



TRIEDSTONE CHURCH OF CHICAGO

Bishop Simon Gordon – Senior Pastor

This is our year of

“Family Success!”

“In His Image” Marriage & Family Ministry

Elders Ronell L. Brown and Paula L. Brown – Lead Servants

Deacon Aldron and Messenger Larissa Reed – Co-Lead Servants

Torrack Hall and Minister Shanika Collins – Co-Lead Servants



“Celebrating the Year of the Champions!”

FAMILY DYNAMICS 2018

As our primary mission, the In His Image Marriage Ministry endeavors to strengthen the marriage covenant as well as fortifying families throughout the Body of Christ. To increase unity in the covenant relationship through effectual prayer, impactful teachings, and purposeful activities that promotes the growth and development of Godly marriages and an imperishable family unit.

In an effort to abide by that commitment, Triedstone’s Marriage and Family Ministry provides classes and teachings, fellowships and social activities that will allow couples and individuals; married, engaged or seeking meaningful relationships as well as their offspring the opportunity to assess their readiness for marriage, gain tools to assist in understanding that marriage is a Covenant and Vocation as well as to obtaining information that can be used to navigate the various dimensions of life including; faith, family, communication, health, finances, and intimacy.

PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

FAMILY SUCCESS

How is success defined?

It is often talk of a person being “successful.” But what is the image that usually comes to mind? Is it being wealthy or well-off? Is it running a company, or affording a large home to live in? All of that is good to have but is that real success? The dictionary defines success as the achievement of something desired, planned, or attempted. In our culture, success of someone is almost always defined in materialistic terms. Thus, the endeavor is to re-think and redefine success and what should be the achievements each family should aspire to accomplish?

LET’S TALK ABOUT ACHIEVING “FAMILY SUCCESS” TOGETHER!

In doing so, we assist one another in preparing for the future we would like to have. However, one cannot embrace the future properly without acknowledging, taking lesson from and celebrating past accomplishment. Jeremiah 6:16; “Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the

good way, and walk there in, and ye shall find rest for your souls.” Therefore, celebrating and giving praise for the WINS in life is essential.

Importance to God?

If the purpose of marriage and family means serving and glorifying God, it is abundantly clear that there is a need to return this institution back into a blessed state of mutual service to God as well.


Marriage and family development sessions and activities provide couples and families the opportunity to build a stronger understanding of God’s plan for their lives, grant husbands and wives the opportunity to meet and connect with other like-minded couples that are seeking to build stronger marriages, and individuals, both married and single, the chance to bond, find encouragement and procure some “best practices” that might be adopted for their own personal life journey.

Careful, well thought out, well prayed over, well planned, purposeful, Holy Ghost inspired activities and classes grants participants a chance to be reminded of the grace of marriage, the joy of relationship and the glory of purpose. They allow individuals to become re-educated and re-focused.

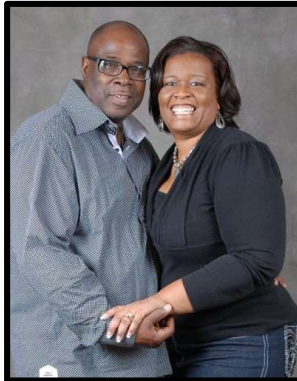
At the end of these efforts, individuals should gain an appreciation for the institution of marriage, the benefits of a strong family, the power and possibilities of dreams and how by working together, all can reap a successful life as we live for God.


SYNOPSIS OF 2018 CLASSES AND EVENTS

April Teaching Month

CLASS	DATE	SCHEDULED INSTRUCTOR	SUMMARY
“It’s Our Time!” Establishing Family Goals and Achieving Dreams Together!	Wednesday April 4	 Dr. Dwayne Cook <i>(Refuge and Strength FGBC Clement of Alexandria Theological Academy)</i>	<p>Why do some people seem to succeed at almost everything they do? The answer is simple; they make a plan and set goals. Whether their plan is to lose weight, quit smoking, get a degree, start a business, or whatever, they set goals. Habakkuk 2:2-3 instructs; "Write the vision and inscribe it on tablets, That the one who reads it may run. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal and it will not fail."</p> <p>Goals are achieved by conceiving then putting pen to paper and formulating a plan to achieve goals. Not just any goals but SMARTER goals.</p> <p>SMARTER Goals means:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific • Measurable • Achievable • Realistic • Time Limited • Evaluated Daily • Reviewed Constantly <p>Goal setting is an important and powerful component to the faith, fitness, and financial security of a family. Goals are affective when implemented with care. <i>“It’s Our Time”</i> takes a closer look at the seven components of SMARTER goals and achieving dreams as a family!</p>
<p>“The Bridge” Conquering the Generation Divide Together Parent and Youth Forum</p>	<p>Wednesday April 11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Pastor Fannie Leah Foote-Brown <i>(James Jordan Boys and Girls Club, The New Testament Full Gospel Baptist Church)</i> • Yvonne Clark Thigpen <i>(Entrepreneur, Motivational Speaker-JustBlissfully.com)</i> • Principal David Brown <i>(General George S. Patton Elementary)</i> • Officer Cornelius Brown <i>(Chicago Police Department)</i> • Tradonna McAllister <i>(Chicago Public Schools)</i> • Elder Donald Adams <i>(Author, Mentor, Department of Children and Family Services)</i> 	<p>Mass Incarceration in the United States is the highest in the world, with over 1.6 million dwelling in prisons. Of this number, a disproportionate amount is African Americans. So much so, a male with no degree is more likely in jail than working. In addition, the African American unemployment rate doubles that of the population as a whole, demonstrating pronounced difficulties providing for families and accumulating wealth.</p> <p>As there is an ever-increasing leadership void among the Black community, gangs have risen to a violent prominence. These violent groups helped fill that leadership vacuum.</p> <p>In a country of prosperity, millions of African Americans still live mired in poverty, susceptible to poor living conditions in underserved inner-cities. In the 1980s, affirmative action had largely equalized college attendance among African Americans and others. Since then, attacks on this policy, which provided some minorities with preference in admissions, has eviscerated these gains in certain states.</p>


		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brenetta Allison (Educator – Hillcrest H.S., Country Club Hills, IL.) • Terron McGee Sr. (<i>Triedstone's A Chosen Generation Young Adult Ministry</i>) <p><u>YOUNG VOICES</u> <u>(Youth In Action)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aman Brown • Khristen Phillips • Morgan White • Samaj Smith • Kiara Randal <p>Moderated By: Deacon Aldron and Messenger Larissa Reed (<i>Co-Lead Servants – Triedstone's "In His Image" Marriage and Family Ministry</i>)</p>	<p>Today, with African American males disproportionately incarcerated, many single women face the burden of raising children alone. As a result, 78% of Black households are led by single mothers.</p> <p>Police brutality and profiling has resulted in myriad of high-profile, questionable deaths involving police have led to a "Black Lives Matter" movement, the criminal indictment of some officers and inner-city riots. And some 40 plus years after the passing of the Civil Rights Act, systemic racism is still a large problem in the African American community. Systemic Racism in both public and private institutions make life in the country harsh for minorities.</p> <p>Yes, today's youth face a multitude of issues that threatens their future and purpose. Nevertheless, all is not lost. For God IS.</p> <p>Youth, parents and church leaders come together to discuss how to effectively communicate fears, angst, desires, and dreams, cultivate durable faith in the lives of young people and how best to achieve God's kingdom plan together. "The Bridge" explores the opportunities and challenges of faith development among teens and young adults within a rapidly shifting culture.</p>
<p>"Time Out 4 Love - His & Hers" Intimacy Two Ways</p>	<p>Wednesday April 18</p>		<p>As illustrated in Ephesians 5, the marriage relationship parallels the relationship between God and His bride, the church. In our divine relationship, God desires us just as much as we (His church) needs Him. God created each of us with a longing for intimacy with Him. In our walk as the redeemed, we are taught and eventually come to the realization that we were created to fellowship with our Creator and intimacy with God is not only important for the maintaining</p>

		<p>Pastor Marilynnette & Elder Frank Barney (Kingdom Covenant Ministries)</p>	<p>of our relationship with God but for our personal, spiritual satisfaction as well.</p> <p>In natural relationships, marriage should be the most intimate relationship anybody experiences in life. It should be more intimate than a friendship, a mother-daughter relationship, a father-son relationship, a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship, etc. But sadly, many couples often feel distant, alone, unfulfilled, dissatisfied and even, unloved in marriage. Because man is body, soul, and spirit (Thess 5:23, Heb 4:12), married couples must cultivate practices that promotes intimacy. They must cultivate their friendship (soul), their sexuality (body), and their spirituality (spirit) in marriage. True intimacy needs to be purposely kept alive in a marriage, whether you've been married 40 days or 40 years. In this day and age of busy work schedules and obligations that never cease, sometimes couples must be reminded of the importance of maintaining a proper work/life/relationship balance. This is vital because Marriages and Families are the backbone of the church. The lack of intimacy in the home becomes evident in the church. Thus, "Intimacy In 2 Ways" places emphasis on marital "worship" and the correlation with spiritual worship.</p>
<p>"He Win, She Win, We Win" Successfully Navigating Shifts in Marriage</p>	<p>Friday April 20</p>		<p>In marriage it is often quoted, "The two shall become one" (Eph. 5:31). Unfortunately for many couples, once the marriage ceremony is over, the challenges begins when a husband and wife start arguing about, "Who's?" Outside of an individual's decision to follow Christ, marriage is one of the most significant relational investments one can ever make.</p>

		<p>Pastors Otis and Shonda Burns <i>(New Harvest Ministries International)</i></p>	<p>With a divorce rate that has sadly increased almost every decade, even amongst those within the church, the commitment to a balanced, healthy and lifelong covenant between two people is confronted by numerous challenges from modes of operation to sharing responsibilities, to communication and sex often diminishes the very depths of a person's character and resolve. Proverbs 27:17; "Iron sharpeneth iron; so, a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend", Marriages may be blessed in heaven, but they are forged in day-to-day living here on this side of eternity. "He Win, She Win, We Win" seeks to tackle those issues with a practical God perspective.</p>
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June Activity Month

TREASURE CONFERENCE 2018 "LIVE LIKE A CHAMPION" Friday, June 8th – Saturday, June 9th Hilton OakBrook Suites – OakBrook, IL.

PRESENTERS	CLASS
<p>Pastor Erik and Lady Melissa Lee</p> 	<p>"Calling Hope"</p> <p>No individual comes into the world as a person of excellence. Marriage and relationships are no different.</p> <p>It takes work, it takes time, it takes effort, it takes diligence, and most of all desire.</p> <p>How do we get what we desire most?</p> <p>How does passion turn into promise?</p> <p>How much are you willing to put into your desires, and passions?</p> <p>And what does God say about champion living for couples and singles?</p>

**Pastor Tyrone S. Davis
and
Lady Denise Latonya Davis**



“Strategic Investing”

Many couples have not fully grasped nor come to understand God’s purposes for their marriage nor the institution in general.

Unfortunately for many, there is always more effort and attention given to wedding preparations than intentional investment toward having a lifelong commitment to the actual marriage.

In a world where the prevailing idea about almost everything in life is to allow situations and circumstances unfold naturally, many soon come to realize that challenges to requires engagement.

To do nothing but allow a marriage to develop “organically” without intentional engagement, it will soon unravel.

This session teaches individuals the importance of; not “working” at marriage but INVESTING in marriage.

Going from the “I did” mindset to understanding the responsibility of the “DO” in marriage.

Minister Dymica Brown PT 1



Joe Starnes PT 2



“A Beautiful Truth” PT 1 & 2

There are many churches so committed to the idea of a family-centered church that they’re just not sure how to handle rising rates of singleness within their congregations. Along with the challenges of two imperfect people come together as far a marriage is concerned, in truth dating in the 21st century is no exception.

With all of the pseudo psychologists on social media, men and women making promises they can’t keep, false expectations about one’s self and others that leads to people not guarding their hearts, to being compelled to date someone less than. All of these challenges and more has caused a growing frustration among Christian men and women. Get the tools needed to navigate the single season with wisdom while learning how to celebrate others love connections as you stay your course.

**Pastor Anthony Spencer, Sr.
and
Lady Sonya Spencer**



“From Trials To Triumph”

Time has proven over and over again that greatest Christians are the ones who have gone through the fire of the trials of life. They persevered through the

	<p>test and the result in their life is Christian Character that is evidenced by spiritual maturity. Focus: Taking past pain and transforming it into prosperity.</p>
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