

**Happy Birthday ACTS!**



*I am the resurrection and the life. ..*



**God wants to refresh you!**

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“Rising above” is always the goal. When life pulls us down God pulls us up. If you want Bible blessings you need to do life the Bible way. “Lord, don’t move the mountain, give me strength to climb.”



“When you come out of a destroyed relationship, be sure to get it right and rebuild according to God’s Word and God’s ways. Otherwise, as the old lyric goes, you’ll find the second verse, same as the first.” (Dr. Wayne Cordeiro, “Rising Above” - Regal Books)

We need to find ourselves “living a life of excellence no matter what life throws us.”

*Pastor Joe*

**National Siblings Day**



April 10th was a day to hug, honor, appreciate and celebrate our siblings. A day where brothers and sisters reflect upon each other over a lunch date or phone call; in some cases, a day of truce and more un-



derstanding; for others, a day of love and appreciation; for some, a day when those departed are remembered; and in all cases, a day when attention is paid to that unequivocal bond like no other.



Although this date on the calendar has come and gone, the ACTS family has shown this type love and support all year long. Not only to our siblings, but to our brothers and sisters in Christ.



From the passing of brother Darrell Harris’ sister, to brother Ryan Gibson’s plea for prayers in the healing of his sister, Karine Clay, and even in the celebration of sister Monica Allen on her sister Sharyl carrying life, we have been there as a family.



This is to all of the brothers and sisters of ACTS. A church that not only studies, but loves.

## Teen Missionaries Choose an Alternative Spring Break

Sophomore, Asiah Howard, spent her spring break ministering to orphans at The House of Hope, in Tijuana, Mexico. Willing to work in whatever capacity that was needed, Asiah was called to perform tasks that ranged from simply giving a child a hug to aiding in the construction of a much needed brick wall. “There were some days when I had to go without food because the orphanage simply did not have enough to feed everyone. I was amazed at how happy these children were when they literally had nothing. It showed me that I needed to be more content instead of always wanting more,” says the teen. Her mother Monica added, “I wanted her to have a personal and enlightening experience. My prayer for her was that she have a Jabez experience. Asiah is a teen seeking God's best for her life and she will take advantage of any opportunity for ministry and spiritual growth. I thank God for her desire to please Him.”



While Asiah was ministering to orphans in Mexico, honor student Valyncia Todd took a trip down civil rights lane. Beginning her journey in Stone Mountain, Georgia, Valyncia was able to visit all monumental markers in Civil Rights history. She walked over the Edmund Pettus Bridge, infamous for Bloody Sunday, sat in the jails that housed over 75 youth in Birmingham, AL and culminated her trip with a visit to Memphis, Tennessee where she visited The Lorraine Hotel where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot. “The room is kept just as it was the day he died. It was interesting to learn that Dr. King’s last meal resembled Jesus’. He ordered [cat]fish and even shared it with his friends.” Valyncia received school instruction in between destinations and was also charged to journal her experiences after visiting each site. “It was more work than I usually get at school,” she says “but it was definitely worth it.”



Asiah and Valyncia are shining reminders of what our youth will project out in the world if they have God within.

## Happy Administrative Assistant's Day Traci!



Traci McKinley is a youthful pioneer of ACTS “A Church That Studies.” This young mother of two, Alexis and Brennon, is married to Raymond, a professional musician. Traci gave up a wonderful budding career as a Beverly Hills Coiffure to manage the office at ACTS. Her impeccable character makes her a woman of great integrity and her spiritual gift of Hospitality allows all that come in contact with her to be blessed.

Traci manages the church office, in addition to serving as Pastor Joe’s personal assistant. She is responsible for scheduling facilities at the Trinity Campus, payroll and supervises vendor relationships. Traci also supervises accounts receivable and payable and she oversees the record keeping for all donors and members.

Traci’s personal ministry is leading the “High Praise” music ministry team. Traci is often found talking to parents about scheduling their children for rehearsals and ministry opportunities for High Praise. This young Christian woman is committed to the Kingdom building efforts of our Lord. Pastor Joe says “Traci is my right and left hands and a real gift from God to our ministry.”

## And the love continues...



### Singles Retreat Takes Flight!

A good time was had by all who attended this outing geared to assist singles understand the plan God has for them in their "singleness." While other single retreats usually double as a safe place to meet potential mates, Pastor Joe wanted to assist the singles at ACTS in being content in their singleness. "I wanted our singles to know that God is going to uniquely use them. He will use them in ways that He won't use you [other married couples] or me, says Pastor Joe.



Beginning the day with a hike, attendants spent the afternoon journaling, watching videos of other saved singles and enjoyed a very frank and open discussion on the state of being single.

"The program was great"

"The day was fantastic it gave me a lot of information to think about. Can we do it again?"

"What I enjoyed most was our group discussions. I would enjoy seeing the rest of the video that was shown. The day was perfect."

"I have been doing the journaling since you introduced the concept to us at choir rehearsal, and it does help start me start my days in the right frame of mind. I wish I had something like this earlier on in my life."

"The activities were thought provoking".

"Today was amazing! I love the SOAP bit".

"Wish we had more time but the time we had was spent well."

"I appreciate all the thought that went into the preparation for the seminar."

"Pastor Joe is transparent in his teaching".

"It was nice having open discussion with other singles on solid issues from a Christian perspective."

"The material in this session was very good. It touched on many issues we deal with and there was a lot that truly blessed me."



"The singles scrubbed their souls for God. Whether it is to prepare for a mate, no mate or a relationship, they are ready. You could feel the fellowship in the room," Pastor Joe beamed.

### Let's Celebrate! ACTS April Birthdays

Rochelle Albans-5th, Daryl McKillian-13th, ACTS-15th  
Jalisa Zeno-19th, Alan Dubois-22nd, Hugh McMullen-23rd (milestone),  
Donnie Banks & Tanya Payne—29th