



# POWER LUNCH

February 2006

*Bringing Worship to the Workplace*

## Founder's Message

### Positioned to be God's Witness



Now more than ever, we need to realize that God has strategically positioned us all over the world to minister to His people--and that includes the workplace. God has trained us and equipped us in different areas of study and in various fields so that we might meet the spiritual needs of His people during the times when there is injustice, unrest, pain, and disease. So when there is an injustice in the boardroom, God has placed a foot soldier there to speak for Him or when one of His children is in pain in the cafeteria, God has another soldier there to minister His word. We cannot forget that God is a strategist. In the movie *Training Day*, Denzel Washington says, "It's chess not checkers" and we cannot forget that God thinks the same way. God is the ultimate chess player. He's positioned us all over the board or the earth to fulfill His purposes, and I don't know if you know anything about chess, but the goal of the game is to take out the opponent's king, or in other words, to establish a new kingdom. Well, it's the same with God. He's establishing a new kingdom, a new dispensation, and you and I have a role in it that stems from how God has gifted us and trained us. That's why in Acts 1:8 Jesus says you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you shall be my witnesses because the Holy Spirit not only equips us for spiritual matters, but also equips us so that we might become effective workers in our professional lives as well. The Holy Spirit gives us the unction and the boldness we need to go and labor in the vineyard. But, why would the Holy Spirit empower you for your job? Well, the Spirit empowers us in the workplace because it allows God to cover a lot of territory and

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"*  
**(Acts 1:8 NIV).**

*Continued on Page 2*

### Releasing the Nets By L. Taylor

Occasionally in life, we experience major transitions, whether it's a move to a new city, a new job, or just some of the unexpected changes life brings. Nevertheless, we always strive to be prepared when these changes occur. But what if something we are totally unprepared for happens? What is it on the inside of us that keeps us ready for major life transitions?



**Take a risk and cast your net.**

This reminds me of the call of the first disciples who initially worked as fisherman going about their business as usual. Suddenly, they had an encounter with Christ. Luke 5:11 tells us that they left everything and followed Jesus. The obedience of their actions spoke louder than any words. They moved as commanded and embarked upon the destiny that the Lord had in store for them. The short and sweet gospel of Mark tells us that James and John, sons of Zebedee, were out fishing on the boat with their father, and Jesus called them out to be disciples. "At once, they left their nets and followed Him" (Mark 1:18 NIV). They left their father in the boat, and they left the comfort and security of what they knew accepting Christ as the new covenant and order for their lives. Ever so often, in order to completely submit ourselves over to the will of God, we have to leave environments or persons that are comfortable to us. One thing

*Continued on Page 2*

**Founder  
& DC Host Minister**



**The Rev. Matthew L. Watley**

### NEW POWER LUNCH LOCATION!

God has enlarged our territory!  
Starting Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>  
Power Lunch will hold weekly services in Suitland, MD at Hunter Memorial AME Church from 11:45 a.m. To 12:45 p.m. The esteemed Rev. Harold B. Hayes will be the host minister. Spread the word so that others might be blessed! We look forward to seeing you there.

### ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

**Founder's Message  
Positioned to be God's Witness  
By The Rev. Matthew L. Watley**

**Releasing the Nets  
By L. Taylor**

**New Power Lunch Location!**

**Power Lunch's 2006  
Calendar of Events**

**Words of Wisdom**

*Continued from Page 1*     **Positioned to be God's Witness**

reach more people. Remember He said to go into the world. And, the more trained and disciplined we are in our various fields, the more doors there will be opened for us, which means the more resources we will have to do the will of the Father and the more influence we will have over others to steer them to Christ. It's called promotion. That's why in Esther 4:14 Mordecai says to Esther, "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" Mordecai reminded Esther that God had promoted her so that she might speak for God in the palace and intercede for God's people. And do not forget, as we are trained and groomed in our various occupations, so was Esther. She was trained and groomed to be queen for a year. God trained her to be a leader so that He could strategically place her in the palace, and after her training, the Holy Spirit empowered her so that she might be a witness for God despite her fear. That's what God is calling us to do.

The Rev. Dr. Barbara A. Reynolds a noted columnist, author, and minister said something that I will never forget. She said, "The journalists need a pastor," and I know you're wondering what does that mean? Well, she was pinpointing the great need for ministry in the workplace. Her particular area just happened to be journalism, but it applies to every area. How can God reach project managers that don't go to church if there are no saved project managers in the workplace? She also pondered that out of all the negative media and press that gets printed and aired on television and radio, "Who will speak for God?" Well, where is the voice of God in your occupation? Who will speak for God in your workplace? Who will speak for God in the accounting department, in the mailroom, on the delivery truck, or in the boardroom? Will you? God is calling all of us to speak for Him in our various disciplines, and He's calling us to minister to those in our workplace that He's placed under our care. It's time for us to step into our Esther moment and be God's witnesses.

*Continued from Page 1*     **Releasing the Nets**

that I love about this story is the immediacy of their actions. The Bible says "at once," as in right then and there, they took a risk that many of us would not have been willing to take. Where's the security in that? Where's the 401K and benefits package? Where's the vacation time, maternity leave, or sick leave? The disciples took a shot on destiny by putting all of those things in the hands of God. That's not to say that the Lord will not provide for us when we choose to do His will, but more importantly, we must take comfort in the Comforter knowing that if He ordains it, He will sustain it. Easier said than done, right? Just look at Psalm 105. It tells us how God intends on bringing His promises to pass; by establishing a covenant and then keeping it through the generations until it comes to fruition. We have to ask the Lord to help us view His will for us as an extension of the story knowing that victory is in the end, no matter what path it takes to get there. The type of careers that the disciples had before God called them really stands out in this story. Levi or Matthew was a tax collector sitting at his booth when he was called. His most trusted Peter, James, and John were all fisherman. The Lord equipped them with skills in their secular jobs that cultivated them for kingdom work. When the Lord called them, He gave them an increased desire and sensitivity to the things of God. Doing the work of God takes you from the position in your natural life and translates it into your spiritual life. When we finally discover our call, the Lord reveals His higher purpose. In turn, this gives our vocations more validity than ever before. I admit it can be extremely difficult to realize the call on our lives. It can be equally difficult to get support and understanding from those we love during this time. However, be steadfast for when we receive the task, we should plan accordingly, for the Lord is our security (Proverbs 3:21-26, 4:11, Jeremiah 29:11). As Christians we have to learn to let go, and release the nets within us that may be holding us back from the work and will of God. We can almost always expect to be asked to leave something behind. But that's OK because doing the Lord's work can turn us into trendy jet-setters who never have to pack because at each and every new destination, God has everything we need already waiting for us.



**Words of Wisdom**  
By L. Taylor

*Though there is liberty in the Holy Spirit, our true test of  
faithfulness comes not while we are bound,  
But while we are free.*

**2006 PL CALENDAR** **DATES OF SPECIAL SERVICES  
ARE TO BE DETERMINED****March**

PL Focuses on Small Business

**April**

Family &amp; Friends Day

**May**

Crusade for Christ

**June**

Men's Month

**July**PL 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Buyers  
Seminar**August**

Spirituality &amp; Leadership Month

**September**PL's 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**October**

PL's Seeding Season Celebration

**November**

PL Focuses on Health

**December**

Women's Month

**Save these dates!****2005 Contribution  
Statements Are Available**

If you would like a statement of  
your financial contributions  
towards Power Lunch during 2005,  
see a volunteer today!

**Write for the Newsletter!**

Do you want to share the  
goodness of God with others? Are  
you gifted in the area of writing?

**Why not submit to *The Power  
Lunch Newsletter*. We are  
accepting articles to include for  
upcoming editions. The articles  
must be Bible based and must  
focus on applying Biblical  
principles in the workplace.**

Submit all articles to:

[lphepls@powerlunchonline.com](mailto:lphepls@powerlunchonline.com)

Submit today!

*Stay tuned for the  
March edition of  
**The Power Lunch Newsletter!***