



# Flatbush Communicator

The Official Newsletter of Flatbush Seventh-day Adventist Church

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## Standing on the Promises

### Flatbush World-Wide Christian News

**What We Stand For is Determined by What We Stand On....** The news for the Year 2011, from Flatbush SDA Church under the leadership of Pastor Richard H. Calhoun, Sr. has chosen a world-wide theme, "Standing on the Promises of God." In these times of uncertainty, it is comforting to know God's promises are sure; he will not fail to provide for those who put their trust in him. Our faith is in God. He knows what He has promised, He can't lie, and He can't forget. He will deliver on time, all the time.

**For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. . 2 Corinthians 1:20 NIV**



Standing on the promises of Christ my King, Through eternal ages let His praises ring, Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail, When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, By the living Word of God I shall prevail, Standing on the promises of God.

Christ accepts us:  
*Rev. 3:30;*  
*John 6:37*

God gives eternal life:  
*John 5:24;*  
*10:28*

God forgives us:  
*1 John 1:7-9*

*Isaiah 1:18*

God comfort us:  
*Psalm 23*

God answers prayers  
*John 15:7*



God is faithful to us:  
*Joshua 1:9;*  
*Isaiah 41:10*

Christ is always with us:  
*Matt. 28:20*  
*Heb. 13:5-6*

God protects us from harm:  
*Psalm 91;*  
*Psalm 121*

God supplies all of our needs:  
*Philippians 4:19*

God gives peace of mind:  
*Phil. 4:6-7*

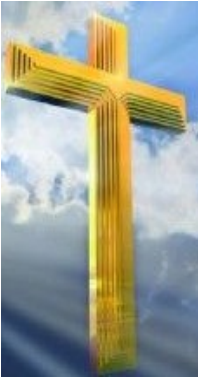
Standing on the promises I cannot fall, List'ning every moment to the Spirit's call, Resting in my Savior as my all in all. Standing on the promises of God

#### Refrain:

Standing, standing, Standing on the promises of God my Savior; Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

**God's Promises are Exceedingly Great and Precious**

## Called and Committed to Christ



The **“Psalm of Life”** (Psalm 23) was the powerful and anointed message on Sabbath, April 30<sup>th</sup> delivered by Dr. G. Russell Seay, Jr., Associate Professor, Oakwood University to the Flatbush congregation and visiting Northeastern Conference (NEC) churches presented by the NEC Ministerial Department **“Called and Committed to Christ.”**

During this weekend Dr. Walton Rose, Sr., NEC Ministerial Secretary, conducted a consortium which was

directed to the elders, deacons and deaconesses. This was a time for renewal and commitment on the part of all who participated. The theme reflected being called by Christ to accept and fulfill the great commission with a fresh newness in our behavior and with confidence.

Confidence knowing we have been called out in service and committed in cultivating a personal relationship with Christ. Our commitment to this relationship flows out of a deep gratitude for the gift of eternal life and the faith given to us by Him, as well as a desire to live in Him and his Word.

***Walk in the light as he is in the light (1 John 1:7)***

A special thanks to all the churches who contributed to the success of this consortium. May we continue to help and uplift each other as elders, deacons and deaconesses as we commit ourselves totally to the Lord.

***First Elder Leslie Gayle***

## Responsibilities to the Local Church

### ***Duties of the Elder***

The ministry to which a person is called when he or she becomes an elder can best be described in the following ways:

1. ***Visitation*** – An elder should actively visit members in their homes, in hospital, encourage others to do so and assist in the training of prospective members.
  2. ***Commitment*** – It is especially important for the elder be committed to the outreach of the church. They need to have a clear vision of the mission of the church.
  3. ***Worship Leadership*** – An elder should exemplify quality leadership that can transform a dull lifeless worship service into meaningful celebration and praise
  4. ***A Spiritual Mentor*** – The spiritual life of an elder should constantly lead members of the church to seek a deeper spiritual experience themselves.
  5. ***Church Administration*** – An elder should always attempt to make a positive contribution to the organization and progress of the church. An elder often serves in an advisory capacity to various departments, committees, projects.
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# Responsibilities to the Local Church

## ***Duties of the Deacon and Deaconess***

The ministry to which a person is called when he or she becomes a deacon or deaconess includes the following duties:

1. ***Greeting and Ushering*** – The deacon and deaconess can serve as greeters and ushers for the services held in the church. They can also help the pastor and other event leaders maintain the smooth operation of church meetings.
2. ***Upkeep of Church Property*** – Take on the responsibility for the care and upkeep of church property.
3. ***Security*** – Have the responsibility of those in attendance at church activities. This includes opening the church buildings before meetings and locking the church at the conclusion of activities.
4. ***Visitation*** – Deacon and Deaconess will join with the pastor and elders in visiting church members. They should be in teams of two or three when visiting.
5. ***Assisting with the Baptismal Ceremony*** – The deacons will prepare and fill the pool. Assist male candidates; do the physical labor related to the service. The deaconess will prepare the robes for all who are participating and assist females' candidates. Launder and store robes, towels, etc. after the ceremony.
6. ***Assisting with the Communion Service*** – The deacons will provide the physical arrangements, such as lacing the communion table. Place towels, basins and water in the appropriate rooms for use in the Ordinance of Humility. Dispense water and basins for the men during the Ordinance of Humility, giving particular attention to visitors, new members and the aged.

The deaconess will prepare the bread and grape juice. Arrange the emblems and covering on the table. Dispense water and basins for the women during the Ordinance of Humility, giving attention and assistance to visitors, new members and the aged. Clean and store the linens and serving pieces used in communion. The ordained deaconess is to assist in distributing the emblems and uncovering and recovering the table during the service.

7. ***Caring for the Congregation*** - An unwritten tradition gives the deacons or deaconesses the responsibility of organizing hot meals for any church family that experiences a death or other tragedy. In some cases, the serving of an entire meal to family and guests after a funeral. This is an important aspect of a caring ministry in the congregation.

## Committed - To Sharing God's Love

The Sabbath School Department, under the leadership of Sis. Vera Field, is committed to presenting the everlasting gospel to our neighbors. On Sabbath, April 16<sup>th</sup> Community Guest Day was held at our church with the central theme ***“Jesus is the Answer.”*** Pastor R. Calhoun presented a stirring message, ***“Cut to the Chase,”*** to all who attended and our hearts were blessed as we worshipped. Living in a world where there is so much confusion and a society that is on a cosmic explosion it is good to know that Jesus is the answer to all life's questions and He is the solution to our daily problems. Let's continue to present this ***“Good News”*** to our neighbors by living a committed life yielding ourselves daily through prayer and supplication before the Lord.

*We're on the Web!*  
[Flatbushsda.org](http://Flatbushsda.org)

**Your Editor**

# A Game Changer for Jesus

## **A Word from the Editor:**

The year 2011 has exploded with such force which has created an atmosphere of change within our church, community and country. Our Pastor Richard H. Calhoun, Sr. has challenged Flatbush church by introducing the phrase ***"I am a game changer, a game changer for Jesus and I make a difference."***

You may be asking the question, what is a game changer and how do I become one? A game changer is one who brings about a turnaround, a change in direction, a change of perspective having a positive effect on a situation or the lives of people. Dissecting this thought we can come to the conclusion that Jesus was the ultimate game changer since He left a lasting impact on our lives and culture.

Christ was able to mobilize people to pray, to give, to rebuild, to extend hope, and to step forward with the fresh revelation and power that God promised each and every one of us. This is an extraordinary and awesome God who offer salvation to all and who actively lives and operates within the lives of those who receive his son Jesus Christ in true faith.

As a body of believers we too can become a game changer for Jesus. By using God's Word in a powerful way we can teach, warn, motivate, and inject

God's perspective into individual's lives. We can share our life on how God is moving in it to bring illumination of hope and joy. It is truly amazing how God allows doors to open to let His light shine through us to those who are separated from His love and to reveal to the believer exhilaration and overflowing joy to our heart.

This year I admonish each one of us to become a game changer for Jesus. Through the expression of words, our daily walk with Christ may we give testimony to those who have no hope. Let's ignite the souls of men and women with the message of Jesus Christ by being honest and prudent. The harvest is white but there are few laborers. Let's us embark on this spiritual journey to heal the broken-hearted, break the ground of arrogance, inspire the weak, comfort the abandoned, rescue the reckless, restore the hopeless then can we truly be called a game changer for Jesus.

Sis. Lois Hardware

## Editorial Staff

Sis. Lois Hardware, Editor  
Sis. Kathy Davis, Proofer  
Sis. Nadia Williams, Writer  
Bro. Kenneth Sterling, Photographer  
Bro. Leslie Williams, Web Designer

# Committed Lives - Through Water Baptism

On Sabbath, May 21, 2011 under the direction of Pastor Richard Calhoun, Elders George Bethune and Leslie Gayle baptized six candidates after which they were given the right hand of fellowship. Water baptism is an essential part of our faith, it is an **act of obedience** for the believer. It is preceded by repentance, which simply means "change." It is turning from our sin and selfishness to serve the Lord. It is surrendering our pride, our past and all of our possessions before the Lord giving the control of our lives over to Him.

*When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. It was a spiritual procedure--the cutting away of your sinful nature. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to a new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead." Colossians 2:11-12 (NLT)*

Welcome to the Flatbush SDA Church the following baptized members:

**Gayle Mendez**  
**Aaron (A.J.) Jerome Palmer**  
**Mickenson Roden Chalumeau**  
**Jude Chalumeau**  
**Maureen Phillips**  
**Dian Smith**

