

LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.

New Membership Class

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New Member Guide
vs. 2025

Part ONE: Let's Learn Church Doctrine

The Church (extracted from *Junior's Baptism Guide*)

- The Church is a public place of worship, where believers gather together in service, worship and praise to God.
- The Church considered the Temple of God, where the Holy Spirit dwells (lives).
- The Church is also called the Body of Christ, which means we are the church. That means we are His Temple and He dwells in us.
- The Church is not just a building but it is also a movement of believers of Jesus

The Church (extracted from *Adult's Baptism Guide*)

Definition of DOCTRINE: *Noun*

- ✓ A belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a church, political party, or other group.
- ✓ E.g. A stated principle of government policy, mainly in foreign or military affairs: "the Monroe Doctrine".

Synonyms: tenet - ism - teaching – dogma

Apostle Paul had much to say about doctrine and its importance. Doctrine is simply the teachings of the Bible, God's Word. As Christians, we should know what the Bible teaches. Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:13, "Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine." 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Here are some of the doctrines of Lighthouse Ministries International:

Doctrine of The Bible

We believe in the Bible as the inspired word of God (every word inspired and completely given to us), as we find in the original manuscripts. All portions of the scripture are equally inspired and contain no contradictions. The 66 books we have complete the Bible, never to be added to or taken from. *Scripture References:* 1 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:1; 1 Peter 1:18-21; Rev. 22:18-19.

Doctrine of God

We believe the Godhead exists in three persons - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are eternal. These three make one God, which is called the Trinity. They are equal in all respects. *Scripture References:* Gen. 1:1, 1:25; John 1:1, 14; John 14:16-17; 1 Tim. 3:16.

Doctrine of Jesus

We believe that Jesus is God the Son (deity), born of a virgin, begotten by the Holy Spirit. He was God and man - the God-Man. He is the only way of salvation, He died, was buried, and rose again the third

day. He is coming back for us, the church. He was without any sin whatsoever. *Scripture References:* Isa. 7:14; Luke 1:35; 1 John 1:1-4; John 10:30; John 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5-6; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:4-6.

Doctrine of The Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is God and equal with the Father and Son. He is a person, not just an influence. He convicts, regenerates, indwells, seals, infills, empowers and guides the believer. When you got saved the Holy Spirit came into your heart. *Scripture References:* John 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 6:19; Eph. 1:13; 5:18

Doctrine of Man

We believe that God created man in His own image and that man sinned against God. All men are born with sinful nature and must be born again or he will be eternally lost in hell. *Scripture References:* Gen. 1:26-27; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23; Rev. 20:11-15; Rev. 21:8.

Doctrine of Salvation

We believe a person is saved when he repents of his sin and turns in faith by accepting Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. The believer is kept by the power of God and is eternally secure in Christ.

Salvation includes access to the forgiveness of sins past, present, and future, which gives us a right standing before God in Jesus Christ. Death fixes the fate of a person, no second chance after death. *Scripture References:* John 1:12; John 5:24; John 10:28, 29; 1 Peter 1:5; Eph. 2:8-10; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 20:11-15.

Doctrine of The Church

We believe the local church is:

- ✓ Composed of members of the Body of Christ who are Spirit-governed, and who make up the universal Body of Christ.
- ✓ Composed of believers baptized in the Body of Christ.
- ✓ Composed of believers who are organized and have ministry gifts in operation such as Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher, Helps, etc.
- ✓ Composed of believers who meet regularly for fellowship, worship and Bible study.
- ✓ Composed of believers who observe ordinances of Baptism and Lord's Supper.
- ✓ Composed of believers who carry out The Great Commission.

Scripture References: 1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:41, 47; Heb. 10:35; 1 Cor. 11:23; Matt. 28:18-20.

Doctrine of satan and Fallen Angels

We believe that Satan is a personal being, created perfect by God, but sinned and became the arch enemy of God and His creation. He is the believers' chief adversary. He seeks to keep men from Christ

and believers from living for the Lord. He is in command of a host of fallen angels (demons) who carry out his orders. He has only the power God allows him, and will one day be cast into a lake of fire forever. *Scripture References:* Ezekiel 28:12-19; Isa. 14:12-15; Rev. 12:10; Rev. 20:10, 2 Timothy 3:16

Part TWO: Welcome To The Family at Lighthouse Ministries International

Unique Qualities: Non-Denominational • Multicultural • Serving One God Under Many Roofs • Multilingual • Evangelical Pentecostal • A City of Light & Hope • Servant-Leadership • Community Outreach & Enrichment • National & International Missions • Education & Development

Now that you have accepted Jesus as Savior, decided to declare it to the world, or renewed your commitment, and have learned a little more about THE CHURCH of God, welcome to the Family of God at Lighthouse Ministries International.

Learn about Lighthouse Ministries International and Why Membership with us is GOOD:

To read our History visit our website www.lhmiinc.org hover over "About" and select "History".

THE NAME OF THE CHURCH shall be known as **LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**, also referred to **LHMI, Inc. or LHMI.** (*LHMI Constitution Article 1-vs2008*)

Purposes And Power (*LHMI Constitution Article 2-vs2008*)

Purposes for which this Church is organized are within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law. The objectives and purposes of the Church and the nature of the business to be carried on by it are as follows:

- I. To share the divine revelation of full salvation through Jesus Christ as recorded in the Holy Scriptures
- II. To evangelize lost mankind and minister redemption to society
- III. To prepare new converts to worship God in a dynamic way
- IV. To guide believers into experiencing the fullness of the Holy Spirit so that they can live holy and victorious lives
- V. To conduct prayer meetings and Bible studies.
- VI. To provide a supportive and nurturing environment to meet the needs of its parishioners and the community.
- VII. To conduct revivals throughout Maryland and other states.
- VIII. To engage in all lawful activities that further, or are consistent with, the preceding objectives and purposes of the Church.

Mission-Vision-Statement Of Allegiance (*LHMI Constitution Article 3-vs2008; updated 7/2017*)

- I. **Our Mission:** *Our mission is to exalt Jesus Christ through evangelism, worship and Biblical living.*

- II. **Our Vision:** *To advance the principles of God's Kingdom on earth.*
- III. **Our Statement of Allegiance:** *We believe that Lighthouse Ministries International will fulfill its God given purpose as long as its Pastors, leaders and members live in complete obedience to God and His Word.*

Our Core Values (LHMI Constitution Article 4-vs2008)

- ✓ *Love for God and Man*
- ✓ *Faithfulness to Jesus and His Word*
- ✓ *Loyalty*
- ✓ *Integrity*
- ✓ *Respect for our family*
- ✓ *Respect for Spiritual and Civil Authority*
- ✓ *Humility*

The Church under the leadership of the Pastor and the Board will carry out the purposes hereinabove set forth in any State, territory, district, possession, dependency or other political subdivision of the United States of America or any foreign country to the extent that such purposes are not forbidden by law of such state, territory, district, possession, dependency, or political subdivision of the United States of America or by any foreign country. The highest governing authority of Lighthouse Ministries International is vested in the members present at the Annual Business Meeting.

Articles of Religion / Belief & Faith (LHMI Constitution Article 5-vs2008)

1. *We believe the Holy Bible to be the inspired Word of God, without error, the all-sufficient authority in matters of Faith, Doctrine and Christian Living. II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21*
2. *We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Genesis 1:26; I John 5:7*
3. *We believe in the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ and that He is the true God and man. He died on the cross for our sins. He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven where He sits at the right hand of the Father and is now our High Priest and Advocate. Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23-25*
4. *We believe that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost. Only through regeneration by the work of the Holy Spirit can man's salvation and spiritual life be obtained. Acts 4:12*
5. *We believe that eternal salvation is the free gift of God, entirely apart from man's works and is possessed by any and all who have faith in Jesus Christ and have received Him as their personal Lord and Savior. John 3:16; John 6:47*
6. *We believe in a regenerated church membership: that is, persons old enough to understand their need for Jesus Christ and of their own free will accept Him as their personal Lord and Savior. Acts 2:38-41*

7. *We believe that baptism is by immersion, and the Lord's Supper is a memorial to His suffering and death on the cross. They are ordinances to be observed by the church in its present age, but should not be regarded as means for man's salvation. Matthew 3:13-17; Matthew 26:26-28; Matthew 28:18-20*
8. *We believe in the personal, bodily, imminent, and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ and that His second coming inspires believers for dynamic and zealous life and service for Him while waiting for His return. I Thessalonians 4:16-18; Matthew 24:1-51*
9. *We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, the everlasting blessedness of the saved in heaven, and the eternal punishment and separation from God of the unsaved in hell. Matthew 25:41-46; I Thessalonians 4:13*
10. *We believe in the autonomy of the local church which shall manage its own affairs and not be subjected to any other religious body or organization. Ephesians 1:20-23*
11. *We believe that all the gifts of the Spirit were given for the edification of the Saints and the advancement of the Kingdom of God on earth. I Corinthians 12:4-11; I Corinthians 12:27-31*
12. *We believe that tithing is a Biblical principle God has instituted for the propagation of the Gospel. Malachi 3:6-12; I Corinthians 16:1-4*
13. *We believe that all disputes must be settled according to the scriptures. Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 6:1-12*
14. *We believe that it is the responsibility of every believer to be witnesses for the Kingdom of God. Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20*

Part THREE: Responsibilities of a New believe/A Christian and /or A Member

Now that you are saved and have this assurance from the Word of God, God wants you to continue on in your Christian life by being involved and a part of a church family. Hebrews 10: 25 tells us “***And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.***”

Remember that Ephesians 2:8, 9 tells you that you were saved "by grace through faith" and not by good works you have done or ever will do. After a person is saved, he becomes a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17) and all things become new.

You now have a desire to do what is right and the spiritual ability to live a godly life because you have God's Spirit or new nature. When we obey and allow the Holy Spirit to direct us we are being obedient to God's Word.

Ephesians 5:18 tells the Christian "*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.*" Being filled with the Spirit means to allow Him to direct and be the guiding influence in our lives. As a new Christian and Member, you will want to do things that please the Lord.

FIND YOUR PLACE IN THE BODY

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. -- Romans 12:4-5

Some things that are done at church:

- Playing Music / Singing
- Dance
- Preaching
- Fellowship (Children, Youths, Young Adults, Women / Men, Family Life)
- Audio Visual
- Cleaning
- Serving Food
- Teaching
- Admin. Volunteer and Fundraising
- Evangelism
- Charity Outreaches / Missions

Let's look at several of the things required of you as a Christian and Member of LHMI:

I. Share the Gospel

We have responsibilities to the Lord to let other people know that you have been saved. Let your friends know what has happened to you. We should not be ashamed of Christ (Romans 1:16).

It will also strengthen you in the Lord, because as you obey and do what the Bible instructs you grow and mature as a Christian. It is like a child who begins to attend school in the first grade. The teacher instructs the child in learning the alphabet. If the child obeys and learns them, then soon he is beginning to read.

II. Grow and Mature

Maturing in Christ is similar. God's word is our textbook to teach us how we should live. It tells us how to live the best life we possibly can. As we obey the commandments of the Lord, we learn them and then go on to learn other lessons. As a new Christian you should seek to obey the Bible, which is God's instruction book on life.

III. Honor Your Membership and Be Faithful in Attendance

In Acts 2:41, we find that when a person was saved, he was baptized and joined the local church. This baptism identifies you with the local church. The church is God's place for Christians to be taught the Bible, to have fellowship with other Christians, and a place to pray and worship the Lord.

**NOTHING CAN REPLACE THE CHURCH,
NOT EVEN SUNDAY MORNING T.V. OR RADIO PREACHING.**

You need to be in church! You should immediately be baptized and join the local church after being saved. This is one of your first opportunities to obey the Lord and please Him.

Hebrews 10:25 tells us to be faithful in our church attendance. This means you should attend church as often as you are able. *It is understandable that if a person is working or sick they cannot attend.* However, unless you are providentially hindered you should attend church.

Today, many believers ignore Bible Study Class. They feel content to attend only on Sunday Morning. Each service and meeting the church has is designed to help and aid the Christian in living abundant lives in Christ. In the Sunday morning service there will be more visitors, and generally lost people in church. The messages tend to be more evangelistic, and the subject is generally geared toward salvation.

The Evening Service (when applicable) is attended by the faithful members of the church, and the messages preached, at helping them to grow in the Lord. Church members who only attend the one service miss a great opportunity to receive the deeper spiritual truths of the Bible. You see, faithful attendance will be a key to your Christian life and growth.

Support the special services also with your attendance, such as church fellowships. The last part of the Lord's instructions to the Disciples in Matt. 28 tells us to teach new converts the Word of God. ***This is done through the ministry of the local church in each of its services.***

The Pastor, First Lady, Clergy and Leaders are faithful in being on duty, prepared to teach and preach God's Word to help you grow in Christ. Your privilege is to attend and avail yourself of the opportunity; to respect that the Pastor, First Lady and Leaders also have other commitments but take time out to serve you and the community.

One note on preaching and teaching:

Many Pastors really pray and seek God's guidance in what to preach. They study really hard and spend a great deal of time preparing their lessons and messages. It is estimated that most good pastors spend from four to six hours on each message. Being lead of the Lord they come and deliver God's message to the church. However, if church members are not there they do not hear what God has to say to them as a local church.

So if or when you choose not to attend Sunday Service, Bible Study, Prayer meetings and Special Services/Events you in fact are voting to discontinue them. You also are telling your neighbors and others in the church you do not think that these services are important. You miss the opportunity to show your love and dedication to the Lord, by faithfully supporting the total ministry of the church.

We know that it takes time, effort and expense to attend all the services of the church. However, the benefit received will outweigh any sacrifice on our part.

One verse of Scripture that instructs how dedicated to Lord we should be is found in Romans 12:1-2. "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*" (Romans 12:1-2).

IV. Participate in the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper and baptism are two ordinances of the church. The Lord's Supper is also **only** for the saved person.

I Corinthians 11:23-26 tells us what it represents. The bread represents Christ's body and the wine represents His blood which was shed for us. This is a reminder of what Christ has done for us until He comes back. This is a serious time and should never be taken lightly. If sin resides in your life, repent before partaking of the Holy Sacraments less you drink damnation unto yourself.

V. Give To the Lord

Give Yourself and Time

Giving of yourself is important. Apostle Paul says in Romans 12:1, we should, ". . . *present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*" The Lord wants YOU more than anything else you might give to Him. Surrender yourself **TOTALLY** to Him and determine to follow Him and be obedient to Him. Let Him have control of your life.

Giving Your Praise and Thanksgiving

Hebrews 13:15 tells us to *offer to God our praise for all that He has done for us*. We praise Him with our lips through prayer and telling others about what Christ has done for us.

Giving of our Money & Possessions

2 Corinthians 9:7, tells us that *God loves a cheerful giver*. God told His people in the Old Testament to bring their tithes into God's storehouse. A tithe is 10% of what you earn or receive.

God promised to bless those who tithed in the Old Testament (Malachi 3). In the New Testament, His faithful consistent giving in cheerfulness is confirmed. 1 Corinthians 16:2 gives us an example, to give every Sunday (first day of the week), to the local church, as God has prospered. **Stop right here and read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.**

Believe what God says about His blessing for you and then obey Him every Sunday. This also is another way of expressing to the Lord your love and thanks. **God wants you to grow spiritually and become a mature Christian.** Some Christians have a real struggle with making the commitment given to the Lord. Christians who have been obedient understand the value of regular giving of offerings to the Lord. Note that as you read 2 Cor. 9:7, it says, "*Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*"

You should make it a matter of prayer as to how much you are to give the Lord. Surely, it should be at least ten percent, as is required in the Old Testament. But you may want to give more. Remember what verse 6, says "*But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully*". (2 Corinthians 9:6)

This is a matter between you and the Lord. Nonetheless, a husband and wife should discuss the matter and pray about it **together**. If a wife has a husband that is lost, and has no regular income, she should give from what she receives. The same applies to children who are saved. It is a good idea for the parent to instruct the child in Scriptural giving from their allowance or money they earn from chores. Remember, this is a matter between you and the Lord. It is a matter of exercising faith in the Lord to supply your needs. **God has promised to meet your needs and to bless you materially when you faithfully give.** See Philippians 4:10-19.

David understood this principle and wrote, "*I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.*" (Psalms 37:25) "*Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*" (Luke 6:38)

The money you give to the church pays the utility bills, buys literature, maintains the building, supports our missions & outreach programs and pays for the ministry of the church including the pastors and staff financial support. When some of the members of the church do not give on a consistent basis, these material expenses of the church can be neglected, causing strains on the operations of the church. A church will not have to pinch pennies, neglect missions, scrimp on purchasing literature, property or not properly support their pastor if all the members will give. God will supply the need but only through those who faithfully give and let themselves be used as a channel to carry out God's work in the local church.

VI. Read Your Bible

The Bible is God's Word to man. It reveals the plan of God for all of mankind. It reveals the nature of God, the sinfulness of man, the plan of salvation in Christ, the prospects of heaven for the saved, the doom of the unsaved in hell, guidelines for the Christian to follow in order to live and act as he should. ***It is God's love letter to us.*** It is the most important object we have on this earth. We are to love it, learn it, and then live by it.

God puts great emphasis on His Word. In fact, the longest chapter in the whole Bible (Psalm 119), speaks entirely about the Bible and its place in our life. God wants to talk with us and teach us. 2 Timothy 3:16 tells us that all scripture is "inspired" by God and is profitable to us. This is called the doctrine of the "inspiration of Scripture".

It means every word that the writer wrote down was exactly what God wanted written. This is also called the doctrine of "verbal plenary inspiration", or in other words every word was inspired by God and was without error. *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* (2 Timothy 3:17)

The Bible Is Our Food

The Bible is spiritual food to the Christian and is absolutely necessary if you are to grow and develop into a strong and mature Christian. We must have physical food to live but also must have spiritual food to stay healthy spiritually. A new believer in Christ is called in the Bible a spiritual babe. Peter tells us that new babes in Christ are to desire the sincere milk of the word that they might grow thereby (1 Peter 2:2). The only way a baby can develop and grow to adulthood is to eat properly. A Christian needs to eat from the Bible every day. A baby is not fed once or twice a week but has to be fed constantly.

The Bible Is Our Light

The Bible is called a light, because it guides our daily walk with God. It tells us what to do and how to live. David said in Psalm 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." The Word of God and the Holy Spirit give us direction.

The Bible is Our Spiritual Weapon

Ephesians 6:11, 17 says we are to put on the whole armor of God that we might stand against the tricks of the devil. When Jesus was tempted by Satan, He met every temptation with God's Word (Matthew 4:3-11). We can do the same. The Bible is our sword in the battle against Satan's temptations. Psalm 119:11 says, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

How To Study The Bible

Since the Bible is God's Word to us, and He is the author, then we must read and study it, so that our spiritual sensitivity may be sharpened. The Bible is very important to us and is very profitable to us. We must therefore study it and live by it. There are different ways to feed on God's word in order to grow spiritually.

Study The Bible By Hearing It: Romans 10:17 says, "faith" cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. We need this faith in order to live properly for the Lord. One of the best ways to study the Bible this way is to hear it preached and taught at church. That is why it is so important to be in church as much as possible.

Study The Bible By Reading and Medicating On It: Apostle Paul told 1 Timothy in 4:13 to ". . . give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine." Every Christian should read the Bible every day of his life.

When we read the Bible, God is speaking to us. We must set aside a time everyday to read and study the Bible. Normally the best time is first thing in the morning. Get up a little earlier so you can spend some time with the Lord in reading His word and prayer. We must do more than read, we must study the Bible. Think about what you are reading.

As a believer, don't expect to understand all you read. It may not all seem to make sense at first, but if you are patient and sincerely study, you will find the Bible fits together. This is why it is important to attend Bible Study. A casual or brief glance once or twice a week, will not teach you the Bible. As you read, underline verses in the Bible that are special to you. Keep a small notebook beside you when you read and write down thoughts the Lord gives to you. Have a Bible reading schedule and mark it as you read.

VII. Have A Prayer Life

After a child is born, he begins to grow. He must have proper food. What a joy for those parents when he begins to walk. They look forward to that day when they hear their baby talk. The words "da da" and "ma ma" are sweet to the ears of a parent. So it is with the Christian.

The Christian needs spiritual food = the Bible. He begins to walk with God. And it also delights the heart of God when His children talk to Him and call His name. **This is what we call prayer.** Talking to God as a child would talk to his father, for He is our Heavenly Father.

As children of God, we can come to God as our Father and expect Him to hear our requests because the new Christian is a Child of God. As a member of God's family presenting our praise, thanksgiving and petitions to our heavenly Father. Hebrews 4:14-16 tells us of this wonderful privilege. As born-again Christians, we can claim this promise. "*Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed*

through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast {our} confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses but was in all {points} tempted as {we are, yet} without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:14-16)

PRAYER IS POWERFUL

James 5:16b says, "...*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth (succeeds) much.*" This simply means that when we pray as God wants us to, then our prayers affect the way things happen and the way God does things. God who knows all things, and what will happen before it happens, still desires us to pray that He can hear and answer our requests. All of us have things we should pray about.

Prayer can do anything that God can do, and that is powerful.

Prayer is a powerful weapon against the enemy.

Examples of People who used the potent weapon of Prayer:

Solomon prayed for wisdom and became one of the wisest men to live. Elijah prayed and fire fell from heaven at Mt. Carmel. Elijah prayed that it would not rain for 3 years, and it didn't. Daniel prayed and God delivered him from a den of lions. The church prayed in Acts 12 that Peter would be delivered from jail and while the group was praying, Peter was delivered and came to the door of the house where they were assembled. There is power in prayer!!

George Muller, who operated a children's home, prayed in several hundred thousand dollars over the years to finance the home. Have you ever prayed for something and received it? If you are saved, you prayed that Christ might come into your heart and save you, **AND HE DID!!** But don't forget the small things God gives to you in answer to prayer.

How Do I Go About Praying As I Should?

Many people want to know HOW am I supposed to pray? Don't feel bad if you are asking this same question. The disciples also had to come to Jesus and say, "Lord, teach us to pray"(Luke 11:1). Don't forget that praying is talking to God with a sincere heart.

- Talk with God as you would your Father, humbly, respectfully, sincerely. He is your Heavenly Father who has saved you from your sin.
- Approach God boldly, but also in a respectful way, realizing He is Holy and Righteous. But don't be afraid, for He loves you and wants to talk with you and you to talk with Him.
- Take time every day to get alone with God and pray. This is a good time for your daily devotion in the Bible too. Before studying, pray to the Lord.
- Just be honest and tell God what is on your heart and let him know you desire to hear what's on his heart as well. Express how you feel and what you desire.

Some people have begun as a new Christian to follow a simple rule of praying. You don't have to follow this exact pattern, but it might help you to develop a good pattern for praying. Make sure it doesn't become mechanical, **for God is REAL and your praying should be real.**

Use ACTS to help you develop and grow your prayer life:

A = Adore and worship the Lord first in praying.

C = Confess any sin and disobedience in your life and ask forgiveness.

T = Thank the Lord for all He has done for you, not only in salvation but for daily things.

S = Supplication, which means praying for others and their needs and also for yourself and the needs you have.

Memorize John 15:7 to help you remember to pray.

VIII. Be A Witness for Jesus and Win Souls

Proverbs 11:30: ". . .he that winneth souls is wise". 2 Timothy 2:2: "*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*"

We have a responsibility to pass on to others what we have received. We have received Christ and His salvation. We should tell others of Christ and the way of salvation. Mark 16:15 tells us to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

Every Christian can and should witness for Jesus Christ. Jesus also promised us the power when the Holy Spirit came, He would give us power to be witnesses for Christ. (Acts 1:8)

A witness is simply one who tells what he has heard, seen and experienced. **IS IT IMPORTANT? YES!!!** The work of winning souls is the greatest job on this earth. The eternal souls of men, women, and children depend upon our telling them. If we don't tell them of Christ and His desire to save them, they will perish in hell forever.

So, let's consider the A B C 's of soul-winning.

1. **APPEARANCE (A)** Many would not think this to be important, but it is. The unsaved person has many ideas about Christians, so we should be the best representatives of Christ we can. Don't forget, the neighbors are watching the appearance of you, your family, your yard, and even how you keep your house. Be a good example.

2. **BEHAVIOR (B)** When you go to homes to visit, remember these few things. Always be nice to people, regardless of the circumstances you might find. Try to win the persons confidence and friendship even before witnessing to him. Talk about things that interest him.

3. **COMPASSION** (C) This may be the most important of the three. Always be mindful that when you witness to a person, he or she will live forever either in heaven or in hell. Before you go, be sure to pray and ask God to help you. The Holy Spirit will guide and help you in witnessing. We never go alone, for He is with us always.

ROMANS ROAD TO SALVATION – Use the Romans Road to Salvation to assist you in the witnessing process. Usually witnessing starts with a casual conversation, asking a question like this. "May I ask you a question? If you were to die today would you know you would go to heaven?" Unless they are saved, they will usually reply, "I hope so," "I don't know," "No," etc. Then you might say this, "Do you mind if I show you from the Bible how you can be saved and know it?" Most people will allow you to do it. Now is when you open your New Testament (use a small Bible).

Try to sit beside the person you are talking with, so they can see what you are reading. Ask if they have a Bible and let them look up the references with you. You would then start with Romans 3:23, and read aloud to them, "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*"

Be sure to include yourself when explaining how all have sinned. Regardless of how good or bad we are, we have all been sinners until we choose to accept Christ as Lord and Savior.

Read to them Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Explain that sin pays wages, death, but that God gives a gift which is life through Christ. Then read him or her Romans 5:8, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Even though we are sinners and deserve to go to hell, Jesus died for us so we could be saved. He died in our place as our substitute. He shed His blood for us to wash away our sins. **CHRIST IS THE ONLY ANSWER AND HOPE TO A PERSON'S NEEDS.**

Then tell him or her what God desires them to do, read him Romans 10:9, 13, "*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.....For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*"

WE MUST BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED FOR US, WAS BURIED AND AROSE FROM THE DEAD AFTER THREE DAYS. CALL UPON THE LORD IN PRAYER TO SAVE HIM.

God will do what He has promised, for God cannot lie. Invite them to come to church with you at the very next service. Encourage him or her to share their salvation experience with others. Every Christian should and can be a soul-winner. Witness in your neighborhood and to your family, and if you are led join the outreach ministry.

PART FOUR: MEMBERSHIP AT LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS *(LHMI Constitution Article 7-vs2008)*

Those persons seeking membership at Lighthouse Ministries International must do the following:

- I. Confess their sins and accept Jesus Christ as Savior and the Holy Spirit as their sanctifier
- II. Must accept our **Articles Of Religion**
- III. Respect the leadership that God sets over them
- IV. Must faithfully tithe their Income for the spreading of the Gospel
- V. Must commit to walk in love and unity with fellow members of Lighthouse Ministries International
- VI. Must attend a Converts/membership class of Lighthouse Ministries International
- VII. Must follow the Lord into the waters of Baptism by immersion
- VIII. Must not be a member of any secret order/lodges
- IX. Individuals from other Bible believing churches desirous of membership at Lighthouse Ministries International must present a letter of recommendation, and be interviewed by the Pastor

CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP *(LHMI Constitution Article 8-vs2008)*

Persons desirous of holding office/position in Lighthouse Ministries International must be Full Members in good standing.

- I. **FULL MEMBER** – A Full Member is one who is sixteen years old and above and has demonstrated Christian maturity and faith in Christ Jesus.
- II. **JUNIOR MEMBER** – A Junior Member is one who is fifteen years old and younger, no less than eight (8) years of age, who has come to faith in Christ. Junior members will hold ministerial offices /head of auxiliaries at LHMI.

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS *(LHMI Constitution Article 9-vs2008)*

Before you are accepted into membership you should publicly and individually answer the following questions with **YES** or **NO**, at the time of your interview:

- I. Do you believe in the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost?
- II. Do you believe that Jesus died to save you from your sins?
- III. Do you believe that the Holy Spirit is your sanctifier?
- IV. Do you believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God without error, the all sufficient authority in matters of faith, doctrines, and in Christian Living?
- V. Do you believe that tithing is a biblical principle that God has instituted for the propagation of the Gospel and will you contribute your resources as the Lord has prospered?
- VI. Do you accept our Articles of Religion?

- VII. Do you accept the authority of the Constitution of LHMI in matters of Church Government?
- VIII. What led you to LHMI?
- IX. Will you faithfully attend services of LHMI and participate in our services, programs and activities?
- X. Will you be a willing participant in soul-winning activities and growing the membership?

LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP (LHMI Constitution Article 10-vs2008)

I. MEMBER

- a. Any member who for six months neglects his/her commitment to live Holy and walk in love, respect and unity with the members of Lighthouse Ministries International and financially support the ministry will lose his/her membership. Every effort will be made by the Pastors and Elders to restore such a brother or sister to the right standing.
- b. Voluntary withdrawal by writing a letter of resignation to the church board.
- c. Joining another religious body or joining a secret order/lodges Action: When any member joins another denomination, or another religious body exercising the function of a church or a secret society/lodge no trial is necessary to remove such a member. The Pastor or representative, having investigated and ascertained the facts, shall report the findings to the next session of the Board. Upon the Board's decision, the secretary shall delete the name of that member from the membership of LHMI.

II. MINISTER/OFFICER

- a. Any Minister/Officer, who fails to live in obedience to the Word of God and uphold the constitution of Lighthouse Ministries International, will lose his/her membership.

[Part FIVE: What's Next?](#)

1. Baptism Candidates

In order to be prepared for Baptism Ceremony, please have the following:

- IX. Bring your written testimony (use the Sample Testimony in the Worksheet as a guide). Be prepared to share it over the microphone with the entire congregation or gathering.
- X. Meet at the time/place specified for information
 - A. Dress comfortably (Males: No spanx. Wear a full T-Shirt and Pants. Females: Wear supporting undergarments under a dress.
 - B. Bring a towel and change of clothing

- XI. Instructions on where to change; where to sit before and after your baptism will be given on the day of the ceremony.
- XII. Verify your name to be printed on your Certificate of Baptism.

2. Membership Candidates

- ✓ Plan to attend the Baptism Ceremony in support of the Candidates going under the waters of baptism.
- XIII. Bring your written testimony (use the Sample Testimony in the Worksheet as a guide). Be prepared to share it over the microphone with the entire congregation or gathering.
- XIV. All Candidates will be seated in the front right row of the service. Plan to be on time.
- XV. Verify your name to be printed on your Certificate of Membership.
- XVI. In addition to the Articles from the Constitution listed above, you can receive a copy of the Constitution of LHMI vs.1.2008 to review and return.

Both Baptism & Membership Candidates are expected to be present before the Church Board for their individual interview.

Lighthouse Ministries International Membership Request Form

Pastors: Rev. Oswen Cameron, PhD, Overseer & Rev. Cora-Dian Cameron, Assoc. Pastor
Mailing: 10727 Tucker Street, Beltsville MD 20705 | Tele: 301-477-107, 443-574-LHMI
E-mail: membership@lhmiinc.org | www.LHMIinc.org

Personal Data

Please complete the information below as accurately as possible.

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ (YYYY/MM/DD) Country of birth: _____

Baptism date: _____ (YYYY/MM/DD) Baptized at: _____

Marital status: Single [] Married [] Divorced [] Separated [] Common-Law Union []

If married, date: _____ (YYYY/MM/DD) Married at: _____

Spouse's First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Do you have children? Yes [] No []. If yes, how many? _____ How many live with you? _____

Please use the lines below to list the name and ages of your children (if applicable):

Contact Information

Your information will remain private and will not be sold to anyone or used for marketing. In addition your contact information will not be listed in our Directory without your authorization.

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Telephone: _____ (landline) _____ (mobile)

E-mail: _____

Best method of contacting you? _____ Best time: _____

Ministry Area(s) of Interest

Please use the lines below to indicate which areas of ministry you would like to serve in at Lighthouse Ministries International.

Visit www.LHMIinc.org go to – GET INVOLVED -- to learn about the various ministries.

Salvation Testimony

Each member should have a definite Salvation experience; please use the lines provided below to share yours. I.e. How do you know that you are a Christian or are saved? *Use an extra sheet if additional space is needed.*

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Membership with us is free and open to all who are seeking a church home which embraces Christian living through Biblical principles, practices and teachings per our Constitution. All candidates meet with the church board for review before being accepted.

** Return completed form to the Information Desk at Church on Sunday **OR** scan and Email completed signed form to contactus@lhmiinc.org at the end of Membership Class, before Meeting with the Board for review. * *