Thank you, Frankie S. Dotson State Pastoral Care Director





PASTOR Christmas Love Offering

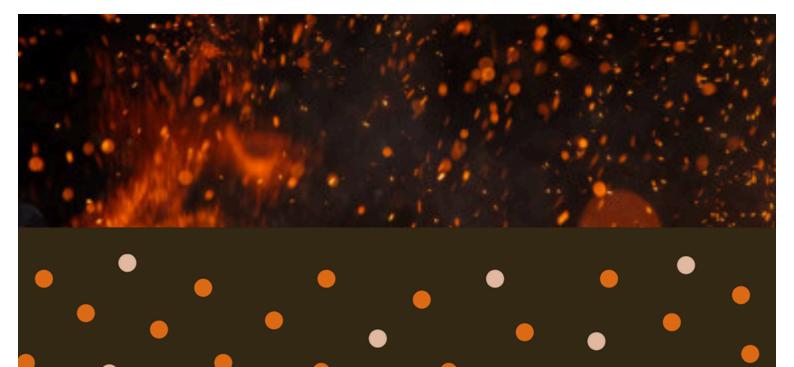
What a wonderful time to give back to those who take such great care of us - our Pastors and their families!

Let's start planning now how we can bless them this Christmas.

Thank you for all you do for your Pastoral family,

Frankie S. Dotson
State Pastoral Care Director





REGIONAL YOUTH NIGHT!!!

WORSHIP ROUND THE FLAME(S)

November 14, 2025 6-8pm Chili, Hotdogs and S'Mores Bring a lawn chair

ANY QUESTIONS CALL:
REGIONAL YOUTH LEADER
BRANDI REYES
863.263.8085

HEBREWS 1:7 4710 NE HWY 70 ARCADIA FL 34266

North Region UPCOMING Events



Shoebox Packing Party

Operation Christmas Shoebox packing Party 11/16 2 PM

(a) Clay Hill COGOP or pack a box and drop it off by the 16th.

Nov
16
2025



"Let it Be"

Annual Youth Christmas Drama
"Let it Be" December 14, 2025 6:30 pm at Clay Hill COGOP.



Regional Youth Gathering

Save the date! **February 21st**Regional Youth Gathering
Location to be announced ...

Feb
21
2026

For more information, contact: Sis. Sabrina or Bro. Tony Scoville North Region Directors





Lifestyle of the Believer, LLC is beyond grateful to God for the opportunity to host the 10th Annual Prime of My Life: Young Adult Conference.

For a decade, God has allowed us to minister to and serve young adults across the state of Florida and abroad—and this year will be no different.

Date: Saturday, November 29, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

☐ Location: Born on Purpose Project: 4850 N State Rd 7, #G-111, Lauderdale Lakes, FL

Price: \$35 per person (Group 10+ Rate \$30 per person)

This year, our focus is on encouraging young adults to own their story. No matter where you are in life, God will meet you right there in the midst of your story—and He can turn it around for His glory, using it to build His Kingdom.

What to Expect:

☆ International Guest Speaker: Pastor Andre Butler

⇔ Workshop Facilitator: Minister Mandy Williams

☆ Young Adult Round Table: 10th Anniversary Special

Prime View: Couples Edition — you don't want to miss this!

Come ready to be inspired, encouraged, and empowered.

This is more than a conference—it's a celebration of faith, resilience, and testimony.

This is your story. This is our story. This is HIS story.









JANUARY 24, 2026

SOUND THE ALARM

SAVE THE DATE



2026 Summer Camps

June 5-7

Hot Shot Ages 4-7

June 8-13

Senior Ages 14-18

June 15-20 Intermediate Ages 11-13

June 22-27 Junior Ages 8-10

June 27-30 I Can Ages 5-19*

*Special needs camp parent/guardian must attend

LEAD 2026

save the dates

FRIDAY SUNDAY 14 15 16

Young Adult Weekend
August 14 - 16, 2026
Camp Sonshine
Ages 19-29