



THE VISION

ETERNAL LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER 322 FRANKLIN BOULEVARD, SOMERSET, NJ REV. DARYL PERKINS, PASTOR
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**INTRODUCING OUR NEW
SENIOR PASTOR DARYL PERKINS
AND
FIRST LADY, ROBIN PERKINS OF
ETERNAL LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER**

Introducing to some and presenting to others our Senior Pastor of Eternal Life Christian Center, Rev. Daryl A. Perkins, an anointed man of God. God has been greatly using Pastor Daryl and First Lady Robin Perkins in many areas of ministry at Eternal Life Christian Center.

In his early years, Pastor Daryl was very active in the church and it was clear that the Lord's hand was on his life. After graduating from High School, Pastor Daryl attended Johnson C. Smith University and became a member of "The Word is Life Church", actively participating in various outreach ministries. Sensing the call of God to ministry, he met with the pastor of the church who agreed and encouraged him to pursue the Spirits call.

During college years, First Lady Perkins became the beautiful wife of Pastor Perkins adding to the family three beautiful children, Chivonne, Isaac and Elise. Later, nephew Maurice joined the family. After relocation to Plainfield, NJ, Pastor Daryl was called into ministry at Faith Tabernacle Church under the leadership of Bishop Herbert L. Bright. It was there that Pastor Daryl's development flourished, propelling him from Associate Minister to Elder and then ordained Elder/Overseer. In 1999, he joined Eternal Life Christian Center, where he served as Associate Minister and Sunday School Superintendent.

God's calling on Pastor Perkins' life was made evident to all when presented with the opportunity to become Senior Pastor of Triumphant Life Christian Fellowship (now known as Triumphant Life Community Church) in Trenton, NJ. Together with the members of the church, Pastor Perkins lead TLCC through a revitalization process that resulted in the church becoming a vibrant resource in the community. God had proven Himself again to be faithful.

While serving in the pastorate, Pastor Perkins began to sense God preparing him for change. Through a series of "fleece like" events it became clear that God was calling him back to Eternal Life Christian Center. On April 13, 2008, Pastor Perkins became the Senior Pastor of Eternal Life Christian Center. Pastor Perkins greatest goal in life is to be found "faithful to our Lords call".

Please join Eternal Life Christian Center (ELCC), a church of one where unity is a reality, in welcoming our Senior Pastor to the community, Rev. Daryl Perkins with First Lady Robin Perkins and family. God has placed them in such a place as this for such a time as this. Let us continue to support them with our prayers and join hands and hearts in reaching the lost at any cost.

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START YOUR PATH TO DEBT FREE LIVING!!!



“Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender.” Proverbs 22:7

Paying off your debt is definitely possible and achievable without winning the lottery, coming into an inheritance or an insurance payout. Can you imagine what it would be like to not have real debt? If you want to free yourself of servitude to our lenders and become better stewards of those things which God has given to us, here are a few simple tips Deacon Sean Panton recommends to begin the process of gaining financial independence:

Create a budget of all your expenses for each month. Keeping track of finances does not come naturally to everyone, but it should not be an excuse or deterrent from properly managing your money. Check www.wikihow.com/Create-a-Household-Budget on how to create a budget.

Pay yourself!!! Save at least 10% of your pay in a savings account or a retirement account.

Give at least 10% of your pay to your church and other charitable organization whose mission you support. In addition, always look for opportunities to bless others who are in need.

“One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.” Proverbs 11:24-25

Pay your bills immediately when you receive them. This helps to keep you from thinking that you have more money than you really have and end up spending it on unnecessary items.

Do not use your credit card for ordinary everyday expenses or items that you cannot afford, use it only for items that you really need. For example buying a suit to go on job interviews is ok, it is an investment, but buying a suit or dress for that New Years Eve party can be a bad idea, if you don't have the cash. Evaluate the potential benefits before deciding if the debt is worth the expense.



Don't use credit cards for ordinary everyday expenses....

If you have several credit cards, pay off the ones with low balances first and then payoff those with the higher interest rates. As you pay off the lower balance cards you will begin to feel more confident that you will be able to pay off the others. Try to avoid adding more debt to your cards. Use this website to find how long it will take you to pay of your credit card debt www.bankrate.com/calculators/credit-cards/balance-debt-payoff-calculator.aspx

If you are in the market for a new car, consider buying a low mileage 2 year old used car instead of a new car. You can save up to 30% of the value of a new car and still get a car that gives you good service. In addition if you are still getting good service from your car keep it for at least 8 to 10 years. This will give you at least 3 to 5 years without car payment which will allow you to save to make a larger down payment on your next car.

When buying a home you should take into consideration not just your mortgage payment but also your property taxes and maintenance cost to determine if you can really afford it. High mortgage payments may cause you to lean heavily on credit for ordinary expenses and push you further into debt. Visit <http://www.bankrate.com/mortgage.aspx> to calculate the real expense of a mortgage.

Finally stick to your budget. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. It will become easier over time. Be encouraged, you CAN achieve financial independence through careful planning and the development of sound financial skills.

“For the LORD your God will bless you as he has promised, and you will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. You will rule over many nations but none will rule over you.” Deuteronomy 15:6

Deacon Sean Panton

YEAR 2009 IN REVIEW!!!

January 12th to 16th - We started the year in fasting and prayer. It was a time of turning down our plates and drawing closer to God, seeking Him nightly for directions, guidance and healing of the sick. The attendance was great.

February 22nd – Women’s Day was an awesome day in the Lord with guest speaker, “Rev. Vintress Brown”, ministering the Word of God in the morning and Rev. Balosingh in the evening. The Women’s Day Choir, dressed in their red and white, ministered in song during both services. The theme was “The Intentional Woman”. It was an event to remember!!

May 1st to 3rd – The Women’s Ministry Retreat/Norwegian Cruise Line was a special trip on a cruise to nowhere. It was a fun-filled time with food, festivities and great fellowship.

July 19th – Pastor’s Anniversary was celebrated at the Toucan Restaurant, Somerset, NJ with Pastor Daryl and First Lady Robin Perkins featuring Bishop Herbert Bright as the guest speaker for the night. The occasion was well attended by members and friends of ELCC.

July 20th to 24th – The Evangelism Team featured “Door to Door Visitations” with groups of people distributing gospel tracts from house to house and telling each one they met about Jesus Christ.

July 25th – Men’s Fishing Trip sponsored by the Men’s Ministry was a day of casting lines to catch fish. A fun time was had by all who attended.

August 3rd to 8th – The National Fine Arts Competition was attended by our youth and their leaders and parents. The Fine Arts ELCC Choir competed on a national level and our own Justin Brown, rendered a keyboard selection. Our team did a great job and the selections were wonderful.

August 9th to 14th – The Tent Revival was something to remember featuring heart felt testimonies, songs and a special guest speaker each night ministering the Word of God.

September 19th—Ushers & Greeters Prayer Breakfast was great featuring guest speaker, Rev. John Haslon. The anointing of God surely filled the place. It was a great experience!!

October 31st – Hallelujah Night was a fun-filled celebration for children of all ages with different games, food and bags of candy treats.

December 12th – Ushers and Greeters Holiday Dinner was a great time of fellowship at the Golden Coral in Pennsylvania with lots of food, fun and excitement.

December 20th – ELCC’s Morning Service took place at noon due to the weather, followed by a potluck dinner and Christmas Program. Various talents were displayed including a song by Bro. O’Briant and song and dance by Rev. Willie Moody and company. What a great fellowship!! It was a good place to be after the snowstorm!!

Weekly/Monthly Ministry Schedule

<i>Monday</i>	6:30pm Prison Ministry	<i>Thursday</i>	7:00pm Praise & Worship Team
	6:30pm Drama Ministry		7:00pm Prison Ministry
<i>Tuesday</i>	7:00pm Inspiration Choir		7:00pm Vision Newsletter
<i>Wednesday</i>	6:00pm Young Believers	<i>Friday</i>	7:00pm Men’s Ministry (4th Fri.)
	7:00pm Prayer & Bible Study		7:00pm Women’s Ministry (4th Fri.)
	7:00pm Missionettes/Royal Rangers		7:00pm Dance Ministry
			7:00pm Youth Bible Study

Humor Corner!!!

In God's Army

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the preacher was standing at the door as he always was to shake hands. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside.

The Pastor said to him, "**You need to join the Army of the Lord!**"

My friend replied, "**I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor.**"

So the Pastor questioned, "**Then how come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?**"

He whispered back, "**I'm in the Secret Service.**"

Author Unknown

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY

EXCERPTS FROM "I HAVE A DREAM SPEECH"

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr – March on Washington, August 28, 1963

We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until "justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream."¹...

Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends.

And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."...

I have a *dream* today!

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; "and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."²

With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

And this will be the day -- this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning:

My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.

Land where my Fathers died, land of the Pilgrim's pride,

From every mountainside, let freedom ring!

EXCERPTS FROM ELECTION NIGHT SPEECH

President-Elect Barack Obama - November 2008

If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer.

It's the answer told by lines that stretched around schools and churches in numbers this nation has never seen;

By people who waited three hours and four hours, many for the very first time in their lives, because they believed that this time must be different;

That their voice could be that difference...

It's been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this day, in this election, at this defining moment, change has come to America...

The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year or even one term, but America - I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there. I promise you - we as a people will get there...

This is our chance to answer that call. This is our moment. This is our time - to put our people back to work and open doors of opportunity for our kids; to restore prosperity and promote the cause of peace; to reclaim the American Dream and reaffirm that fundamental truth - that out of many, we are one; that while we breathe, we hope, and where we are met with cynicism, and doubt, and those who tell us that we can't, we will respond with that timeless creed that sums up the spirit of a people:

Yes We Can. Thank you, God bless you, and may God Bless the United States of America

STEPS TO MEMBERSHIP

Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

Is this a recent decision for you?

Then New Beginners Class is the next step for you so that you may become rooted and grounded in your new found faith and come to understand what it means to become a Christian. Following you New Beginners Class you may attend the New Members Class.

Have you been a Christian for some time regularly attending church before?

Then you may begin the New Members Class based upon transferring your membership. You will get re-enforcement of fundamental truths and learn more in depth what it is to belong to this particular church.

The next step after successfully completing New Members Class is taking the right hand of fellowship during an assigned Sunday Morning Worship Service.

Have you been baptized? Once you understand the decision you have made to become a Christian you are encouraged to sign up for Baptism. You will receive specific instruction on Baptism and be scheduled to be baptized. This can take place prior to completing Membership Class.

As a New Member you are encouraged to grow through service based on your unique gifting and the opportunities for service within this local body such as Choir, Usher, Greeter,

Evangelism under the supervision of a department director. Everyone rendering service is required to continue their growth through personal devotions:

Prayer and Bible Study and Sunday School attendance.

Have you been raised in the church participating in youth related activities since you were a child?

Have you come to a place of a definite commitment to receive Christ?

You need to formalize this decision. As a minor (usually at least 13 years of age) you can make your decision to follow Jesus known. You may apply for Baptism, attend class and get baptized. New Beginners Class will make sure there are no gaps in your understanding of the fundamentals of the faith. At age 18 you need to go through Membership Class and become a full-fledged voting member of the church. Prior to age 18 your participation is based on your parents (or guardians) membership.

All are welcome to attend and support the church as they are being fed the Word of God. Those who become members formally submitting to the Pastor as the head, accepting the tenets of faith and rules outlined in the constitution and by-laws of the church are then eligible to serve.

On behalf of our Pastor, Executive Board Members, Elders, Deacon and all of our Leadership Members, we welcome you and look forward to having you serve in this body of Christ.

Bible Scramble: Unscramble the letters in each word to discover the passage. Solution on last page.
EB URLFECA ROF TONNIHG; UTB NI YVREE TNIHG YB YRRPEA NDA UTSPPONLIICA
WTIH VTSNNKIIHGGA TLE YURO UTSSRQEE EB MEDA WONNK UTON OGD. NDA
EHT PEECA FO OGD, WIHHC TSSPHEA LLA UTSRNNNIGEDDA, SLLHA PKEE YURO
TSRHEA NDA SNMID UTROHHG TSRIHC USSJE. (see answer at bottom of page 7)

A Bible Brain Teaser (Guest Author - Victoria Abreo)

There are names of 16 books of the Bible mentioned in the paragraph below. See how many you can find. (A preacher found 15 books in 20 minutes, but it took him three weeks to find the 16th one.) Good "luck" !

"I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu; kept people looking so hard for facts, and for others, it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books Were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help find them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph."

(see answer at bottom of page 7)

BIRTHDAYS (JANUARY & FEBRUARY)

Ralph Pittman	Jan 1	Jonathan Daley	Feb 4
Caleb Caines	Jan 4	Monica Brown	Feb 5
Nathaliah Steele	Jan 8	Jeremiah Bagner	Feb 5
Kamal Miller	Jan 8	Laverne Jones	Feb 5
Linda Jackson	Jan 10	Henry Odujebu	Feb 15
Ernest Connors	Jan 12	Keene Caines	Feb 16
Crista Sanders	Jan 13	Alverna Boatright	Feb 17
Emily VanNess	Jan 17	Marcus Jackson	Feb 20
Anita Jackson	Jan 19	Keith Fleming	Feb 22
Charmaine Thomas	Jan 23	George Byrd	Feb 23
Major Williams	Jan 25	Ethel Thurston	Feb 24
Carolyn Sanders	Jan 31	Clarissa Bumpas	Feb 24
		Sonia Menzies	Feb 24

ANNIVERSARIES (JANUARY & FEB)

Alex & Jessie Bolton	Jan 4
Vincent & Joyce Hughes	Jan 29
Michael & Roslyn Davis	Feb 3
Wesley & Mary VanNess	Feb 3
Kharchimedes & Abiola Achalram	Feb 9
Michael & Sandra Willis	Feb 25
Keithly & Ezra Caines	Feb 29



BRIAN AND ANISHA'S ENGAGEMENT



The lovely couple was engaged on November 12, 2009 at the Maggiano's, Little Italy, Bridgewater, NJ. The proposal was words of love expressed from Brian's heart on the Maggiano's Menu under Little Italy Favorites. What a specialty? Please congratulate Brian and Anisha on their engagement!! Caution: Please wear eye protectors when looking at the glaring rock. Wedding bells are in the air!!!

Solution to Bible Scramble on page 5

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Solution to Bible Brain teaser on page 5

Mark, Luke, Kings, Acts, Revelations, James, Ruth, Numbers, Job, Amos, Esther, Judges, Titus, Lamentations, Hebrews, Peter.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

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ELCC is a church of one where unity is a reality.

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.ELCC.NET**



THE SALVATION MESSAGE

What must I do to be saved?

The Bible provides a clear answer.

1. Acknowledge your sin (Romans 3:23)
2. Repent of your sin (Acts 3:19)
3. Believe in Jesus Christ (John 3:16)
4. Make your decision (Romans 10:10)

Dear Lord, come into my life, lead me to Calvary where your blood was shed for me. Cleanse me from my sin. I give you my all now and forever.
AMEN

If you have just received Christ as your Savior please call

Eternal Life Christian Center at 732-846-9153.

Someone will be happy to speak with you, remember ELCC is Church of one where unity is a reality and where each one reaches one.

ETERNAL LIFE CHRISTIAN CENTER

IS THE CHURCH WHERE UNITY IS A REALITY. UNITY IN ACTION WHERE EACH ONE REACH ONE.

THE VISION STAFF

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- Sis. Clare Husbands, Special Project Manager
- Open position, Secretary
- Open position, Treasurer
- Open position, Photographer

Would you like to submit an article or an ad to the Vision Newsletter?

If you have an article, testimony, poem, or a personal or business ad (Mom's Day, Dad's Day, Grads, In memory of, engagement, wedding, birthday, anniversary, birth announcement or a shout out to a special someone etc) that you would like to place in The Vision Newsletter, please submit by the first Sunday of the every other month beginning March 2010. Please note there is a small donation suggested for personal/business ads to help defray the cost of printing. The newsletter is printed bi-monthly so please act accordingly .Thanks.

The Vision Team.

We, The Vision Newsletter team, reserve the rights to edit your articles, before they are published..



Go into the highways, byways, hedges and compel them to come unto the Lord.

THE MISSION STATEMENT

The Vision will contribute to building lives for eternity today with each one reaching someone for Christ through messages of love, hope and the good news of Jesus Christ, while highlighting holidays and celebrations of special events.

PRAYER AND FASTING

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we start the new year, I would like to encourage you with a few words. As the body of Christ, this year we must have **confidence** in God Almighty, the One we believe in through Jesus Christ because He has given us the Holy Spirit. "After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into Heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went and preached everywhere and the Lord worked with them and confirmed His word by the signs that accompanied it" (Mark 16:19-20). Through the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit, believers must use the authority God has given us to do His work. God has given us power to pray in His name and do His will. When a Christian prays, or does God's work, things happen because our actions are backed by the authority of Christ. "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:18-19). We have been given great authority in Christ, therefore, we must use this authority with confidence. The way to advance God's kingdom and bind the devil's work is to pray. The way to deliver a sinner from his sin is to pray. We live by faith in God. Jesus said in John 11:40. "Did I not tell you that if you believe you would see the glory of God?" God's power flows where His authority is rightly recognized. We have power and authority over the works of darkness, so let's use it and start praying!

Additionally, most people are familiar with Jesus' words concerning faith being the size of a mustard seed. What can it do? Well, Jesus says that it can move mountains in Matthew 17:20. He also says that such faith is only possible through fasting: "This kind (of faith) does not go out but by prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:21)." This discipline is key to our growth. I pray that together we can make this happen.

Deacon Andrew Sawyer

ELCC Celebrates Christmas and Brings in the New Year

On December 20th of 2009 God's majesty and splendor was evident in the snow that had fallen overnight, covering everything with a vast blanket of glittering whiteness. On that same day the congregation of ELCC reflected God's majesty and splendor through songs, poems, and dances at the Christmas Celebration. Somerset saw around eight inches of snow that morning and it couldn't be a worse time for the heating system to go out, but that's exactly what happened in the sanctuary of ELCC. However, God's people do not let anything get in their way, and service was relocated to the Enrichment Center gym.

Chairs were set up as if they were pews facing the altar and service was delayed until noon. The same space was to be used for the scheduled Christmas Celebration and needed to be set up with tables and chairs immediately afterward. Pastor asked for everyone's help in arranging these tables at the conclusion of service and the congregation obliged. It was a seamless transition, prompting Pastor to note, "It was an example of unity in action."

Many of our congregation from the young to the mature participated in the spirit of celebration of the birth of Jesus with songs. Children's Choir, ELCC Inspirational Choir, and Young Believers Choir all blessed the room with their collective voices. Individual vocal contributions were added to the festivity by Brother James O'Briant, Brother Sevuga A. Pandian, Sister Tosin Bada, Sister Chivonne Perkins, and Sister Samantha Butler. Hands and feet were moving and stirring with exaltation when the Dance Ministry performed as well as Pastor Moody with invited guest featuring Blessed Grace. Beautiful words of light and love were offered up in poems by Emily & Destiny Van Ness, Bria & Chase Wilson, and Theresa Hughes.

There was an abundance of food faithfully and lovingly prepared by our worshippers. Everyone left this celebration full in their stomachs as well as their hearts. New Year's Eve 2009 was a cold night evident with slushy windshields and sidewalks, but it was warm with the Spirit of the Lord and the praises of His people inside the Enrichment Center gym where Watch Night Service was held. In Pastor Achalram's exhortation he summed up the positive sentiments of the night, saying "2010 is to be the best year of our lives."

The Dance Ministry team echoed that encouraging atmosphere with their awesome display of devotion through movement reminding us to praise God through the good times and the bad. Mother Waddy consecrated the Watch Night Service with a song, as did the ELCC Inspirational Choir.

Pastor Perkins reminded our ELCC family that God has been FAITHFUL in 2009 and will continue to be in 2010. He reminded us that what is done is done whether excellent or poor and we can not live off of the successes of yesterday just as we can not wallow in the failures of yesterday. He instead encouraged us to look for the "new thing" God has for us by putting the past behind us. Pastor took us back to Isaiah 42:9 which says, "Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare".

Midnight was brought in with worship and prayer, while hearts meditated upon the Holy Spirit's work in bringing us into our future. Shortly after, service was dismissed and ELCC celebrated the first moments of 2010 with light refreshments and fellowship.

Sis. Rachael Pattabhi