

May 31, 2024

Dear Pastors, Youth Pastors & Leaders, and Young Adults:

*Congress 2024 is a little less than a hundred days away. We need children and youth ages 3-18 to participate in the C.V. Ford Pageantry. Our Moderator has **called us all to return to worship**. The Congress President, Rev Benjamin H. Parrott, Sr., our Dean, Dr. Joyce Dunlap, and I are asking children, youth, and adults to return to Congress. We want to see you in person for the joy of discipleship, fellowship, and stewardship. We need your presence and participation to make Congress 2024 both Spiritual and Successful.*

*Calling children and youth in the Florida East Coast Baptist Association to be in attendance this summer at the District Congress of Christian Education the week of July 21st-July 25th, 2024. Come out and be apart of the Childrens' and Youth Rally Pageant culminating on Thursday, July 25th. This year's Pageant titled, **"How Can We Reconnect when there's a Disconnect?"***

*We need singers, dancers, and actors both male and female to participate in Congress and the pageant. Represent your church with the best children and youth in your congregation to **display and share their gifts and talents**.*

The Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Riviera Beach is the host church, Rev Al Wadell, Senior Pastor/Teacher. Please find attached the script for children and youth and other information to help prepare for Congress. If interested in securing a part, please begin now reviewing & learning the parts in which you are interested. Count down to Congress go online to let us know you are coming and interested in participating by registering. We want this experience to be the best for all of us as we reconnect after this disconnect in our culture and the church.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to me at lakeshiaflint085@gmail.com.

*Sincerely Yours,
Lakeshia K. Flint- Pageant Director
(954) 268-0358 (please text me first)*

Congress Information

Pageant Attire:

Girls/Young Ladies: All White (White dress, white blouse and skirt), White stockings (optional) and white socks. **(Please make sure all dresses are knee level or below)**

Boys/Young Men: White Dress Shirts (**Button Down**) and Black Dress Pants with Black Belt and Black dress socks. **(Black bow ties preferably if not black ties.)**

Please make sure all children and youth have flashlights for the Pageant Processional because we will march into “From Here to Eternity, (Bold Tongues).”

All messengers in either dance or drama are required to attend an afternoon class. There will be no late afternoon class for those participating in dance or drama. Please make sure **ALL** messengers are in afternoon classes.

Pageant Dance Attire:

Girls/Young Ladies: (Black/White Leotards (Turtleneck 1st choice, Long/short sleeve 2nd choice, with Black/White Palazzo Pants) Please bring both colors if possible. The Leotard can't be sleeveless)

Boys/Young Men: Black/White fitted T-shirts and black slacks.

Pageant Drama:

All children and youth who are interested in drama are recommended to know the lines before Congress. In the Congress packets you will find the Children's Rally Project and the Youth Rally Script. It is smart for each child or youth to choose two parts he/she is interested in and know those parts before Congress. It is imperative for your children and youth to know the lines before the Congress because I will be assigning parts on day one. Therefore, please work with your children and youth now, because when auditions begin, they're prepared to “Rock It.” If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me at lakeshiaflint085@gmail.com or call me at (954)268-0358.

Pageant Rehearsals

Youth Rally St James Baptist Church, Rev. Dr Tony Drayton,

1524 W 35th Street, Riviera Beach, 33404

Sunday, July 21 6-8pm

Monday-Wednesday 1:30-4pm

Final Rehearsal Thursday 1:30-4pm

(Drama, Dance, Choir)

**Children's Rally & Institute – Mount Olive Baptist, Rev. Al
Waddell**

3700 Avenue O, Riviera Beach, FL 33404

(Opening, Monologs, Choir, Dance)

Rehearsal Times: Monday - Wednesday (4:00-5:30p.m.)

Thursday, 1:30-4pm Dress Rehearsal

Children's Rally 2024

Opening and Welcome

Opening

Good evening

Moderator- Rev. Toby T. Philpart

Moderator Emeritus- Rev. Dr. C.P. Preston,

Congress President- Rev. Benjamin H. Parrot, Sr.

Congress Dean- Sis. Joyce Dunlap

Woman's Auxiliary President -Sis. Gloria Jackson-Davis

Welcome

We the children and the youth of the Florida East Coast Baptist Association, District Congress of Christian Education welcome you to the O.V. Wells Children and Youth Rally Pageant entitled, "How Can we Reconnect when there's a Disconnect? I bet you are trying to figure out what are they referring to? Great! Glad you are having those thoughts because we ask that you listen tentatively with your ears and hearts, so you can adhere, acknowledge, and accept the message and lessons in tonight's presentation. Again, we say welcome and enjoy our pageant, "How Can We Reconnect when there's a Disconnect?"

Pledges for Congress

Pledge to the American Flag

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands. One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Pledge to the Christian Pledge

I pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag and to the Savior for whose Kingdom it stands. One Savior, crucified, risen, and coming again with life and liberty to all who believe.

Pledge to the Bible

I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word, I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path and will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God.

Monolog One: What Happened?

What happened to our Youth Departments? (Pausing) What happened to Youth Sundays? (Pausing) What happened to Bible Vacation School? (Pausing) What even happened to Proverbs 22:6? (Pausing) **Proverbs 22:6 says, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.** I'm just confused because I don't see these (stretching hands out) large youth departments anymore. It seems like we "meaning" the children and the youth are not as important as we use to be. So please tell me, "What Happened?"

Monolog Two: "Do You Remember When?"

Do you remember when the Youth Department was the place to be? Do you remember in the Youth Department when we learned how to sing in the choir, how to be an usher, how to build friendships, learn respect and discipline, learn how to be leaders, and most importantly learn God's word and to trust and believe in him always? Do you remember when the church use to be packed with children and youth? Or even better, do you remember when we use to have the Pageants at school auditoriums because that is how many children and youth would be here at Congress ready and excited to share with you what they learned all week? **Matthew 14:19 says, "But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children."** I just want you to take a moment to reflect, (Pause)now that you had a moment to reflect, can you start to see the disconnect? (Pausing) "Do You Remember When?"

Monolog Three: "We Are Just As Important"

It seems like today churches have forgotten how important the children and youth are to the church. The youth department is where train up pastors, preachers, deacons, missionaries, evangelists, teachers, and leaders. We are the church of tomorrow. Now, it seems and feels like if we're here we're here and if we're not then it's not a concern. Back in the day when parents couldn't bring their kids to church, then the church would send a van to pick them up and bring them to church for Bible Study, Choir and Usher Rehearsal, Sunday School and Church. Wow,

how the times have changed. We want to learn the Word of the God and give him praise just like yall do. **In Matthew 21:16- "They asked Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?" "Yes," Jesus replied. "Haven't you ever read the Scriptures? For they say, 'You have taught children and infants to give you praise.'" See if you get us, reach us, and teach us then we will give God praise. Every other ministry or auxiliary is important in the church, but "We Are Just as Important."**

Monolog Four: "How Can We Reconnect when there's a Disconnect?"

How can you reconnect something when you don't even realize something is disconnected? Well, I think some of ya'll know something is disconnected, but don't desire to reconnect it or just don't know how to reconnect it. (Pausing) See the church must take action, with or without feelings. We must identify the things that are disconnecting our youth from the church and God. **The bible says in 1John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us all from unrighteousness."** The disconnect starts at home, and then trickles down to the church, and into our schools; but it stops now. We must show the devil he is defeated and has no power over our youth departments any longer. Until something is done, "How Can We Reconnect when there's a disconnect?"

**Florida East Coast Missionary Baptist Association,
Inc.**

District Congress of Christian Education

Presents

“How Can We Reconnect when there’s a Disconnect?”

Written and Directed by:

Lakeshia Flint

“How Can We Reconnect when there’s a Disconnect?”

Play Background

“How Can We Reconnect When There’s a Disconnect?” is about a Baptist church who just installed a new Pastor. The church is a traditional church with very traditional values and customs. Rev. Chambers has some new and great ideas for the church, but has been met with some concerns regarding the Youth Department. Sis. Sims the Youth Director is concerned with the decline in attendance and participation of children and youth; and frustrated with the lack of support from the pastor and the church. We know that change is good, but not all changes are good. Today’s children and youth would be better off if we the church would have not gotten rid of some traditions and values that taught and instilled the importance of obeying their elders, respecting God’s house, honoring thy father and mother so thy days will be longer on earth, and just knowing who God is. The bible says in Roman 12:2, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.” We the “Church” have to stop trying to conform to the world and stop trying to mimic the world. The world should be conforming to the church and word of God. Proverbs 22:6 says, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and he is old he will not depart from it.” We have to understand that if there is no children and youth to train, then we don’t have a church of tomorrow. We have to recognize something is going wrong within our youth department; and until we do “How Can We Reconnect When There’s a Disconnect?” This year’s production is going to be challenging, inspiring, and spirit filled.

Characters

Pastor James Chambers- Is a young Pastor who has a vision for the church and wants the church to progress and grow. He is trying to do away with some of the traditions and customs of the Baptist church. He is facing opposition from the church because they don’t agree with all of the things he is trying to do away with. He is also dealing with a son who’s rebelling and causing all kinds of mayhem in his fathers’ home.

Deacon Johnson- Chairman of the deacon board is trying to mediate between the Pastor and the church. He wants progression, but doesn’t want to forget or leave the foundation behind.

Sis. Sims- She is the Youth Director and is excited with the new ideas and suggestions to revitalize the youth department, but is frustrated with the lack of support from the pastor and the church.

Mother Mathis- Is the mother of the church and is concerned with the new ideas of the Pastor and at every given opportunity reminds the church of the importance of the youth department and the foundation it teaches the children and the youth of the church.

James Chambers, Jr.- Pastor Chambers’ son who is battling some issues which maybe if the church didn’t resemble the world so much may not be dealing with.

Narrator 1

Narrator One: How is that every ministry in the church is flourishing, but the youth departments are dying? Especially after the pandemic in 2020, it’s really dying because it was hard enough getting youth to church before the pandemic, but now it’s twice as hard getting youth and adults back to church. How is it when we have youth Sunday the church is empty, but for the church anniversary it’s packed? How is it that on Sunday morning we have a church full of adults, but no children and youth in the pews? See, the truth is that we know the answers to these questions, but no one wants to say the answers out loud. “How Can We Reconnect when there’s a Disconnect?” If we don’t want to see that there is something going wrong with our youth departments; we will never be able to fix what’s wrong. If your cable gets disconnected, you must pay the bill for it to be reconnected right? If your phone gets disconnected, you must pay what you owe for it to be reconnected right? Well, if you see that the attendance is declining, children and youth are not involved, and the youth department is dying? These are the disconnections in our churches. The question is what are we going to do to get them meaning our youth departments reconnected to the church? The Youth Rally presents, “How Can We Reconnect when there’s a Disconnect?”

Scene One:

(Deacon Johnson, Mother Mathis, and Sis. Sims are waiting on Pastor Chambers for a meeting at the church)

Deacon Johnson: (Looking over some paperwork) Rev. Chambers should be here shortly so we can begin this meeting.

Mother Mathis: (Sarcastically) Amen! Amen! Amen! I have places to be and people to see. (Pausing) He better not be late either; the members expect the man of God to be on time people are so impatient these days.

Deacon Johnson: (Pointing as Mother Mathis) I think being locked down for over a year really made people bold. (Looking at Mother Mathis) You better not give our new pastor a hard time either mother.

Mother Mathis: (Smiling) Who me? What you mean? I have never given any of my old or late pastors a hard time. (Pausing) See, I believe in **Psalms 105:15 when it says, “Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.** Ummmm hmmm, I shole do believe in that there scripture. I respects God’s word because if you’re appointed and anointed, I don’t mess with you.

Deacon Johnson: I’m just saying mother don’t give Rev. Chambers a hard time.

Sis. Sims: (Interrupting) I want to present him with some new ideas and suggestions for the youth. (Pausing) See if we can get more participation and involvement in the church and association. (Holding her head) It seems like the pandemic has really prevented our youth from coming back to church. It was hard getting them to participate before the pandemic.

Deacon Johnson: (Shaking his head) I don’t know why you’re wasting your time. (Pausing) These kids are so disrespectful, and their parents aren’t teaching them anything. Wondering why their kids are hellions. (Shaking head) Just disrespectful and rude!

Sis. Sims: (Looking surprised) Deacon Johnson, that’s not nice. We must do something because our youth department is dying. (Pausing) So what if they’re a little defiant, if they’re here we can teach them what’s right, but if they’re not here they will never learn.

Deacon Johnson: (Shaking his head) I am being nice and it’s the truth. This generation is so disrespectful and has no respect for the church, their parents, school teachers not even the police; absolutely no one.

Mother Mathis: (Listening tentatively) See this is what happens when you start removing tradition and stop preaching and teaching God’s word. Everybody teaching and preaching their own gospel, and conforming to the world. (Pausing) **Romans 12:2 says, “Do not conform to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what is good and acceptable and the perfect will of God.** (Pausing) See when parents started letting children run their household, tell them what they’re going to do and not do, and especially let them decide when they going to church that’s when the foundation of the church and the youth departments started dying.

Deacon Johnson: (Agreeing) You better say it mother, now that’s the truth right there. Now that’s the truth!!!

Sis. Sims: (Looking frustrated) I totally agree with you Mother Mathis, but what do we do as the church? (Pausing) I’m the Youth Director and I have come before the church and asked for help, but it feels like no one is concerned or bothered by the fact that there are no children or youth in the church.

Deacon Johnson: (Appalled) What do you want the church to do? (Pausing) Times have changed. (Concerned) You can’t even approach parents about their children, yet alone force them parents to bring their children to church. (Sarcastically) Besides, who wants to deal with youth who don’t want to be here, or angry when they’re here, and just plain out disrespectful? (Pausing) Let me tell you, nobody.

Mother Mathis: (Laughing) See, I laugh to keep from crying because it is so sad. (Concerned) The pandemic made everyone lazy. (Comically) Bedside Baptist membership has grown drastically, no one wants to come back to church. (Pausing) Not only that, but social media has impacted the way people think. (Pausing) Now I see understand why we having all these new issues?

Deacon Johnson: (Looking puzzled) What issues Mother Mathis?

Mother Mathis: We have all these issues because our pastor doesn’t even think being prompt is important.

Sis. Sims: (Shaking her head) Mother Mathis you a mess. (Laughing)

Mother Mathis: (Getting up) All I know is when I get back from getting these prayer requests out of this box, Pastor Chambers better be here. It’s work that needs to be done in the vineyard.

Scene Ends

Scene Two:

(Pastor Chambers and his so JJ are in a heated argument)

Rev. Chambers: (Pacing back and forth) Son, where did you get it from? Why would you something like this?

JJ: (Rudely) Do something like what? (Pausing) Maybe because it feels good and I wanted too.

Rev. Chambers: (Furious) It felt good? (Holding his hand up) Boy, I ought to just (Walking towards JJ)

JJ: (Standing up) Ought to do what? (Pausing) You not worried about me, you don't care about me. You're worried about you, your position, and that church.

Rev. Chambers: (Aggressive) Boy, I'm your father. I am worried about you and I do care about you. (Pausing) Where did you get the weed from and when did you start selling weed?

JJ: (Smiling) Well, where I got the weed from I can't tell you that, but when I started selling weed is when you decided to apply for that church.

Pastor Chambers: (Sternly) What you mean you can't tell me where you got the weed from? (Pausing) What does me trying to become a pastor have to do with you selling weed?

JJ: (Hesitantly) See you were so busy with trying to get that church, you stop being home, you got so consumed with what you were doing, I wasn't your priority and anymore.

Rev. Chambers: (Angrily) So you go and become a weed boy? (Pause) Have you lost your mind? What is my congregation going to think once they find out?

JJ: (Laughing) See what I mean. You don't care about me, all you care about is your reputation, that church, and your position in the community.

Rev. Chambers: (Looking upset) Boy, I'm not trying to here that. How could you make a dumb decision to sell weed? (Pausing) You've never seen me involved with anything related to or with weed. I'm so confused.

JJ: (Looking puzzled) You're confused? (Pausing) I'm confused because you seem genuinely concerned about my well-being.

Rev. Chambers: I am genuinely concerned JJ. I’m trying to figure out how do you even have the time to get involved in this type of activity?

JJ: (Smiling) Simple. Remember when you use to make me go to church with you all the time?

Rev. Chambers: (Looking surprised) Yeah, I remember and?

JJ: Well, you don’t make me go anymore and since you don’t give me money like you use to, I take that time that I use to be in church and make my own money.

Rev. Chambers: (Looking at his watch) JJ, I can’t believe you right now. I have a meeting at the church that I need to be at. (Walking off) We will deal with this once I get back home.

JJ: (Sarcastically) Yeah whatever, go ahead on to your first priority. Like I said you’re not worried about me.

Scene Ends

Scene Three:

(Back at the church, Pastor Chambers has arrived looking worried)

Rev. Chambers: (Shaking Deacon Johnson) Good evening everyone. (Looking around) Aren’t we missing someone?

Sis. Sims: (Pointing) Oh, Mother Mathis went to get the prayer requests out of the box while we were waiting to start the meeting.

Deacon Johnson: I think I hear her coming now.

(Enters Mother Mathis)

Rev. Chambers: (Getting up to greet Mother Mathis) Hello Mother Mathis how are you?

Mother Mathis: (Shaking Rev. Chambers hand) Hey pastor, so glad you could you make it (laughing).

Rev. Chambers: (Helping Mother Mathis sit down) Sorry for my tardiness, but I have a little issue going on with my son.

Sis. Sims: (Looking concerned) Pastor, is everything okay with JJ?

Deacon Johnson: Pastor, do we need to cancel the meeting, so you can get back to JJ?

Pastor Chambers: (Shaking his head) No, no, no. I will deal with JJ when I get back home. (Looking at Mother Mathis) Mother Mathis can you lead us in prayer?

Mother Mathis: Bow your heads, Father God we ask that you will be in the midst of this meeting. God clear our minds and hearts so that this meeting will be productive and meet the needs of the church and your people, in Jesus name. Amen.

(Rev. Chamber, Deacon Johnson, and Sis. Sims all say amen)

Deacon Johnson: (Opening up his folder) We are meeting with pastor to hear and see his vision for the church; and he is here to hear some of our concerns.

Rev. Chambers: I'm so excited about my vision I have for the church. I believe in development and for development some things need to be changed or revamped.

Mother Mathis: (Looking up) Rev. Chambers what things would you like to change or revoke or rebuke or whatever you said to the church for the development?

Deacon Johnson: Mother Mathis, please let's hear pastor out.

Mother Mathis: Well if you would just hush up we could hear what the pastor is trying to say. So, just shut up.

Sis. Sims: (Putting her finger over her mouth) Both of you cut it out, go ahead Pastor Chambers.

Rev. Chambers: (Clearing his throat) I think we should revamp devotion, bible study, Sunday school, prayer meetings, communion, and offering.

Mother Mathis: (Holding her hand up) Pastor this doesn't sound like a vision, this sounds more like a killing.

Deacon Johnson: (Standing up) Mother Mathis, you are out of order.

Mother Mathis: (Upset) I’m out of order; no he’s out of order. This man only has been pastor for two days. (Holding up two fingers) Two days, I said two days.

Sis. Sims: (Shaking her head) Rev. Chambers has been here almost two months now Mother Mathis.

Mother Mathis: (Arms folded) Two months, two weeks, two days it’s all the same. I hear changes but no vision.

Rev. Chambers: I’m not here to make you upset mother, I just was sharing my ideas for the church and things I want to see change over the next few months.

Deacon Johnson: We understand pastor, maybe you should write out your vision and how it will help the church grow and prosper.

Rev. Chambers: Deacon Johnson I will do that and I understand why you asked me to write it out because it will allow the members to have a better understanding of my vision of where I want the church to go.

Mother Mathis: Well while he over there writing, can we address our concerns now, because obviously he didn’t read the bible about visions. **The bible says in Habakkuk 2:2 says, “And the LORD answered me: “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.”**

Sis. Sims: (Shaking her head) Mother Mathis?

Mother Mathis: What? All I’m saying is how you want the church to follow a vision that is partly cloudy? Make it plain, but see that’s these 21st century progression pastors, they interpret the word how they see fit. (Looking at Rev. Chambers) Just make it plain pastor, just make it plain.

Deacon Johnson: Pastor, please forgive her.

Mother Mathis: I don’t need you asking for forgiveness on my behalf. (Sitting down somewhere) Gone on baby and tell Rev. Chambers your concerns. I’m going to be quiet now...

Sis. Sims: (Passing out a sheet of paper to everyone) Rev. Chambers my concern is our Youth Department. If you look at my report it shows how the attendance has decline since the pandemic, the number of activities we use to participate has dropped, we haven't had any new children or youth to join the church in over a year. This concerns me because at this rate we want have neither a youth department nor a church of tomorrow.

Mother Mathis: (Holding the paper up) See Rev. Chambers, make it plain just make it plain.

Deacon Johnson: (Standing up and boldly) Rev. Chambers, I have already told Sis. Sims it's a waste of time; because we can't force parents to bring their kids to the church. (Disappointed) We couldn't get them to bring them before the pandemic, what makes you think parents are going to bring them now.

Sis. Sims: (Frustrated) I know we can't, but we must get back to the days where we would go and pick up the youth and bring them to church. (Puzzled) What's the point of having a church van if we're not going to use it?

Rev. Chambers: (Gesturing for everyone to calm down) Okay, okay, I hear you, Sis. Sims and those are some valid concerns. (Pausing) What do you think the problem is?

Deacon Johnson: (Interrupting Sis. Sims) The parents.....

Sis. Sims: (Cutting Deacon Johnson) Pastor, I agree with Deacon Johnson to an extent, but at the end of the day we are the church. The church must revisit some of those old traditions and put some new ideas in place on how to get our youth back to church.

Deacon Johnson: (Pausing) Sis. Sims, now I don't know about the home visits (laughing)... maybe phone calls to parents to remind them about church, bible study, choir, and usher rehearsal.

Mother Mathis: (Looking at Rev. Chambers) What you gone do Rev. Development to save our youth?

Deacon Johnson: Sis. Sims okay, but who wants to work with defiant, bad attitudes, and just plain out disrespectful youth at a church?

Mother Mathis: (Laughing) Well, they can't be no worse them rude, chip-on-the-shoulder, I'm save when I want to be saved grownups in the church; but you still ask them to be on the Pastor Aid, Finance and Church Anniversary committee, and Hold-My-Mule committee. (Pausing) Lord, wait a minute I'm talking about myself. Let me just hush up right now, but you get my point right Deacon Johnson?

Sis. Sims: (Chuckling) Mother Mathis has a point, it's a unique point, but she's right. At least with youth you have a chance at teaching and training them to be good Christians as well as good youth in and out of church.

Deacon Johnson: (Looking at Rev. Chambers) Well I feel it's a waste of time.

Mother Mathis: (Sternly) That's the wrong spirit to have Deac, what if Jesus had that same attitude like you? I would still be out there playing numbers. (Praise beak) I thank you Lord for deliverance, I thank you for grace and mercy, I just thank you Lord cause it could have been me out there in them streets, but you saved and kept me. Hallelujah.

(Everyone looking at Mother Mathis)

Mother Mathis: (Looking at everyone) Oh we can't praise God in the new “Development” church?

Deacon Johnson: (Loudly) Sit down somewhere Mother Mathis.

Mother Mathis: (Sitting down) Okay, okay, okay I'm done.

Sis. Sims: Rev. Chambers all I am asking you is to think about the youth department when you write out that vision.

Mother Mathis: (Pointing at the paper) Make it plain, just make it plain Rev.

Deacon Johnson: (Looking at his watch) Pastor, I know this has been a lot for today and we know you still have an issue with JJ, so we're going to close this meeting out now. (Pausing looking at Mother Mathis) Mother Mathis, I mean Sis. Sims will you close us out in prayer.

Sis. Sims: (Let’s hold hands) Father God we say thank you for our new pastor Rev. Chambers. Lord, we ask that you be with him as he writes the vision you gave him to share with your people God. We ask as he is revamping the church that he doesn’t forget about the children and the youth God. The children and the youth are disconnected from the church, and we just want to be reconnected. Show us the disconnection so we can work on the reconnection. It is in the mighty name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Scene Ends

Scene Four:

(Back at Pastor Chambers house, he has a serious conversation with JJ)

Rev. Chambers: JJ, come sit down I need to have a serious conversation with you.

JJ: (Walks over and sits down) Dad, I know I said some disrespectful things to you, but that’s just how I feel. I apologize.

Rev. Chambers: (Shaking his head) Son, you did say some disrespectful things, but you were right. I thought about some of the things you said to me, and you reminded me of your mother. She was very outspoken.

(Both of them start chuckling)

JJ: (Nodding his head) You’re right she was a firecracker. I miss her so much dad. It’s like when she died a part of you died. We used to do things together as a family. (Pausing) She didn’t play about me going to church. Every time the door of the church was open, I was there.

Rev. Chambers: (Smiling) You right. I must admit when your mother died, I did feel like a part of me died. (Pausing) But that’s no excuse will for ignoring you and not upholding the same expectations.

JJ: (Voice trembling) Dad, I never wanted to sell weed or do anything with drugs, but I just had all this free time so I started hanging with the wrong crowd and just got caught up. It also took my mind off the pain of dealing with my mom’s death. (Pausing) Mama use to always say an idle mind is the devil workshop. I thought she made that up, but then one day she sat me down

and showed me in the bible, right there in **Proverbs 16:27**, “**Idle hands are the devil’s workshop; idle lips are his mouthpiece.**”

Rev. Chambers: (Reaching out to his son) Wow, it’s so imperative that I as a father teach you and show you the word of God, just like your mother did with you. (Pausing) How can I help the youth of the church, when I can’t even teach you my very own son about the Savior.

JJ: (Shaking his head) Dad, that’s not true you taught me a lot about Christ, but we all fall and come short of his glory. I know right from wrong, don’t blame yourself for my mistake.

Rev. Chambers: (Grabbing his bible) You’re right, you do know right from wrong, but as your father I still have the responsibility to show you the way, teach you the truth, and show you the light. (Pausing) We’re going to get through all this legal stuff and we’re going to get back on track. Okay son? (Gets up and hugs son) I need to go and work on my vision for the youth because I see the need and the importance of the children and youth in the church. Thank you son and I love you.

JJ: (Smiling) You’re welcome dad. I will be in the car with you bright and early Sunday morning heading to church. (Pausing) And dad, I love you too.

Scene Ends

Scene Five:

(Back to at the church, Sis. Sims and Mother Mathis talk about some of the reasons and issues with the youth department)

Sis. Sims: (Looking concerned) What am I going to do about our Youth Department? (Pausing) It just makes me sad to see it dying.

Mother Mathis: Look, you are doing your best, but I have been saying for the past couple of years especially after the pandemic; we need to focus on the youth department because any fool has to see and realize that it is dying off.

Sis. Sims: (Looking frustrated) But why Mother Mathis?

Mother Mathis: Because the church is not standing on and staying true to the word of God. See its okay for the world to do whatever it wants and desires to do, but the church that’s a no-no. (Pausing) The church knows better, but we’re too busy conforming to the world, that I sometimes forget if I’m in church or the streets.

Sis. Sims: (Agreeing with Mother Mathis) Boy, ain’t that the truth. (Pausing) I was really surprised by Deacon Johnson when he said it’s a waste of time.

Mother Mathis: (Laughing) Why? Johnson is old and tied, but I understand his frustration.

Sis. Sims: What? You feel that way too?

Mother Mathis: (Shaking her head) No Einstein. All I’m saying is times are different now. When I was a child, I wish I would tell my mama and daddy I wasn’t going to church, or I didn’t feel like going to church. (Pausing) Man, I would get a whoopin not even washing powder nor bleach could get that whoopin off me.

Sis. Sims: (Looking shocked) Are you serious Mother Mathis?

Mother Mathis: (Laughing) Didn’t Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead? (Pausing) You do know what a whoopin is right?

Sis. Sims: Really? Of course Mother Mathis. I got a whoopin before.

Mother Mathis: (Smiling) I was just checking because I want us to be on the same page, because you over here smelling like Johnson & Johnson baby powder and lotion.

Sis. Sims: (Laughing) Mother Mathis you are too funny.

Mother Mathis: (Chuckling) What? Just pray for me, but seriously what I meant about understanding Deacon Johnson, is that parents must start being parents and stop being “friends.”

Sis. Sims: (Agreeing) That’s right mother. (Pausing) “Friends?” Sad, but so true.

Mother Mathis: What? If they stop being friends with their children and start disciplining then you wouldn’t have all of these unruly children in the church. (Pausing) Somewhere, the world and especially black folk have stopped respecting God and making him priority in their homes.

Sis. Sims: I guess if I look at it from that perspective then I guess I can understand the way Deacon Johnson feels.

Mother Mathis: (Reaching out to Sis. Sims) I don’t want you to give up on the youth department, but if we want to save our children and our youth department; we’ve got to go back to the days of going to get the children, teaching them, training them, and even disciplining them because we know a lot of our kids are not getting it at home. If they were getting all of this at home, then our churches would be filled with children and youth.

Sis. Sims: (Nodding her head) You right mother, we must get them here. (Pausing) I guess that’s where I will start first is by finding ways to get them here. Once, I get them here then I can start teaching and training them.

Mother Mathis: (Nodding her head) Of course I’m right, all this gray hair in my head is just not because I’m old, this gray hair represents wisdom and knowledge.

Sis. Sims: (Hugging Mother Mathis) I love you Mother Mathis and thank you for sharing your wisdom and knowledge with me.

Mother Mathis: (Looking excited) Let me share a little bit more wisdom with you. If churches would go back to “The Solid Rock” then we and our children would be alright. (Gets excited) Sis. Sims, I know who the solid rock is and we have to teach our children who about the solid rock. (Pausing) See my hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name. On Christ the solid rock I stand all other round is sinking sand. (Hallelujah)

Scene Ends

Scene Six:

(Back at the church, the board members listen to Pastor Chambers talk about his vision for the church)

Rev. Chambers: (Standing) I went home and I prayed, I mediated, I cried, and I rejoiced because the last time I seen you all, I was not in a righteous place or time in my life. My son had just been arrested for selling weed, I’m still dealing with the death of my wife, and my vision for the church was just that, my vision. (Pausing) So when I came to present my vision it wasn’t prepared because it wasn’t God’s vision, it was mine.

Deacon Johnson: (Clearing his throat) Well pastor I wasn’t expecting for you to open the meeting like this.

Rev. Chambers: (Agreeing) I know Deacon Johnson, but in our last meeting my mind and heart was so heavy I just was not expecting what I received in that meeting.

Sis. Sims: (Looking confused) Well what did you receive Rev. Chambers?

Rev. Chambers: What I received was a word from God. (Pausing) The word was so tight, but it was so right. (Pausing) Sis. Sims, I was disconnected from the will of God. How can I pastor this church and make changes if I’m not connected to God?

Deacon Johnson: (Looking puzzled) What you mean pastor?

Rev. Chambers: (Patting his heart) Simply, sometimes we get so evolved in self, that we forget the purpose and plan that God has set before us. (Pausing) When Sis. Sims was telling me her concerns about the youth department my heart was beating so fast because she was talking about me and my son JJ situation at home.

Mother Mathis: (Smiling) Make it plain son, make it plain.

Rev. Chambers: JJ wasn't coming to church, JJ was disrespecting me and everyone else, and JJ was getting in trouble in the school and community. (Pausing) JJ is a part of our youth department and JJ is my son, that's why my vision for right now has changed because our children and youth are vital to the future of this church.

Deacon Johnson: Rev. Chambers okay I know we need to revamp our youth department, but we have more important things besides the youth department.

Sis. Sims: (Angrily) Deacon Johnson, how can you say something like that?

Mother Mathis: (Putting her finger over mouth at Sis. Sims) Remember what I said, old and tied, old and tied.

Rev. Chambers: (Very Calm) Deacon Johnson, you are absolutely wrong. Our children and youth need us more than ever. We must be what the world will never be.

Deacon Johnson: (Looking upset) What is that?

Rev. Chambers: (Walking toward Deacon Johnson) The church must be their safe place and their solid rock. (Pausing) After sitting and talking to my son and hearing his cry for my attention to support him, teach him, and most importantly love him, I thought how many of our children and youth are sitting at homes feeling the same way, but unlike me haven't realized it yet? (Pausing) See how can reconnect when there's a disconnect?

Mother Mathis: (Smiling) You making it plain Rev. Chambers.

Rev. Chambers: (Looking at Deacon Johnson) Deac, we do have other things we need to work on, but my priority is my youth department. (Pausing) So I'm going to, no I mean we're all going to support Sis. Sims, build a team around her, and help Sis. Sims bring our Youth Department back to life. **The bible says in Psalms 127:3, “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward,” but Jesus said in Mark 10:14, “Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.** Therefore, Deacon Johnson it is our responsibility to take care of our children and youth because they're the church of tomorrow. (Pausing) See the disconnect is we meaning the church has forgotten how important the children and youth are to the church, but watch how we are about to start making the reconnection. (Pausing) We're going to sit down for the remainder of this meeting and start making phone calls to parents, grandmas, uncles and aunts, or whoever have kids to let them know if they can't bring them to church on Sunday, the church vans will come and pick them up. (Pausing) Deacon Johnson, this may not be what you want, but this is what the church needs.

Deacon Johnson: (Nodding his head) Okay pastor, I will follow your vision as you follow Christ.

Sis. Sims: (Happily) Amen somebody.

Mother Mathis: (Smiling looking up towards God) Thank you Lord, he made it plain.

End of Play- Finale Selection