



# ANGEL WINGS MINISTRIES

## Newsletter

MOVING ON, UP AND FOWARD

FALL / WINTER 2023

ANGEL WINGS MINISTRIES

VOLUME 2023 ISSUE 2

### AS WE MOVE FORWARD

*Rev. Deborah Shepperson Smith*

To our community of family, friends and supporters, welcome to our Angel Wings Newsletter. This newsletter started out as a thank you and greeting to all who supported my journey into ministry many years ago. It's almost hard to believe that this is the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of the existence of Angel Wings Ministries Inc.

As an organization we have been our "Brother's Keeper" in our little corner of the world. It has been our pleasure to serve those who require a leg up and encouragement and not just a handout. Sometimes all of us may need someone to lift us and our families out of hopelessness and despair. There have been other times when each of us have required someone to believe in us, assist us, uplift us and believe in our dreams.

Over the years we have written, printed and distributed our newsletter as a testimony to the goodness of God our Father. Letting people know that God loves them and believes in their hopes and dreams. This newsletter shares the good news to our community of believers of all faith traditions who believe in a most wonderful and awesome God. Our articles are ones of encouragement, hope and strength to live each and every day knowing that there is none other than God and His Son, who shows us the way, Jesus the Christ. As the Holy Spirit makes way for us to demonstrate God's love as we serve His people, we know beyond a shadow of doubt that He is with us. As we move forward, the message we share with our community extends an invitation to assist Angel Wings in our mission to serve those who may have forgotten God's promises to His people.

"The LORD himself goes before you and will never leave you nor forsake you.  
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (Deuteronomy 31:8 ESV)

#### Mission Statement

Angel Wings Ministries, Inc. is an interfaith spiritually-based outreach program dedicated to support children, individuals and families from crisis to wholeness.

*Educate..... Serve..... Inspire*

#### Vision Statement

We envision an interfaith community where families and stakeholders work together to empower *all* to wholeness

We believers know God through our individual experiences and as we worship with our spiritual communities, we remember God's instruction:

"...And let us not grow weary of doing good [things], for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9 ESV)

Angel Wings will not give up! We will continue to move forward sharing the good news and doing good works!!



# Thank You!

We are grateful for everyone's participation  
in our 2023 Annual Fundraiser and  
Raffle Drawing.

Your prayers, financial support and  
volunteer efforts are very much appreciated.  
As agents for change, you have helped  
Angel Wings grow and expand its services  
to children and their families as they  
journey from crisis to wholeness.



## 2023 RAFFLE WINNERS

~ 1ST PRIZE ~  
*D. Thompson*

~ 2ND PRIZE ~  
*O. Ebereonwu*

~ 3RD PRIZE ~  
*A. Hanson*

~ BONUS PRIZE ~  
*M. Flores*





## PRAYER POWER

### *On Moving: Are We There Yet?*

Rev. J. L. McLellan

*"I'm pressing on the upward way;  
New heights I'm gaining everyday.  
Still praying as I'm onward bound  
Lord, plant my feet on higher ground.  
Lord, lift me up and let me stand  
by faith on heaven's tableland.  
A higher plane than I have found;  
Lord plant my feet on higher ground"*

(Johnston Oatman, Jr., 1860 -1948)  
African American Heritage Hymnal

In this generation of "the need for speed," it is considered a good thing to accomplish something quickly. However, those who have lived for five or more decades will tell you that some good things take time to develop. For example, good wine, rare diamonds, and meaningful relationships. And so it is with certain types of movement – like mobility in job promotions, or accumulation of wealth. Moving forward does not always occur spontaneously or instantly.

Likewise, dealing with the loss of a loved one fits in this category. One cannot "just get over it." The period for grief and mourning is as individual as one's fingerprint; no one can tell you to "move on." Of course, certain methods have proved to be tried and true over the years: keeping busy, allowing for rest, vacationing, reminiscing with close friends and family, seeking counseling, etc. But none of these are a guarantee to a quickie healing process. The loved one is still gone, but the happy, fond memories help sweeten the lonely days and nights.

May I submit to you that all the suggestions mentioned above mean NOTHING if the activities still leave one feeling empty at the end of the day. No amount of therapy, tv shows, pills, alcohol, or family

gatherings will take the place of finding the peace of God. And that inner peace will never leave you feeling stuck or miserable. Sure, there is a time for mourning and a time for dancing, a time to speak and a time to remain silent. (I refer you to Ecclesiastes 3) But once the somber depressing scene recedes into the rearview mirror, then it's time to redirect one's vision to find a new purpose in life. *Why am I still here? What am I supposed to do now?*

If you are like me, the process might require a passage of time in which you THINK the mourning period has ended—only to find it resurges yet again at the most unexpected moment. But, that's okay; God has equipped me to handle those moments with grace and courage. As long as I can breathe I have hope. God is not through with me yet!

#### Sample Prayer for Transformation

Heavenly Father, I can feel the ground beneath me shifting and my head is spinning. Is it me, or am I just going through an unavoidable process? When will it end?

Help me to move up to a new level. Change me from the inside out. Even if I don't seem to be moving forward according to onlookers,, help me to grow spiritually on the inside—so that I'm growing stronger and wiser—and closer to You.

While I am moving closer: I receive your healing, and I release my illness. I receive your wholeness, and let go of my brokenness. I want your peace, so I can release my anxiety. And I accept your joy so I can relinquish my sorrow. What a PRIVILEGE to carry everything to You in prayer, O God; I wait for You. Amen



## MOVE...WHEN THE SPIRIT MOVES YOU

*Wanda Latisha Mitchell*

One Friday morning, recently, I had been awake for more than an hour, when the still voice inside me said, "Go. Wash all your bathing suits and pool clothes." I looked up to the ceiling and said out loud, "Do I have to go now? Can't I go after I go to the pool?" There was an urgency inside me that made me know I had to go at once.

Needless to say, I didn't make it to the pool that morning. When I left the pool that afternoon, the voice inside me said "Get dressed and go see your Aunt!" I was surely about to put on the lounge dress I had put in my gym bag. My intentions were to shower, put on my lounge clothes and head home. I planned on going to see my Aunt over the weekend. Again, the urgency was overwhelming.

When I arrived at the nursing facility to visit with my Aunt, my cousin was standing outside, cell phone in hand. She was calling everyone she could think of to find someone to go on a cruise with her. The cruise was already paid for. The potential passenger simply had to get to the cruise ship by Sunday.

I just got back from a weeklong cruise to ports in Belize, Honduras and Cozumel. Obedience is better than sacrifice. When we allow the Spirit to move us, we are led to magnificent shores.



## DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN?

*Paul D Smith*

As we look back, do you remember when you attended church as a youth and there were activities that were really FUN? We roller skated, went bowling, participated in drama club, Christmas plays, youth choir...and don't forget Vacation Bible School, where we met people and made friends. We even learned how to stand in front of an audience and speak in public; we recited Bible verses and practiced getting it right. There was always good food and just plain fun. We really enjoyed being together—along with godly role models and mentors.

This list could go on and on—based on how much your church or organization perpetuated God's love through action and how it demonstrated joy shown in the eyes of the youngsters. Think back and bring forward some similar activities from your youth and make memories of God's love in *your* church, ministry, home, and yes, *your life*. Rather than just reminiscing, why not take a leap of faith and commit to making a positive impact on some young person's life today?

## MOVING FORWARD WITH GRACE AND GRATITUDE

*Dominique Ruffin*

It is with grace, fortitude and determination that I am very thankful for the connection I have made with Angel Wings Ministries. My family first connected with Angel Wings in 2015, after my oldest daughter was hospitalized off and on for two months. It was Christmastime, and I was referred to the group by the staff at my daughter's school where I also worked at the time.

I am grateful to say that Angel Wings has become more than just a charitable organization. I am also thankful to say that Angel Wings sees me and my daughters as more than a charity case. Angel Wings has become part of our extended family. There have been times when I was doing well financially and I didn't need assistance, but they still checked in on us. The "checking in" part is what makes Angel Wings different from other organizations, because it shows

they are invested in my family's well-being. I really, really appreciate that; it makes me feel that I'm part of something special. And during those times when things were tough, I could count on them to come through for us in our time of need. What a blessing! I cannot thank God enough!

The donations, time, and efforts are appreciated and do not go unnoticed. Thank you for always being there for me and my family. Truly, Angel Wings Ministries is doing God's work. My family is not only grateful, but the support has enabled us to move forward. I am currently employed at a new job; my daughters are now in high school and are both thriving. One is a budding artist with great grades, and the other is working hard—achieving success at one of the city's leading high schools.

### *Angel Wings is proud to announce the addition of our* AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS



YIMAJ IBRAHIM ■ JENA JOHNSON  
DOMINIQUE RUFFIN ■ JAMAL K. D. SMITH

These are our next generation of leaders who come equipped with unique skill sets to help move Angel Wings to the next level!

### SECRET SANTA **Adopt / Donation Card** - Please print

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I wish to Adopt-A-Child(ren), please contact me by: ☐email ☐home phone ☐cell phone  
☐ I Am Enclosing: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 75.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 100.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other  
☐ My Company will donate: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00  
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☐ VOLUNTEER

We accept: ☐CASH ☐CHECK ☐CASHAPP: \$ANGELWINGSMIN  
(include your Name & Email in memo)

Make checks payable to: **Angel Wings Ministries**

**2023**  
We are a 501(c)(3) organization.  
Contributions may be tax deductible.

**Please return this form with your donation to:**  
Angel Wings Ministries  
Secret Santa Project  
3005 Romaric Ct., Apt. B  
Baltimore, Maryland 21209



## MOVING TOWARD RETIREMENT: RETIREMENT PLANNING

Michael P. McLellan

I am writing to you today about retirement planning. It is essential to start thinking about it early. The Bible teaches us to be wise with our money and trust God to provide for our needs. These principles are essential for retirement planning because they can help us achieve a comfortable and carefree retirement.

Being wise with our money:

*"The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty." (Proverbs 21:5)*

*"A good person leaves an inheritance for children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous." (Proverbs 13:22)*

*"The wise store up choice food and olive oil, but fools gulp theirs down." (Proverbs 21:20)*

Trusting in God:

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5-6)*

*"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?" (Matthew 6:25)*

Being generous:

*"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38)*

*"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." (2 Corinthians 9:6)*

Here are some tips for retirement planning:

- Start saving early. The sooner you start saving for retirement, the more time your money has to grow.
- Create a budget and track your spending. A budget plan will help you to understand where your money is going and to identify areas where you can cut back.
- Practice living within your retirement budget for an entire season. This plan will help you to identify any potential challenges and to make adjustments as needed.
- Pay off debt. Debt can eat into your savings and make it difficult to retire comfortably.
- Invest your savings. Investing can help your money grow faster than keeping it in a savings account.
- Work with a fiduciary financial advisor. A financial advisor can help you develop a personalized retirement plan that meets your needs and goals.

Following these biblical principles, we can be confident that God will provide for us during our retirement. We are convinced that our retirement will be a time of blessing and service to others.

Retirement planning is a journey, not a destination. There will be unexpected challenges along the way, but following the biblical principles above can increase your chances of having a comfortable and carefree retirement.

I pray that God will guide you as you plan for your retirement. May He bless you with abundance, and may you enjoy the fruits of your labor.



## RUN

*A poem by: Jason "Retro" Jackson*

When the guy with the gun  
raises his arm  
And shoots  
You run  
Bang  
I've been running track longer than I can remember  
And buying shoes just as long  
I mean  
I've been running so long  
the shoes would lose their soles  
And I don't know if that's a metaphor  
But I've been running from problems for so long that it feels like  
When I was 7 me and my friends  
came face to face with a gun  
We ran  
praying that every step was closer to home  
and not to heaven  
Thank God he didn't wanna see any of us that day more than our mothers did  
I never told them what happened  
Instead I asked for new shoes  
That these are too used to running  
I need something a little slower  
I tried everything  
From skate shoes to boots and shelltoes  
Eventually I became known to wear Jordans  
Believing the jumpman logo will help me get over my problems  
But all it did was help me inherit new ones  
Jordan is stitched to the back of the shoe so either way  
I'm running from someone who's used to shooting  
Like I said I've been running track longer than I can remember  
It feels like the day I put on shoes  
I was destined  
To  
RUN

Volunteer



# ELF DAY



Donate

Gift Wrapping & Delivery

Weds., Dec. 13, 2023 & Thurs., Dec. 14, 2023

11 AM - 5 PM



You Can Sign Up  
to Help!

One God One Thought Center

3605 Coronado Ave.

Baltimore, MD 21244

TEXT OR CALL: 410-982-7647 OR EMAIL: ANGELWINGSMIN@AOL.COM

## It's That Time of Year for *The Secret Santa Project*

Your support helps the families with children that we serve.

There are many ways to give your support!

For information on how you can sign up with us to  
**SPONSOR A CHILD** or a **FAMILY OF CHILDREN**:



**CALL OR TEXT:** 410-982-7647

**EMAIL:** angelwingsmin@aol.com

**TO MAKE A DONATION:**

**RETURN YOUR DONATION CARD TO:**

Secret Santa Project  
3005 Romaric Ct., Unit B  
Baltimore, MD 21209

**WE ALSO ACCEPT CASH APP:**

**\$ANGELWINGSMIN**

**\*\* Please place your name &  
email in the memo section \*\***

*Thank You!*  
*To our*  
*"Angels in the Field"*



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