

the
Maine Focus

THE MAINE DISTRICT UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL ■ SUMMER 2022 ■ VOLUME XV, No. 2

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ENGRAFTING THE WORD OF GOD

By: Rev. Thomas Channell, Superintendent
Maine District UPCI



*Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity
of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted
word, which is able to save your souls.*

James 1:21 KJV

Engraft means “to invigorate (fill with life or energy; or to strengthen) by instruction. A good example of engrafting is fruit trees. Many times, farmers will graft together a root system and a healthy young shoot, so that the resulting tree will bear the fruit of the engrafted portion and not of the root portion.

God commands us to lay up, or place, His words in our hearts. Deuteronomy 11:18 says, “Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes”. We do this by hearing the word of God, believing His word, and applying His word by the way we live.

Engrafting truth is the process of attaching the Word to the diseased part of the soul. Whether it be anger, bitterness, fear, or doubt, the healing qualities of God’s word can restore those parts of our soul. This only happens if it is applied, or laid up, consistently over those areas of our lives.

In practice, God’s word purifies our hearts through the Spirit and the engrafted word can do so many good things for our lives! It can:

- **Help us to love with a pure heart:** 1 Peter 1:11 says, “Beloved let us love one another...”. The Word helps to transform the way we think, cleanses our minds, and separates us from worldly philosophies, and allows us to love one another as Christ loved us.
- **Establish God’s righteousness:** As we speak, live, and promote the laws of the Lord, we take stand against those things which are contrary to God’s word.
- **Build faith:** Ezekiel 20:19 says, “I am the Lord your God; walk in my statutes, and keep my judgements, and do them”. All the promises of God are dependent on your faith in God’s word. Faith makes you believe it, and believing moves you to live it, all through the power of the engrafted word!
- **Encourage and strengthen us:** The engrafted Word gives us strength to act upon our convictions, a foundation to stand upon when the trials come and the confidence to fight the forces of darkness. Romans 8:37 says, “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.”. Through the engrafted Word, we KNOW that we are more than conquerors
- **Impart spiritual authority:** Proverbs 28:1 says, “For the wicked flee when no man pursueth, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.” As we stand upon the engrafted Word, we obtain promises. We will be delivered from forces of darkness, we will be advocates for God’s justice and righteous judgement as we speak with God’s authority.

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Presbyter, Section Two

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Maine District

1st Annual

Prayer Summit

August 5th - 6th

Friday 9 am - Noon
Evening Service 7:00

Saturday 9 am - Noon

First United Pentecostal Church
15 Wilson St Augusta, ME

WNOP

Info: Rev Brenda Bowley
Maine Prayer Coordinator
(207) 399-0143



FROM TERROR TO TRIUMPH

By: Rev. & Mrs. Joshua Alley

October 20, 2021, I was sent home from work, Covid positive, following a routine check. I was frustrated that I was sent home from work feeling fine. I was so sure that the test was wrong. That same evening I picked up a fever. Covid spread rapidly through the home. My wife kept track of our symptoms daily, and it is with her help I write this story.

The first seven days I was home, I had typical Covid symptoms. I would take

ibuprofen, it would help, and I would work around the house, feeling fine. Fever kept coming back daily, fatigue and cough were worsening. Finally, I told my wife I thought I might have pneumonia, and she urged me to get checked out, thinking I probably needed an antibiotic.

I arrived at the emergency room in Presque Isle on Wednesday, October 27, 2021, so exhausted I could hardly walk. My O2 was 74%, and my admitting diagnosis was advanced Covid. Neither my wife nor I had any idea I was so sick. They told me they were admitting me, and I would probably be there for a couple weeks recovering.

By the 30th, Josh was in the Covid ICU. I received a call from the nurse saying he was not doing well. He was requiring a lot of oxygen, he needed pressure to help push the air into his lungs, some of his stats were very high. He was on two medications to treat Covid, and they had found small holes in his bowel, which complicated things. I broke down and cried that day when I called our Pastor, Bro. Doughty. For the first time, I realized he might not make it.

The next couple days were touch and go. He would improve a little bit, which meant sometimes he could handle breathing without added oxygen for a minute or two. He had a harsh, wracking cough, they had to give him Lasiks to drain the fluid he was retaining, they put him on steroids. We had many people praying at this point. They thought about

sending him to Bangor. His D-Dimer, which indicates blood clots basically, was still climbing.

I received a call from my wife Tuesday, November 2, telling me my best friend had just dropped dead at 37 years old. She didn't want to tell me, but it was on Facebook and she knew I had been checking it. It was too much for me. *It was*

very tough to tell Josh about his friend, but I knew he wouldn't forgive me if I didn't tell him. In his weakened condition, it was too much. He took a nose dive.

They told me I needed to be intubated if I had any hope. I was

scared. My wife reminded me God wasn't stopped by a tube, but I had to say, "Ok, I'm yours, Lord." It wasn't easy realizing I might never see my family again. I was facing death.

Josh was intubated on the 4th, as a last resort to try and save his life. It took them four hours to stabilize him. On this day I was at the funeral home helping to plan our friend's funeral. Stress was an understatement. But God is good, and circumstances do not change Him.

The next few days were rough. Having a funeral, being a support, wondering if the next funeral would be my husband, unable to tell him anything, wishing I had never gotten irritated with him, etc. He started vomiting, even while unconscious on the vent, they kept turning him trying to get the excess fluid to drain off. He had fevers continuing, which had not left since day one. They packed him in ice, pumped him with antibiotics, they tried anti-fungal treatment. They were seeing signs that indicated he may have swelling in the brain, but he was too sick to check. They said he would probably need to be sent to Bangor and have a tracheostomy.

On the 16th, they said I could come see him. I asked the nurse, "Is it because I may never see him alive again?" The nurse said, "Yes, ma'am." I went into his room, and I prayed, I sang, I called our pastor and put it on speaker phone while he prayed, I called our children and let him hear their

Continued on page 5.



FROM TERROR TO TRIUMPH, *continued...*

voices. I was brave, but it was very tough to see him alone, knowing that without a miracle, I was a widow.

When Josh arrived in Bangor, he was too critical for a trach. They normally don't have a breathing tube down a throat for more than two weeks. Josh had it for four weeks. Most people in the same situation as Josh, never regain their voice. In Bangor, it was still touch and go. He was still spiking fevers, they were doing CT scans of his entire body trying to find the problem. When he stabilized, they started trying to wake him from the vent. He wasn't waking properly. His head would thrash from side to side, and his blood pressure would skyrocket. On November 30th, they did the tracheostomy. By December 1, he was finally Covid negative. I was able to see him on the 3rd.

The rest of the story is just details, for which there isn't time. Bro. Stoops came and prayed for me more than once. He told me something happened on the 15th. I began to improve by leaps and bounds. They were all shocked. I knew details, events, places. I was more observant than I had been in a long time. Bangor said I was the 3rd person to ever survive that severe of a situation, and I was the only one Presque Isle had ever seen.

There has been so much left unsaid in this story. God is a good God, and I am the recipient of many miracles. Most people do not realize how severe and how helpless my situation was. They did not expect me to make it. But God!

Rev. Joshua & Andrea Alley attend Fort Fairfield United Pentecostal Church where he is Assistant to Pastor Doughty and adult Sunday School teacher and she is Assistant Secretary and Sunday School teacher. Josh serves on the Children's Ministries Committee and the North American Missions committee for the Maine District UPCI.



Save the Date

Marriage Enrichment

October 21-22, 2022

Rev. Scott & Michelle Graham

Guest Speakers

More information and details coming soon...save the date!

Upcoming Missionary Schedule

June 7-12, 2022

James Marse | Bolivia

June 21-26

Brandon Borders | New Zealand

August 23-28

Dennis Uecker | Latvia

If you want information on hosting a missionary in your church, please reach out!

Rev. Todd Little

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2022 MAINE LADIES CONFERENCE

By: Jackie Little



Maine Ladies Conference was AMAZING! God moved in with power and anointing, ministering to each of us in His own special way. It is beautiful to watch God speak peace to the troubled, heal the hurting, refresh the weary and fill the empty!

We were blessed with the ministry of Sis Kim Ballestero and her daughter Sis Kalyx Bulgrin. They ushered in the presence of God with their anointed singing and preaching. Through their ministry, God reminded us that we can do all things THROUGH HIM, He cares about our every need, and that we can FEAST at His table through reading and meditating on His Word.



More than 200 ladies gathered together for prayer, worship, fellowship and a little shopping. Sis LeeAnn Alexander and her mom, Judy represented Pentecostal

Publishing House. It was a tremendous blessing to have Apostolic curriculum and materials available for purchase. They sold out of almost everything!

Our breakout sessions this year were extremely powerful! Special thanks to these anointed women who allowed God to speak through them: LeeAnn Alexander, Ericka Witham, Carolyn Channell, Alissa Cox, Kalyx Bulgrin, Verssie Churchill, Jornie Kinga, and Elisha Bannister.



Our music team was led by Sis Arielle Holmes this year and the worship service led us into the presence of God and flowed perfectly with the

message each night. Sis Brenda Bowley led our pre-service prayer each night. Beginning with prayer helped to set the tone for each service.

Sis Rani Nolan from New Beginnings was our special guest. She shared her beautiful testimony of loving others through adoption. We took up a love offering for New Beginnings. Please continue to pray for God's favor upon this ministry.

We put together a video and presentation to honor Sis Carolyn Kennedy. Sis Kennedy is a precious lady who is a Godly example and inspiration to all of us! It was fun to learn about her early years and about her various ministry roles in the Maine District and beyond. We love you, Sis Kennedy!

Special thanks to the Maine Ladies Committee – Amy Stoops, Francisca Kear, Shawna Rafferty, Elisha Bannister, Heidi Sage and Tammy Churchill.



They poured themselves out in prayer for and service to Maine Ladies and we are incredibly blessed to have this unified, anointed, and capable team!

If you missed this year's Maine Ladies Conference, check out the photos with the hashtag #MELC22 or on our Maine District UPCI Ladies Ministries Facebook page. Recordings are available through Maine Media Ministries. Be sure to join us next year, May 4-6 with Sis Kim Haney. Also, save the date for Maine Esther Conference – November 11-12 with Kalee Bernard!

Sis. Jackie Little is pastor's wife at First UPC of Lewiston, Maine, and serves as the Maine District UPCI Ladies Ministries President.





Schedule

Daily Kidz Church and Bible Class | 10:30 AM
Daily Evening Service | 7 PM

Highlights

Monday, June 20

Evening Service | Rev. Tommy Channell Speaker
Superintendent's Annual Message

Thursday, June 23

6 PM | Memorial Service | In Loving Memory
Rev. Charles Hurst, Rev. Orman Fowler, Rev. Douglas Hooper



Morning Bible Teacher
Dr. Jeremy Painter



Camp Evangelist
Rev. Chris Green

Local Accommodations

Black Bear Inn
4 Godfrey Drive
Orono, ME
☎ (207) 866-7120

Comfort Inn
10 Bangor Mall Boulevard
Bangor, ME
☎ (207) 990-0577

Howard Johnson
336 Odlin Road
Bangor, ME
☎ (207) 942-5251

Country Inn
936 Stillwater Avenue
Bangor, ME
☎ (207) 941-0200

There is limited housing available on the campground. There are some lots for campers, RVs, or fifth wheels. For availability and rates, please contact Rev. Tommy Channell via email at mainedistrictupci@gmail.com.



FOR OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM

By: Rev. Sam Bannister

It had been a long day and the little boy had never seen so many people in one place before! He had listened intently as the man they called Jesus taught and watched with wide eyes as he saw lame people walking and blind people receiving their sight! It was incredible!

As the afternoon wore on a murmur began to spread through the crowd. People were hungry. His belly too began to rumble, and he was glad his mother had packed him a little lunch for the day. Just before he dug into his food, there was a commotion off to his right. Through the mass of people, he could make out some of the men that accompanied Jesus moving through and talking with families. As they approached, he could hear their question, "Any food at all?"

The boy looked down at his pack and his first thought was to wrap his food back up and move somewhere more private. What would his meager snack mean in the face of so many anyway? But then something, or someone, spoke to him. A voice that seemed to stir something in his heart and his mind at the same time. The soft yet strong melodic voice simply said, "Offer what you have." At that moment the shadows of Jesus' disciples spilled over the five small loaves and two little fishes in the boy's lap. The boy picked up his head and met their gaze. He lifted his hands and offered the lunch, such as it was, to them.

It was not a seasoned pastor or an experienced missionary nor was it an educated long-standing saint that offered up what they had, it was a lad, a child. A child's faith is pure because it has yet to be influenced by the harsh realities that so often cause adults to temper their faith in an almighty God. They just hear about all that God has done from a Sunday School teacher and assume that God really can do anything! That is why Jesus said in Matthew 19:14 "Suffer the little children and forbid them not..." He wanted and still desires to be surrounded by pure faith!



More often than not a child is only going to do what is most enjoyable for them and as a parent that can be a very frustrating thing. They will sit for hours and never touch the broccoli on their dinner plate claiming they are "too full" but, offer them an chocolate chip cookie, and suddenly they have all kinds of room to spare! That is why watching a child sacrifice for God through giving and worship and prayer is such a powerful faith building

moment! They are not going to do something that doesn't appeal to them and make them feel good, they typically aren't going to participate in something unless they are getting some enjoyment from it! What a powerful way to show that the Spirit is active alive and working in us!

As Pastors and ministers and even in our secular lives we are always searching for investments

that will yield the best returns. We seek the strongest and most long-term benefits and results from the investment of our time, energy and money. What better investment is there than to invest in our children. Jesus showed us how important they are. After He told his disciples not to stop the children from coming to Him, he spoke these words "...for of such is the Kingdom of heaven."

What a powerful statement! This is who the Kingdom of heaven belongs to! Those with pure faith! It is easy to overlook our children at times. They are too young or too naive but the world knows the importance of grabbing hold of these young minds at the earliest possible age. And the church must respond by investing in our children, the next generation!

The Maine Children's Ministry is looking forward to a great time on the Pea Cove Campground this summer. There we be Kidz Church Tuesday through Friday morning at our annual Maine Family camp beginning at 10:30 a.m. and our Kidz Kamp with Bruce and Jami Borlik will begin on Monday July 11th through Friday July 15th. Please encourage all who can to attend!

Rev. Sam Bannister is assistant pastor at Crossroads Apostolic Church and serves as Secretary for the Maine District Children's Ministries Department and Bible Quiz Coordinator.

ORDAINED FOR MINISTRY...A BLESSING TO THE MAINE DISTRICT

During Maine District Conference in April, two ministers were ordained. Ordination is the highest level of ministerial credentials offered by the United Pentecostal Church International (UPCI), and the study, preparation, and commitment of ordained ministers raises the spiritual and professional level of competence in ministry. We congratulate Rev. Sam Bannister and Rev. Cameron Cox on being ordained by the leadership of the Maine District UPCI and prescribed ordination by the UPCI.

Rev. Sam Bannister received the holy ghost in 1995 at the First UPC of Lewiston, pastored then by Rev. Harold Churchill. He attended Christian Life College in 2003 and 2004. He and his wife, Elisha, have been married for 17 years. Together, they have five children: Lindsay, Bethany, Brady, Avery, and Wesley. Bro. Bannister works for the Town of Bar Harbor, and he is assistant pastor at Crossroads Apostolic Church in Hancock, Maine. As a family, they enjoy traveling and visiting with family and friends.



Rev. Sam Bannister with his wife, Elisha, and their five beautiful children.



Rev. Cameron Cox with his wife, Alissa, and their two beautiful children.

Rev. Cameron Cox was installed as pastor at Crossroads Apostolic Church in Ellsworth, Maine on April 30, 2022. He, with his wife, Alissa, have two children: Alannah and Jase. Bro. Cox serves the Maine District UPCI as Youth President and is dedicated to continuing to work with young people as they pursue the call of God. He and his family are thrilled to be part of the Maine District and look forward to serving the church in Ellsworth, the District Youth Department, and their colleagues and friends in Maine.



Kickoff
JULY 1, 2022

HIS EXAMPLE AND IMPACT LIVE ON, IN LOVING MEMORY OF REV. DOUGLAS M. HOOPER



Rev. Douglas M. Hooper, 64, of Lubec, on April 17, 2022, at Mass General Hospital, peacefully left his earthly vessel to transition to his heavenly home surrounded by his loving family. He was born on, July 22, 1957, in Lubec,

Maine, the son of Colby and Wilma Hooper.

In 1979, He married the love of his life, Roberta. In the past 42 years, Doug has created great memories with Bobby. Doug loved to serenade Bobby while playing one of his many instruments and the songs he had written just for her. Doug was well known for his practical jokes, could fill a room with laughter, and no one was a stranger; just a friend he had not met. For over 20 years, Doug served on the security team at the Cutler Navy Base.

He had a love of painting. One of his masterpieces was hand delivered to Former President Bush and is displayed at his home here in Maine. You may have had a privilege to hear Doug on his gospel radio station.

Most of all, Doug had a love for his Savior. In 2013, he opened the doors to Down East Faith Tabernacle where he had a great compassion for people and a desire to tell people of God's love. Doug will be greatly missed by his wife, Roberta and his faithful companion, Lady Bell; his mother, Wilma; sisters, Elaine and her husband, Willie, and Sue and her husband, David; brother, Byron; nieces and grandnieces; as well as his stepchildren, Joe and his special friend, Annmarie and her husband, Victor, along with three step granddaughters. Doug was predeceased by his father, Colby Hooper.

Bro Hooper attended Campobello where he got baptized and attended as a young boy with his family. He did not stay in church; he was in several rock bands that he started. He left that life to answer the call of God. He attended and later assisted under Bro McQuire. Later, he began to sit under Bro. Charles Hurst who helped him obtain his UPCI ministerial license. He also assisted Bro. Hurst in

Calais, Bro. Denzil Channell in Machias, as well as being a church planter in Lubec. He operated an online gospel radio station. He sang, played, and cut several CDs. It did not matter what the weather or his health condition, he baptized many at the beach. When his health would not allow him to stand and preach, he would teach a Bible Study live from his kitchen table. At one time, he could barely get off the couch, but he would always proclaim, "God is so good." When anybody would FaceTime with him in the ICU, he would say, "God is so good!" The last time we talked to him Saturday night in ICU he was planning the next step for Down East Faith Tabernacle.

After his funeral, a story was shared of how he impacted Wesley Powell. Wesley Powell has known the Hooper family since he was a born. When Wesley was a baby, Sister Hooper used to hold him in the ambulance while transporting him to the hospital. Sis. Hooper said Wesley was three months old, and even though she wasn't in church, she prayed the entire way that he would not die. During the time Bro. & Sis. Hooper assisted Keys to Life Tabernacle in Calais, Wesley attended many services with them. During Bro. Hooper's funeral he felt the need to be baptized. He contacted Sis Hooper Thursday night, asking to be baptized. Sunday, May 1, at 3 PM. Bro Steven Beauregard, along with Bro. Rodney Dame, baptized Wesley at the Lubec Boat ramp for the remission of his sins and taking on the name of Jesus Christ. Upon hearing this prayer during the baptism, one elderly gentleman stated he didn't realize the significance of baptism and requested to be baptized at a later date when the weather is warmer. Twelve people attended the baptism. That night, 11 were in church attendance and one committed to a Bible Study.

A lot of people knew Bro. Hooper, and he was well loved in the community. He requested Bro. Beauregard to make sure his funeral was a full church service with the Acts 2:38 message. Every minister that spoke mentioned the plan of salvation. God's presence filled the church as Bro. Dame led songs and while Bro. Stoops sang *Peace, Peace, Wonderful Peace* at the closing. The pastor there said he had never felt anything like that before. God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform! We believe a harvest will be reaped quickly in this last day as a result of the work Bro. Hooper did while he was here.

ENGRAFTING THE WORD OF GOD

continued...

Finally, through the engrafted Word we find the favor of God and man. We read in Proverbs 3:1-4, "...Forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments; for length of days and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart. So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man."

Like the fruit tree bears the fruit of the engrafted portion, when we engraft the Word of God in our lives, we are able to bear the fruit of it. We love those around us with a pure heart, we are able to walk in righteousness and faith, we are strengthened daily by the Word, we have spiritual authority, and we find favor in the eyes of God and man.

Let's all take some time to make a daily habit of reading and memorizing the Word, so that it may be engrafted in our lives and that we may be able to bear the fruit of it and be a shining light of love, strength, and faith to our darkened world.

"Too long, too far, and too low." Those words have stuck with me ever since I read them in a story about Manfred von Richthofen ("The Red Baron").

The day was April 21, 1918. Richthofen led his flight of triplanes to search for British observation aircraft. An engagement ensued between a flight of Sopwith Camels led by Canadian Royal Air Force pilot Capt. Arthur Roy Brown. Brown's friend Lt. Wilfred May was a rookie on his first offensive patrol. May had been ordered to keep out of combat but couldn't resist. He jammed his guns and, defenseless, headed away from the battle. Richthofen spotted the lone plane and chose it for kill number 81. Brown observed the scene below him and dove to help his fellow airman, knowing that May was no match for Richthofen. Read what happens next, "It was then, with Brown closing from behind, that Richthofen, usually a meticulous and disciplined fighter pilot, made a mistake and broke one of his own rules by following May too long, too far, and too low into enemy territory. Two miles behind the Allied lines, as Brown caught up with Richthofen and fired, the chase passed over the machine-gun nests of Australian Field Artillery." The debate continues

over who fired the fatal shot that passed through Richthofen's torso. Ultimately it doesn't matter—whether hit from the air or the ground, The Red Baron was mortally wounded.

Richthofen was good. Probably over-confident. But he "broke one of the rules." Maybe in his mind he was just stretching the rule a bit. Or he was distracted by something that appeared too good to be true. Whatever the case, he compromised his standards, which led to his demise. For the Red Baron, the temptation of number 81 was too much to handle.

The temptation always exists for us to focus on the wrong things, forget where you are, and who's we are, and stretch, or compromise, God's rules, even our own rules. It is easy to be distracted. There are always new gimmicks that will try to lure us away from our first love. You are a target of the enemy. Don't lose your primary focus. Keep the main thing the main thing. "Fix your thoughts on Jesus" (Heb. 3:1, NIV). The main thing is to keep God's word the main thing in our lives.



June 2022

1	SOC Offering Due to District	
4	Junior and Senior Bible Quizzing Finals	
5	Pentecost Sunday Holy Ghost Rally	Augusta
5-18	Campground Clean-up Days	Old Town
6	Ladies of Prayer International	
19	Father's Day Men's Ministry Offering Sunday	
20-24	Family Camp	Old Town
22	District Board Meeting	
23	Unity Rally, Memorial Service (6 PM)	Old Town
	Ministers & Spouse Banquet	Old Town
30	Mother's Memorial Offering Due to District	

July 2022

1	MTM Kickoff Formerly SFC	
4	Ladies of Prayer International	
11-15	Kidz Kamp (ages 8 – 11)	Old Town
18-22	Youth Camp (ages 12 – 18)	Old Town
22-26	Senior Bible Quizzing National Competition	St. Charles, MO
23-28	Junior Bible Quizzing National Competition	Branson, MO
29-30	Men's Ministry Motorcycle Ride	
30	Men's Ministry ATV Ride	

August 2022

1	Ladies of Prayer International	
5-6	World Network of Prayer Summit	Augusta
9-10	PK Retreat	
18-19	Men's Conference	Hampden
19	Main Focus Articles Due	
26	Back to School Rally	
28	MTM Offering Call-in Date	



All correspondence, article submissions and input should be sent to

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