

FAITH TO BELIEVE IN YOUR MIRACLE



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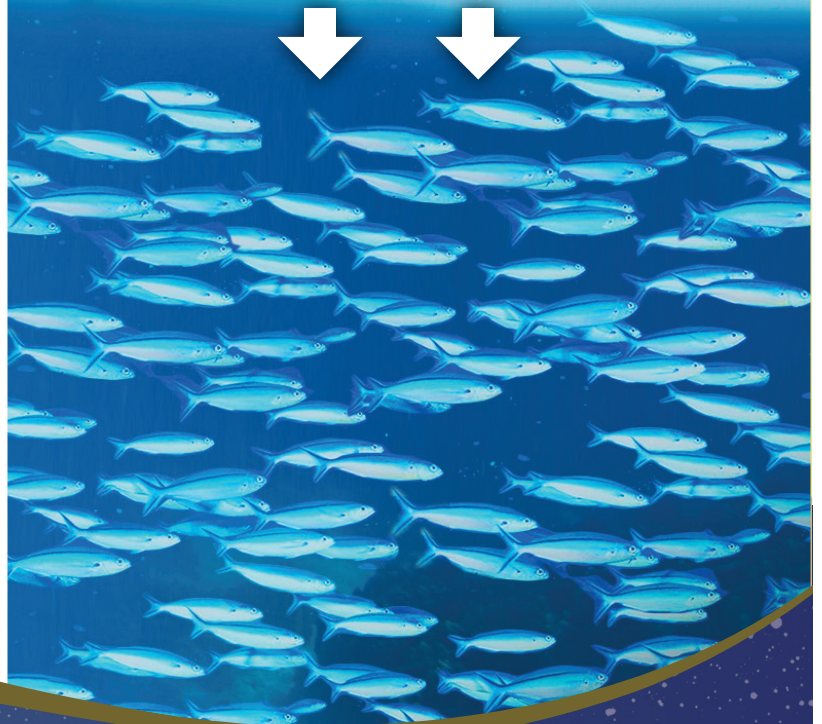
ISSACHAR

WE'VE TOILED
ALL NIGHT...



Saturday June 11th 2022
9.00am registration

NEVERTHELESS



Scriptures

Luke 5: 1-11,
1 Kings 17: 2-16 &
18: 41 – 45

zoom

Meeting ID:
836 8705 4126
Passcode: SOI



Bethel Sons of Issachar

www.sonsofissachar.co

Executive Summary:

To: Deacon Gilbert Pomell and members of the Sons of Issachar Conference Leadership Team, and all who attend the 2022 Sons of Issachar Annual Conference; Lady Yolanda and I greet you all in the magnificent name of Jesus, our soon coming King.

1 Chronicles 12 verse 32 tells us *“And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment.”*

The sons of Issachar were blessed with the gift of discernment; a unique ability to explain the current season and give Godly direction for the next season. In 1 Chronicles chapter 12, David had recently been crowned King of a united Israel and was surrounded with the best soldiers. However, having the best soldiers means nothing without Godly discernment and direction.

When men of God come get together for prayer and for worship, God sends direction that impacts not only their families and the church, but also nations, as the sons of Issachar did. We are living in perilous times and as such need spirit-filled men to be at the helm to accomplish victory in this season.

The theme of this conference, **‘Faith to believe your Miracle’** reminds us to consider our attitude towards God. Do we have an attitude of belief in God for His will for our lives? For it is in His will where miracles happen. Remember, God invites us to do our part when He performs miracles in our lives. Jesus said to Simon Peter, **“Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a draught.” (Luke Chapter 5:4)**. The Master-Discerner, Jesus, gave a clear Direction. Although Simon Peter responds in obedience, while seeing the Miracle take place, he declares his sinful state and asks Jesus to leave! Jesus tells him to fear not knowing that His very mission is to conquer sin and enable the sinner to serve God, unafraid, unapologetic and ready to receive every Miracle.

Hebrews chapter 11 reminds us of great men who lived by faith; Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and more. There is no reason why our names cannot be added to the list, for the just shall live by faith.

I congratulate and encourage the leadership team of the Sons of Issachar Conference for your commitment and the many lives I know are richly blessed each year by this event.

Bethel salutes you and will continue to pray your strength in the Lord. In His name and for His glory,

Bishop Dexter E. Edmund
Presiding Bishop

Bethel United Church of Jesus Christ (Apostolic) U.K.

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Empowerment for Ministry and Life

1 Chronicles 12:24 - 34

Bishop Emeritus Bailey

Greetings to you all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Once again it is an honour and a privilege to be able to say these few words to encourage you all.

The theme for this year's conference is *Faith To Believe Your Miracle* Luke 5:1-11

Simon Peter after having toiled all night fishing; taking in nothing was told by Jesus to let down his net again, and by faith taking the master at his word they enclosed a great multitude of fish to their astonishment and joy.

After this great miracle, Jesus tells Peter in verse 10 that he should fear not because from henceforth he will catch men. We saw this word come to pass on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38-42) Peter stood up and declared the word of God and three thousand souls were (saved) added to the church.

This fisherman became a fisher of men that Jesus declared he would be because of his faith.

Faith is the starting point to get you in the position to receive your miracle. It's good to read about the miracles in the bible, or hear about other people's miracles, but what about your miracle?

My question to you today.... Are you ready to receive your miracle?

May the good Lord bless you All.

Yours in Christ

Bishop Eric Bailey
SOI Patron



Conference Overview:

This year's SOI conference comes at a time when the world is coming through a season of worldwide pandemic never seen before. The response has been unified in most cases where the approach to fix and indeed mitigate has been a medical one, using the COVID-19 vaccine which to all intent and purposes has for some been seen as the remedy.

The church, on the other hand, has been divided about the approach to take. Does she (church) look inward by remaining silent by concluding that this is the end of corporate worship, or does she hold firm by sending out the clarion call for corporate and individual prayer and fasting? In my studies on the subject matter, I was alert to soundings coming out of the Conference of European Churches (CEC), to gauge their temperature on the whole matter regarding 'curse vs blessing' as it relates to pandemics, the science, and the role of the church.

The Council of European Bishops based their arguments on the following premise:

- 1) Scripture: Mark 2: 17 and Deuteronomy 22:8 – the former speaks of they that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick... Jesus here is the physician of the soul, and it made sense to Him to be with those who were sick with sin. So, their argument can be concluded as:
 - Jesus is the perfect doctor to heal us of our sin
 - He is always available
 - He always makes a perfect diagnosis
 - He provides a complete cure and
 - He even pays the doctor's fee.

That being the case, the Council polled the participants on the day of the conference about whether they would take the vaccine if it was available at the start of the pandemic. Surprisingly, 69% said they would have. Furthermore, the overwhelming stance was that 'science is not the enemy and that as a church, we don't need to wait for Jesus to provide the cure! Personally, this text/theme impressed upon me sometime back in February of this year, having come through a period of consecration alongside my family which ended on February the 9th. From here, on to this point, the word, 'miracle' was deposited in my spirit. However, the notion of 'faith' to believe cemented the text much later.

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I Chronicles 12:24 - 34

The context of the lesson:

In this season, the theme comes to remind some and encourage others that without faith, it is impossible to please God. The sub-theme and indeed plot is to understand that preparation is key. What do you mean? Well, how can we have great faith, if we don't spend time alone with God to develop our faith? I cannot quantify the price of having spent time alone with God in prayer and fasting.

The Bible reminds us in Lk. 4: 15-15, Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. Just for those who don't know, Jesus was in Jordan, which is a wilderness region. From the desert, Jesus returned to Galilee. At this point, if not earlier, the centre of his operations shifted from Nazareth: his childhood home, to Capernaum.

Just before we move into the events of Luke 5, let us consider, how important this area was. The Old Testament refers to this area on remarkably few occasions. It suddenly comes to the fore in the eighth century BC, when Isaiah prophesied that God will 'honour Galilee of the Gentiles' (New International Version), with people there seeing 'a great light' (Isaiah 9:1-2). Matthew expressly sees Jesus' ministry here as the fulfilment of his prophecy (Matthew 4: 13-16).

Luke 5 now brings to our attention several miracles that took place in this chapter: the circumstances surrounding each one and the people involved differ, which affords us the reader/believer scope to acknowledge and understand the awesomeness of God. The location is the Lake of Gennesaret, where Jesus borrows a boat to use as his pulpit. Here Jesus calls his first disciples; he commands Simon to let down his nets again. He teaches the crowd from the boat (including the parable of the Sower); and the risen Jesus appears to Peter and the other disciples one morning after a night's fishing (Mark 3: 7-9)

This chapter describes that 'nevertheless' moment: when the disciple cast his net again, the healing of the leper, and man was carried by four men and so forth. All of which serve to encourage that, even in the 21st century, God can and will move based on our beliefs and expectations of Him.

We are surrounded on every side by life's obstacles that have come about to test not only our patience but our faith. In this situation, we have skilled fishermen, reaching to a point of almost giving up because their natural strength had failed them! These men knew very well the environment around them and when to cast down their nets. In many ways, we too are very similar in our approach to life. We know what we know and when our strategy fails us, we look to science and facts to



justify the reason (s) in this context, no fish was caught. Furthermore, many of us are taught at a very early age that we must have the evidence when making key decisions.

The 21st-century fishermen have no need to have faith or patience to wait on that 'nevertheless' moment, which concludes with, 'at thy word'. They now rely on advanced computerised systems, such as the Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which is a computer-based system for capturing, storing, checking, integrating, manipulating, analysing and displaying spatial data on the Earth. This new data processing technologies in fisheries include big data, blockchain, smart weighing at sea, Radio-frequency identification (RFID), smartphones for monitoring, artificial intelligence, drones, and onboard cameras. GIS has great potential for modelling fish distribution, abundance, habitat, estimating future capacity, and evaluating the useful life of reservoirs. This potential could be improved by increasing the opportunities for education, experience and access to available GIS technology and data among fisheries scientists. Can you imagine Simon Peter asking Jesus to explain the Modelling theory that he was relying on when he said, 'let down thy nets?'

Similarly, In the pursuance of a criminal case, evidence is the foundation upon which both sides build their respective arguments. During the investigation into a crime, great care must be taken to collect, preserve, and record evidence that could be critical in establishing the facts surrounding a criminal case. Moreover, we know that the construct of science is very much based on empirical evidence. Science disciplines share common rules of evidence used to evaluate explanations about natural systems. The secular system is making good strides to nudge the people of God away from great faith by replacing it with an evidence-based lifestyle!

Right about now (Tuesday 10th May 2022), I can understand the boat to be the church and the surrounding environment the world. Jesus has seen what we have been struggling with. The Bible tells us that, "He can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities" -Hebrews 4:15. The 'toiling' of this life can leave us battered, weary (Galatians 6:9) and disappointed about where we perceive ourselves to be. But here comes a timely word: '**nevertheless**' at '**thy word**'. We have felt the effects of a broken marriage, we are the victims of abuse, we struggle with mental and physical challenges, and we are the recipients of behaviours that cause us to consider our very existence and the value that we bring. Yet, the word comes to cast thy nets again. To be frank, many of us don't have the strength or depth to go again; saying, have you not heard that I have toiled all night! The night for some could be a literal night, for others it could speak of weeks, months, years, decades. However, long

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that moment of time is for you, the word comes to go again.

Note, that the nets were designed in such a way that they were building up the fishermen's physical strength because they had lead weights sewed into them to allow the net to sink deep into the Lake Gennesaret. Similarly, the Bible declares that "...faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." This process is designed to build spiritual faith muscles so that we can hear what we don't hear and see what we don't see. Our victory is in the spiritual realm. Faith has no scientific explanation; faith has no empirical evidence that I can put forward as a reasonable argument. I simply believe that "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11).

We read that Noah built an ark and whilst building, I believe he was ridiculed and mocked for being that simple, monosyllabic preacher, that continues to say, 'It's going to rain. But brother Noah, what evidence are you relying on, climate change measurements, the met office, movement of the earth's tectonic plate? What did Elijah see when he told the servant to go again 7 times?

May I be so bold as to offer a thought?

'Sight is a function of the eyes, but vision is a function of the heart, you can have sight but no vision

It is my personal view that faith comes in measures; Simon Peter, Paul, Noah, and Elijah - Had great faith. It is this level of faith that we need to believe and receive our miracle. How can you speak, what you don't see, and how can you launch out again if you don't believe in the word of God? No word, in your vessel, equals an overreliance on evidence. I am not moved by what I hear or see, I am moved by a supernatural unction or call it the ability to speak "those things which be not as though they were" (Romans 4:17).

The results will speak for themselves

Remember, that hitherto, their works had been an unsuccessful night of fishing. Doing what comes naturally, and yet, they were getting ready to move to the next level of ministry. It goes to show, that when God turns up in our situation, the supernatural changes the natural into something miraculous. The fishermen's progress must be noted:

- Fishermen – searching for the natural food
- Disciples – searching for the souls of men, then too,
- Apostles, as one sent by God.

The story shows that Jesus accomplished several things at once. Jesus made a boat into a floating pulpit, by doing this He could avoid the press of the throng; and, by means of the great catch a little later, he could provide further insight for the men about to be called to accompany him as apostles. You are about to witness the supernatural move over your life as you heed the word of God to cast your nets again. I don't know what your net is, or much weight is attached to your net - it might be many, but what I do know is that by faith, you will believe your way to receive your miracle.

Briefly, an extract from the Prophet Elijah's ministry

Elijah was in a precarious situation. He had been in hiding for three years, waiting on God to take care of him and to instruct him on what to do next. He was waiting on God so much that God even directed the ravens to feed him three times each day. In 1 Kings 18, the Israelites had turned away from God and started worshipping idols. Because of this, there had been no rain for three years.

At the end of that time, Elijah met King Ahab during a three-year manhunt designed to find Elijah. Elijah invited Ahab and all the people as well as the prophets of Baal and Asherah to the top of Mount Carmel. This was the time to show the nation (again) who the true God was. Elijah's time of waiting on God was almost finished, or not.

These are the very conditions when many of us turn back from the risen Saviour. The waiting time somehow works to erode our faith, which leaves us questioning the very God of our salvation. However, for the few, this is the very condition (Covid-19 being a casing point) that produces that extra strength to say, 'nevertheless' I will continue as the word directs. Elijah's ministry was catapulted from this, fragile position to the lofty heights of Mt Carmel. Elijah not only demonstrated bravery and strength to attend that mountain top meeting being severely out-gunned by Baal's 950 prophets. He had an over-supply of faith to believe in his miracle. This is the position that many of us are about to experience.

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What is the purpose of miracles?

I particular like Dr M. Lloyd-Jones's view on this subject, based on Acts 7:30-33. He puts forward the view in his message 'The God of Miracles', that, the power of God to supernaturally work through miracles and providence. He cannot be comprehended by finite creatures apart from the Holy Spirit's illumination. Modern humanity rejects God, refusing to submit to the One who stands above and beyond all humanity and who reserves the right to do with them and all of creation as He pleases. Humanity wants a god they can understand and grasp, not one who is the ultimate authority, directing and ordaining all things. Sinful people do not want to believe in angels, demons, or miracles because their hunger for imperial evidence views them as non-scientific or irrational. However, these reasons for the denial are only excuses to avoid accountability to God's holy standard. With the message of the gospel comes the strong warning of condemnation that will fall on all who reject God. On that final day, all will bow their knees before the throne of God and there will no longer be any objection to God's law and reign. They will no longer sneer at the word of God and its miracles. All who reject the gospel of God and His only Son will perish without any hope. Only by believing in the gospel can any rebellious sinner be saved.

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Testimony 1

On the 3rd March 2022, I went to the hospital to do a biopsy. The doctors suspected that I could have cancer-based on what they found. The doctor and the nurse came and did all the necessary checks which includes checking my blood pressure which has a normal reading. I then asked the doctor how long this procedure will take? He replied, "Thirty minutes."

On my way to the theatre, the only scripture that came to me and was like someone was saying it in my hearing; "Yea, thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil". When I heard those words, I said, "thank you, Jesus."

While being in the theatre, the Anaesthetist said that I should think of a happy moment, and the only thing that came to my mind is when I went to Texas to visit my family in December and how amazing it was.

I don't know what time I woke up in recovery, but I was soaking wet, bloody, weak, and voiceless. They took me to the ward, and every time I heard my name it was the nurse waking me up to check my blood pressure and I went off to sleep. I remember the doctors came twice to check on me and then I went back to sleep. On the third time, she came

and woke me up and said "Mrs Blackwood, we have to keep you in, your blood pressure was 209 in theatre which pushes the bleeding, it has now elevated to 220, you are heavily sedated, and you've lost a lot of blood. I then went off to sleep.

The next time I woke up it was due to a heart palpitation. My heart was beating so fast, that I felt it in my back. When I looked at my clothes, I could see the vibration in the hospital gown. The nurse was 2m away from my bed and I couldn't call for help (no voice). I said on the inside; "God, please send help!" The nurse looked at me and then ran over. She yelled, "I need an ECG machine now!" The trainee school nurses and other nurses started running trying to find one. All I could do is call on the name of JESUS on the inside. How many of you know that the name of JESUS is powerful whether saying it aloud or saying it on the inside? (This was a one-on-one consultation with the Almighty). I kept calling, JESUS, JESUS, JESUS, and I felt my heartbeat start regulating (slowing down). A nurse came running with an ECG machine she didn't belong to that ward and by the time they string me up and press the button, the nurse looked at me in shock and said, "but the heartbeat was normal." My GOD DID IT AGAIN!

Brethren not only did my heartbeat regulates, but I also felt strength in my limbs. I later get up and went to the bathroom by myself. What a GOD!

On the 4th of March 22 at 3:50 am, this could have been my sunset, BUT GOD! I woke up by an excruciating pain on the left side of my head and suddenly I felt a gush and it was blood running down my throat and through my nostrils. This was frightening! I press the button, and the nurse came running. She immediately put my head in a downward position. I said, "God what is this?" And I heard, "YOU SHALL NOT DIE!" It was then I realised this was warfare. I sat up all morning repeating those words "I shall not die, but live and declare the words of the Lord." I was bleeding from my nostrils and coughing up blood. Two doctors who were on duty came and saw me and all they said was that the ENT specialists are aware of what happened, and they will be here in the morning.

Three doctors arrived later that morning and took me to another ward for further assessment. They clean my left nostril and then placed a camera in my right nostril to see what was happening. I felt a clogging in my throat, and I try coughing it up, but nothing happened. I told the doctor, and she placed a suction (a long tube) and what came up was blood clots. GOD IS A GOOD GOD! I said, "Thank you JESUS!" (In my hose voice). The doctor then said if the bleeding doesn't reduce, they will have to take me back to the theatre. I replied, "Devil is a liar!"

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She also said if the blood is a light red that means it's still bleeding and if it's dark it's old blood. With that information, I knew what to look for. They took me back to the ward and I kept on praying. My blood pressure reduced, and I was so happy. Later they checked, and it was elevated. The doctor told me that I will have to stay another night due to the bleeding and elevated blood pressure.

Saturday morning, I noticed that my blood has both light and dark red in colour, so I continued praying and trusting GOD. A young doctor came and told me that I should be going home that morning. I looked at him in shock because my blood pressure was still high, and the bleeding hasn't stopped. However, that afternoon another doctor came and said I will have to spend another night. Suddenly, I remembered that Bishop Dexter Edmond, (My Pastor) was having a leadership conference at 2 Gibson Road, so I messaged my husband to tell Bishop to pray. My Bible says one should chase a thousand and two put ten thousand to flight and I know that they were more than two in attendance, and they did pray, and God answer prayer.

Saturday evening one of the nurses who was with me Friday morning asked, "How are you feeling?" I replied, "Feeling much better." She proceeded to say that they would probably keep me for one more night. Nope! I'm leaving tomorrow. Sunday morning came and they discharged me. On 11th April I got my results, and it was NEGATIVE. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Testimony 2

Greetings to the Sons of Issachar Ministry Team, and all the attendees of this year's Men's Conference.

I am here to testify that Jesus Christ is indeed a deliverer and the Saviour of my soul. On the 5th of November 2020, I had an even greater understanding of the mighty name of Jesus. I had travelled down a familiar route to work as I had on many occasions. However, this commute was to be one in that the power of Jesus Christ was to be made even more manifest.

My route usually causes me to cross a section of the road where the West Midlands Tram crosses the highway. I had stopped at the first set of traffic lights and looked up and began to focus on the second set of traffic lights. I had believed it was my right of way, but it was not! I travelled across the highway and was met with a tremendous force from

the right-hand side of my vehicle, as I had travelled across the section of the road I had collided with a tram. Although everything seemed to be moving so quickly everything also moved at a supernatural slow pace. At that moment of collision, I called out the wonderful, saving, redeeming name of JESUS! At that moment in time, I believe that the Lord had sent all his protection, grace and mercy into my life!

I can testify that his name makes the difference! I came out of that collision with absolutely no cuts, bruises, sprains, broken bones, head trauma or anything of the sort. A witness to the accident checked on me and stated, 'I was lucky.' I told the witness that 'I am blessed!' He responded in total agreement. I am here and alive today because the Lord had his hand on my life! I am truly grateful to God for all His many blessings. Many have had less severe car accidents and don't make it out alive or are left with life-changing injuries, but my God stated the above was not my portion.

Without a test, we truly have no testimony!

Please continue to keep my family and me in your prayers.

Yours in the Lord,

Min. Jonathan Brooks
Gibson Road Assembly



Presentations

Presentation (1)

What it is to have work extremely hard (toiled) with very little results. Many have struggled with the following:

- Hold down a regular job'
- Worked long hours but never been able to move beyond the low-income band,
- Finding it hard to cope with the relentless increase in the cost of living,
- Studied hard, and yet never got the results you were hoping for
- Marriages under pressure (i.e., never seem to find the right words to sow life into your spouse) and, maybe, you have found it hard to tell a son or daughter, how much you really love him/her.

The question is, have you reached that 'nevertheless' point in your life, where you are now willing to say, 'nevertheless at the word'; so that you may position yourself to receive the miracle that the Lord has for you. (Lk. 5:1-11)



Presentation 2

The Bible declares in Luke 18:1, 'that men ought always to pray and not to faint.' Preparation is the pre-requisite action needed before you can experience the supernatural of God. This presentation will explore the gap between prayer and unanswered prayer. What do you do when you have been praying for a long time, and it seems like God doesn't hear your prayers? This session will focus on Elijah's precarious situation. He had been hiding for three years, waiting on God to take care of him and tell him what to do next.

He was waiting on God so much that God even directed the ravens to feed him three times each day. Because of this, there had been no rain for three years. Moreover, we read in 1 King 18: 44, that at the seventh time (not once), the servant reported seeing a cloud as small as a man's hand rising from the sea.

Having waited for so long, for your change to come, are you now ready to declare, nevertheless, it is my time to press one more time for my miracle? That's the question only you can answer!

Faith to believe in your Miracle

Know therefore that the Lord your God is good, the faithful God who maintains covenant loyalty with those who love him and keep his commandment, to a thousand generation. We know that our faith does falter, but that does not affect God's faithfulness. We read in the Old Testament about Israel's persistent faithlessness. Amos, Micah and Hosea make this their constant theme. Hosea especially, with his constant struggle coming to terms with an unfaithful wife, shows in detail how painful it is to live in a relationship marred by unreliably and inconsistency. Conversely, when we are faithful, God preserves, protects, and defends us. We must realise that faith links us to the omnipotence of God, which in turn makes us more than conquerors (Mark 9:23; Act 3:16; Hebrews 11:30).

One writer puts it this way, 'faith, then, rises into the sphere where God is all and in all and in which He moves and rules without limitation of godless reasoning. The reason is full of "whys" and "wherefores". Faith, on the other hand, asks no questions - it takes God at His Word. Simon Peter took God at his Word and let down his nets again.

Your faith is primed and ready to produce your miracle.

God bless and keep you in the bond of peace. Shalom

Deacon Gilbert R Pomell
(Conference Co-ordinator)

June 11, 2022



Itinerary

9.00 – 10.00

Registration

10.30

Opening Remarks – Patron – Bishop Bailey

Bethel National Brotherhood President's Greeting

Presentation (1)

Break

Ministry in Song

Thoughts on the Matter

12.30 – 1.30

Lunch Break

Presentation (2)

Thoughts on the Matter

Spoken Word

Altar Call



Planning Team:

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Elder Richards

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