

THE STANDARD



Volume 31:04

The Late Dr. R.E. Herring, Sr., Pastor

April 5, 2026

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THEME 2026: “Grounded in Legacy; Guided by Love” Hebrews 12:1-2 (KJV)

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.



INSPIRATION CORNER

Happy Resurrection Day!

1 Corinthians 15:20 (KJV)

²⁰ *But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.*

For the Christian, the resurrection of Jesus is without question the most pivotal truth to the Christian faith. In fact, all of our faith and hope rest in the fact of an empty tomb. Listen, Paul notes in 1 Corinthians 15, that if Christ has not been raised from the dead, and if there is no resurrection of the dead, then this means that Christ is not to be believed. If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, then He is still dead somewhere like everyone else who has died. Christ becomes no different from any other person; there is no distinction of Him from any other prophet. If Christ did not rise from the dead, then He is nothing more than a great historical example of a righteous life. And for Christians, our faith is of empty content and we are still in our sins. Listen, from the very beginning, the enemies of the Lord tried to deny the historic fact of the Resurrection. Many fables surfaced that attempt to refute and deny the Resurrection.

You have the "Stolen Body" Fable:

The "stolen body" theory goes back to A.D. 29. According to Matthew 28:11-15, the chief priests, the elders, and the soldiers concocted a story that would explain the problem of an empty tomb: The body was stolen. If Jesus' body was stolen, then it was taken either by His friends or His enemies. His friends could not have done it since they had left the scene and were convinced that Jesus was dead. His enemies would not steal His body because belief in His resurrection was what they were trying to prevent. They would have defeated their own purposes if they had removed His body.

The "Didn't Really Die" Fable:

This theory advocates the "swoon theory," which holds that Jesus was only drugged and did not really die. This theory further states that He was taken down from the cross and laid in the tomb. After three days the coolness of the tomb revived Him, and He managed to roll away the stone and come out of the tomb. His appearances after three days in the tomb were merely perceived to be resurrection appearances.

The "Wrong Tomb" Fable:

This theory holds that the women who came to anoint the body of Jesus were confused as to which was the right tomb. So, they came to the wrong tomb finding that tomb empty. So, Jesus is still dead in a tomb somewhere in Jerusalem.

The "Hallucination" Theory:

This theory suggests that those who claimed to see Jesus after His crucifixion were imagining it and didn't really see Him. One reason that a person might imagine the reappearance of a loved one is as a sort of wish fulfillment. Perhaps the overwhelming desire to see the person again would result in a hallucination.

The "Twin Brother" theory:

This theory states that the sightings of a risen Jesus are explained not by physical resurrection, but by the existence of a different person, a twin or lookalike who could have impersonated Jesus after His death or died in the place of Jesus on the cross.

And there are other theories too numerous to mention. Mark Twain once wrote that a lie can go around the world while truth is still lacing up her boots. There is something in human nature that makes it easy for people to believe lies. But we as Christians believe and celebrate the truth, the Resurrection of Christ. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the single most important event in world history. The resurrection is even more important than the cross. Jesus died on the cross; but the cross does not single Him out. Many men during that time experienced death by crucifixion. But if Jesus did not rise from the dead, the cross would be meaningless for all mankind.

So, this month we celebrate Jesus' victory over death. We celebrate the victory He won for all of us who believe in Him as the Christ, the Son of the living God, God in the flesh. Any sincere person who studies this evidence with an open heart will conclude that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is a historic fact that cannot be refuted.

The Late Pastor R.E. Herring, Sr.



Easter Sunday Prayer

Heavenly Father,

On this blessed Easter Sunday, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude and joy. We rejoice in the resurrection of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. As we gather with loved ones and fellow believers, we are reminded of the glorious victory over sin and death that He accomplished on the cross.

Lord, we thank you for the promise of new life and the hope that Easter brings. Your mercy and grace shine brightly on this day, illuminating our lives with the warmth of your love. May we never forget the incredible sacrifice of Jesus and the profound significance of His triumph over the grave.

On this sacred day, fill our hearts with the joy of the resurrection. Help us to experience the transformative power of your love, renewing our spirits and strengthening our faith. As we celebrate together, may the message of Easter resonate deeply within us, inspiring us to live as reflections of your grace and compassion.

As we rejoice in the miracle of Easter, we lift our prayers for those who may be struggling, lonely, or in despair. May your comforting presence be with them, bringing healing and hope. Use us, Lord, as instruments of your peace and vessels of your love in the world.

We dedicate this Easter Sunday to you, grateful for the promise of redemption and the assurance of your unfailing love. May our lives be a testament to the power of your resurrection as we seek to follow you faithfully.

In the precious name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April

Sis. Auhndi Thomas	4/1	Sis. Denise Anderson	4/15	Bro. Carlost Griffin	4/25
Sis. Shakira Coleman	4/4	Bro. Joseph Bell, Jr.	4/15	Bro. Dionne Sylvester	4/26
Sis. Oreail Thomas	4/4	Sis. Dorothy Rogers	4/15	Sis. Gloria Roberts	4/26
Sis. Frances Bennett	4/5	Sis. Sharon Masline	4/16	Sis. Regina Boston	4/26
Sis. Marva Monroe	4/7	Sis. Ernestine Shannon	4/16	Bro. Frederick Jamison	4/26
Bro. Robert L. Gibbs	4/9	Sis. Jackie Burton	4/17	Bro. Bennie Davis, Jr.	4/26
Sis. Alexandra Holliday	4/9	Sis. Jackie Parker	4/17	Sis. Bervinda Mincey	4/28
Bro. Terence Wright	4/11	Sis. Selena Norris	4/17	Bro. Raheen C. Duncan	4/28
Sis. Donna Seymore	4/11	Bro. Richard Lockwood	4/18	Sis. Cherlynette Greene	4/29
Bro. Darius Masline	4/11	Sis. Laura Smith	4/20	Sis. Latoya Brown	4/29
Sis. Barbara Boston	4/12	Sis. Brittany Griffin	4/20	Sis. Tijuana Davis	4/30
Mo. Mary Agnes Johnson	4/13	Bro. Jimmy Anderson	4/20	Bro. Nicholas P. Stevens	4/30
Rev. Stafford Dudley	4/13	Sis. Jamie Monroe	4/22	Sis. June Thomas	4/30
Sis. Deborah Holt Davis	4/14	Sis. Mia Jenkins	4/22		
Rev. Leon Washington	4/14	Bro. Rick Grant, Jr.	4/24		
Sis. Aunye Thomas	4/15				
Sis. Jacquelyn Burton	4/22				



Bro. Wayne and Sis. Latrice Davis	04/08
Bro. Robert and Sis. Beverly Gibbs	04/09
Bro. Patrick and Sis. Sephora Crane	04/11
Bro. Francois and Sis. Chakita Dormevil Jr.	04/25



SUNDAY SCHOOL

God's Wrath Satisfied in Christ

UNIT 2: God's Wrath Poured Out

Apr. 5 — Jesus Overcomes the Grave (Easter)—Mark 16:1-8

Apr. 12 — The Destruction of False Teachers—2 Pet. 2:1-10a

Apr. 19 — The Deception of False Teachers—2 Pet. 2:10b-22

UNIT 3: God's Wrath Satisfied

Apr. 26 — God's Righteous Judgment—Rom. 2:1-16

Easter Morning

Poet: Phillips Brooks

Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer:
Death is strong, but life is stronger;
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right;
Faith and hope triumphant say,
"Christ will rise on Easter Day!"

While the patient earth lies waking
Till the morning shall be breaking,
Shuddering 'neath the burden dread
Of her Master, cold and dead,
Hark! she hears the angels say,
"Christ will rise on Easter Day!"

And when sunrise smites the mountains,
Pouring light from heavenly fountains,
Then the earth blooms out to greet
Once again the blessed feet;
And her countless voices say:
"Christ has risen on Easter Day!"



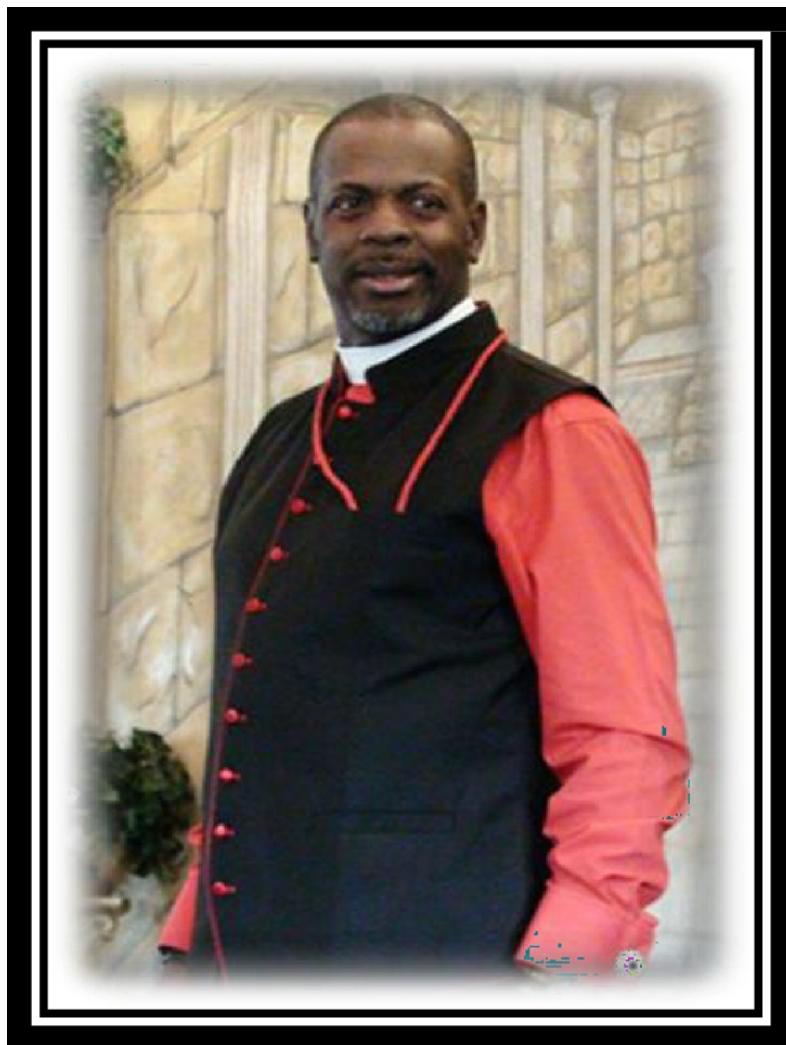
160th Anniversary Celebration presents

Sons of Mt. Bethel Speaker Series

(Month of April Speaker)

3rd Sunday, April 19th

Bishop, Dr. Jan D. Goodman, Sr.



**Founder, Pastor and Overseer
The Temple at One Accord Ministries International, Inc.**

He is a prophet, a warrior, a man of wisdom and honor.

Bishop, Dr. Jan D. Goodman, Sr. is not of this world. His request to God is to keep him in a place where he can hear from God. There is a place in God that few aspire to, but Bishop Goodman desires to truly behave upon what God is saying. He is a man of God with many of the characteristics of a Moses and Joshua, Elijah and Elisha, David and Solomon all rolled into one. Most of all his desire is to have the characteristics given to us by Jesus.

Bishop, Dr. Jan D. Goodman, Sr. is one of those men with the qualities of both a leader and a follower, in that he hears from God and obeys the instruction that he is given and then passes instruction to his people. He works hard to bring people into their deliverance. At the same time, he leads his flock with meticulous care and shepherds us with Jesus as his ultimate role model. His trip to Jerusalem along with First Lady Goodman has not only changed their lives but the lives of each member of One Accord.

Bishop, Dr. Jan D. Goodman, Sr. was born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida. He received his bachelor's degree in business from the University of Florida. He received his master's degree in theology and his Doctorate Degree in Christian Psychology from Jacksonville Theological Seminary. He graduated with honors. He is a facilitator for JTS and currently serves on the International Board of Advisors for the school.

Bishop, Dr. Goodman founded One Accord Ministries International, Inc. (formerly known as One Accord Gospel Temple, Inc.) in 1994. He is also the founder of JDG Ministries, Inc. As the visionary of this ministry, he has followed the steps ordered by God. He has preached, taught, and encouraged his members and people from all over through more than 72,000 sermons. These messages of encouragement are shared everywhere Bishop Goodman goes. Whether behind the sacred desk, in the mall, the grocery store or on the street, Bishop Goodman always has a message from God to share with those around him. Bishop, Dr. Goodman operates a five-fold ministry and walks in the calling of a pastor, prophet, apostle, teacher and evangelist. Most important is the fact that his heart's desire is to be "in that place" with God.

Bishop, Dr. Goodman is the author of the book [A Piece of Me](#). Bishop's nuggets are read and heard everywhere. He is currently working on a second book of nuggets. He also has a radio broadcast, "Sudden Impact" on AM1360 WCGL that ministers to people all over the world.

Bishop, Dr. Goodman is married to First Lady, Prophetess, Dr. Vera J. Goodman. They have six children and nine grandchildren. The Bishop and First Lady are a true inspiration to every family through the love and dedication they have for each other. As a couple they exemplify ministry by showing the world how to be a Godly family.

Bishop, Dr. Goodman also founded his evangelistic ministry, JDG Ministries, Inc., in 2003. Bishop and First Lady, Prophetess, Dr. Vera J. Goodman have travelled across the United States and abroad to preach the gospel to those who were lost as well as to those who were seeking deliverance. Bishop's powerful sermons are truly life changing to all who have an ear to hear.

Bishop, Dr. Goodman is also a singer and songwriter. He has recorded CD's titled [Cause He's Worthy, The Rock, In God We Trust and A Taste of Jerusalem](#). His latest CD came directly from God while he and First Lady traveled to Israel in 2017. The seven songs on this CD will deepen your spiritual relationship with God. Bishop has a wealth of music that he shares and inspires many with that is yet to be recorded. He works in this music endeavor with First Lady, Prophetess Goodman, CEO of First Lady Productions, Inc. who has produced his music.

This pastor and retired police officer of 20 years is a true humanitarian in that he feeds the hungry and clothes those in need. He is a sponsor for [Feed the Children](#), a global ministry and he also cares for those right here at home through the Food and Clothes Giveaway at The Temple of One Accord Ministries, Inc. His concern for souls and the Word is the driving forces in his ministering to people. He truly carries out his God given vision as the Holy Spirit directs and leads his people with the love of Christ.

His recent travel to Israel has changed his life and the Ministry in ways that are truly preparing us for real worship and for HEAVEN.

From the Chairman of the 160th Church & Pastor's Anniversary Committee

Beloved Mt. Bethel Family,

Grace and peace to each of you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is with a full heart and great excitement that I welcome you to the beginning of a truly historic and spirit-filled season in the life of our church. In 2026, Mt. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church will joyfully celebrate **160 years** of God's faithfulness, as well as honor the life, leadership, and legacy of our beloved late Pastor, **Reverend R. E. Herring, Sr.**

Our anniversary theme, "**Grounded by Legacy, Guided by Love**" with scriptural focus from **Hebrews 2:1–2 (KJV)**, was prayerfully chosen by Pastor Herring himself. These words now serve as both a tribute to his vision and a powerful call to the entire Mt. Bethel family as we reflect, rejoice, and renew our commitment to the work of the Kingdom.

This theme invites us into a threefold journey:

✦ **Appreciating the Past** – We pause to honor the faith, sacrifice, vision, and unwavering commitment of the saints who laid the foundation of this ministry 160 years ago. Their prayers, perseverance, and love for God continue to hold us steady today.

✦ **Affirming the Present** – As we stand in this moment, we acknowledge that by centering the church's direction and mission in God's love—unconditional, transformative, and unending—which guides our choices, relationships, and ministry.

✦ **Aiming for the Future** – With our eyes fixed on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, we press forward with renewed patience, passion, and purpose, ready to run the next leg of the race with unity, courage, and hope.

Beginning **February 2026**, and culminating with our celebratory **Anniversary Banquet on Saturday, June 13, 2026**, and our **Church and Pastor's Anniversary Worship Celebration on Sunday, June 14, 2026**, our ministry will host a series of events designed to uplift, engage, and inspire every member of the congregation. This year's committee comprised of The Covenant Keepers Marriage Ministry, The Singles Ministry, The Victorious Women's Ministry, The Empowered Brethren Men's Ministry, and BRAM has prayerfully committed itself to planning a season worthy of this milestone.

I encourage you to mark your calendars, prepare your hearts, and join us at every opportunity as we celebrate what God has done, what He is doing, and what He has promised yet to do. Let us move together with joy, unity, and thanksgiving as we honor our heritage and embrace our future.

May the love of Christ continue to ground us, guide us, and grow us—today and always.

With gratitude and expectation,

Terence L. Wright

Chairman, 160th Church & Pastor's Anniversary Committee

160th Church & Pastor's Anniversary

Theme: Grounded in Legacy, Guided by Love

(Hebrews 12: 1 – 2 KJV)

160th Church & Pastor's Anniversary Events

Sons of Mt. Bethel Speaker Series

Monthly, leading up to the Church & Pastor's Anniversary, one of the Sons of Mt. Bethel (current pastors who were previously members and preachers at Mt. Bethel) will be the featured preacher for an 11:00 a.m. service.

This month's speaker is Pastor Rodrick James from New Nature Christian Fellowship Church.

Family Ancestry Workshop Saturday, February 28th, 10 a.m.

BRAM is sponsoring this workshop and is FREE & interactive. You will learn how to research your roots using free resources.

Honoring our First Ladies presentation Sunday, March 22nd during 11a.m. service

Prayer Walk Saturday, April 11th 10 a.m.

As the LIGHT of the community, let's get "out of the house" and take it to the streets of our community. Let's pray, let's sing, let's clean, let's witness, let's spread the light beyond the walls of the church.

CommUNITY Festival Saturday, April 18th 10 a.m.

We are going to convert the church grounds into an outdoor celebration with church brothers and sisters and the community. Invite your friends, family members, & childhood friends. There will be fun, fellowship, and food for all ages.

Family & friends Day Sunday, April 19th 11 a.m.

We are going to conclude the weekend with worship. Invite ALL of your family and friends to worship with us!

Choir Concert Sunday, May 17th (time – tba)

Mt. Bethel has a RICH TRADITION of choirs and singers. Come take a journey through the legacy of the Mt. Bethel Music Ministry with one of the best choirs this side of glory!

Family Night Tuesday, June 9th

This will be a night of fun and fellowship for the entire family. Think Vacation Bible School for all ages, BUT MORE FUN! And with food!

C & P Anniversary Gala Saturday, June 13th 6 p.m.

The colors this year are black & white with gold accent. DRESS UP and let's celebrate a night to remember.

C & P Anniversary Sunday, June 14th 11 a.m. service

*There will be more details about each event as the event dates get closer.

MOUNT BETHEL ANNUAL HOMECOMING CRUISE 2026



CARNIVAL ELATION

DAY	PORT OF CALL	ARRIVAL TIME	DEPART TIME
MON	JACKSONVILLE		03:30 PM
TUE	FUN DAY AT SEA		
WED	RELAXAWAY, HALF MOON CAY	08:00 AM	04:00 PM
THU	CELEBRATION KEY™	08:00 AM	05:00 PM
FRI	FUN DAY AT SEA		
SAT	JACKSONVILLE	08:00 AM	

MONDAY SEPT. 28, 2026 – SAT OCT. 03, 2026 FROM Port Jacksonville
 Average cruise rates based on double occupancy (2) per person, per cabin cruise fees are additional for all guests. **** Total does not include VPP, Gratuities, Transportation to port, any Add on, or other optional charges.**

***\$75.00 PAYMENT Deposit: Payment: April. 17, 2025*/ Final Payment July 10, 2026**

<u>CABIN TYPE</u>	<u>2 PEOPLE</u>	<u>3 PEOPLE</u>	<u>4 PEOPLE</u>
<u>SUITE Club</u>	<u>\$859.00</u>	<u>\$650.00</u> MA	<u>\$680.00</u>
<u>BALCONY</u>	<u>\$799.00</u>	<u>\$610.00</u>	<u>\$510.00</u>
<u>OCEANVIEW</u>	<u>\$429.00</u>	<u>\$360.00</u>	<u>\$325.00</u>
<u>INSIDE</u>	<u>\$359.00</u>	<u>\$315.00</u>	<u>\$290.00</u>

Our travel agent is **Angelia H. Hawkins with VacationsComeTrue**
vacationscometrue@gmail.com Phone: (904) 477-7326 / Fax: (904) 683-8671

Feel free to contact her for answers to your questions. * Please make All payments by credit or Debit [Cash App: \\$HawkinsGroupVacation](#) or ZELLE

THE STANDARD STAFF

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Laura Smith



Congratulations to our own Donovan Masline on receiving the “Coach Day Legacy Award”, presented at the Bob Hayes Gala. We are so PROUD of You!!!

Mt. Bethel QR Code

If you haven't completed the church QR Code form to update your information, Please , Please , Please do so. Scan the QR code (use the camera on your phone), you will then tap the yellow form.jotform.com and it will take you to the Mt. Bethel Member information form to be completed.

By completing the form this way, you're providing the information directly to a church document. We "Thank You" in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Sis. Taylor





Victorious Women's &
Health & Wellness Ministry
PRAYER WALK

Going Beyond the Four Walls

APRIL 11 | 10:00 AM

Honoring Our Pastor & Legacy
Pastor R. E. Herring

- ✓ Cover our church in prayer
- ✓ Intercede for our community
- ✓ Support spiritual, physical & emotional well-being
- ✓ Celebrate 160 Years of Faith



Everyone Is Welcome!

Mt. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

FINDING YOUR ROOTS

Several members of Mt. Bethel came out on Saturday morning, Feb 28th, to research their family history. By using free resources on the internet, they discovered information they did not know before. Overall, it was a successful day, and they left with knowledge they can use at home to continue their search and complete their family tree.



FIRST LADIES ARE LADIES FIRST

March was Women's History Month, and BRAM recognized some of Mount Bethel's First Ladies for their contributions to the success of Mt. Bethel for 160 years. The recognition began with First Lady Mary Robinson, wife of the first pastor, Rev. Wright Robinson and culminated with Lady Bessie Herring, wife of Rev. Robert E. Herring, Sr. The theme, "First Ladies are Ladies First," was the perfect way to honor these important ladies.

WHAT IS THE STATE OF THE SOUTH?

That is the question that led the discussion at Mt. Bethel over three days of fact-finding and collaboration.

The organizers, MDC (Meaning, Dignity, and Community), aim to provide a space to connect, spark solution-focused conversations, and build community across the South.

The sessions center on art, policy, data, and community. Discussions on land and housing, justice, disaster recovery, child well-being, and effective community organizing were among the topics.

Two events were scheduled for the first day. The participants took a boat ride down the St. Johns River, leaving from the dock in downtown Jacksonville near the Chart House restaurant. A little over 50 people took the tour led by Ennis Davis, a local historian, and Jimmy Orth with the St. Johns Riverkeeper. That afternoon, they attended the Yellow House at 577 King Street for an art exhibit featuring 16 local artists and delicious baked goods.

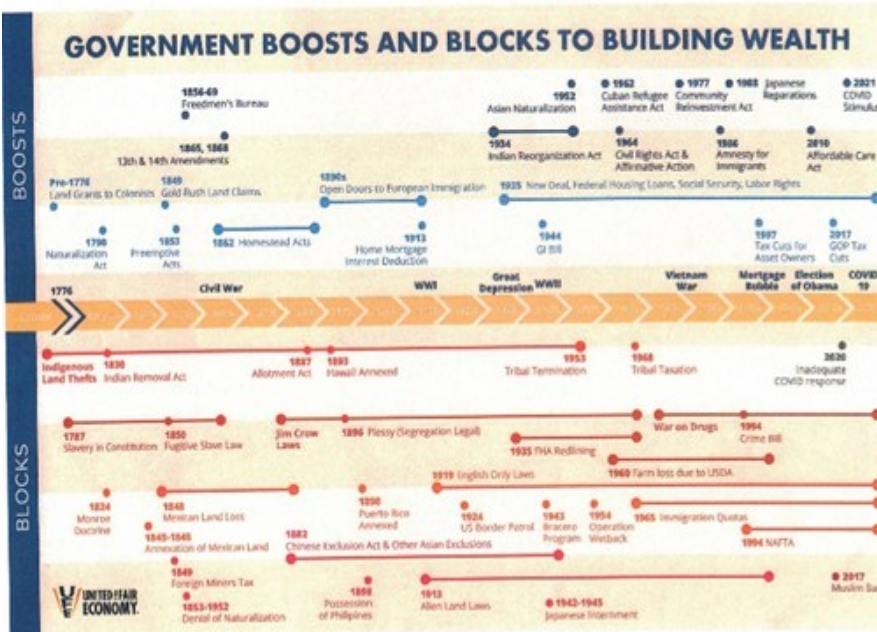
The last two days were held in the Family Life Center, where discussions covered food insecurity, Disaster costs, and FEMA events in Southern States.

Attendees also participated in sessions about Southern data, heirs' property, inclusive disaster recovery, family support, local agriculture, and community organizing.

The first discussion involved Government Boosts and Blocks to Build Wealth. It was shown how government policies intended to help build wealth and help the underserved can also block progress, particularly if not monitored (see chart).

One of the highlights on day two was lunch at Eartha's Farm. Buses were provided to take attendees just a few miles away to Moncrief Road. While at the farm, they were offered a tour of the grounds and the gardens.

Overall, it was a fulfilling three days. There are still ways you can experience the event. The Yellow House exhibit is still open through mid-April, and Eartha's Farm is open for tours and volunteers; just check their website: earthasfarmandmarket.org.



Easter Word Search

G S N O I T P M E D E R Y Y M
J J U Y K I R Y T T F X E O L
R L K F W E E C I O J E R C K
X Y N G Q C U W V U P C M C K
R C R O S S H R E D P H M N E
I F V A I B Q U I R G P Q R N
S A Q Z M T M I R A C L E T S
E I A O I R C H R C O Y I U E
N T T P R C G E Y O H S S R L
I H H S O O C A R K I E P V K
N W O R C S D U B R J V R G T
O H T N G N T E S F U L A M I
D P V O U Q F L D K A S Y S H
Z M E S B Z Z W E M L Y E D F
E T G L M E G K B S L T R R U

APOSTLES
CROWN
LAMB
PRAYER
RESURRECTION
SON

CHURCH
FAITH
MARY
REDEMPTION
RISEN
SUNDAY

CROSS
JESUS
MIRACLE
REJOICE
SAVIOR
TOMB



CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale of and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to use our influence to combat the abuse of drugs and the spread of pornography; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.