

What is the

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# Unity Through Fellowship

Conference

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In June of 2011, the first Unity Through Fellowship Conference was held in Newark, Delaware. Many may be wondering what exactly is a Unity Through Fellowship Conference? The vision for this yearly gathering came from the heart of Dr. B. J. Pruitt many years ago. The Lord spoke to Dr. Pruitt when he was the Pastor of Spirit and Life Bible Church in Elkton, Maryland. The message was simple. Make a place for the ministry to come together. There was to be no organization associated with this gathering. All were to be welcome no matter what their denomination or affiliation. The only requirement was a willingness to open their hearts in fellowship to other ministers of the Gospel with the intent of developing unity born of our love and concern for one another.

For some thirty years an annual conference was held at Spirit and Life for this purpose. The local church became the venue for the conference and provided the people and infrastructure that made it possible. This was a tremendous service by the local fellowship to the greater body of Christ; however this was never a “church conference.” In this way Spirit and Life became “neutral ground” for ministers from many different streams to come together.

There were some things that developed as defining characteristics of this conference. One was a complete disregard for the size of church or ministry represented. There were no “big and small” ministries or churches. We were all laborers in the Lords field and everyone had access to everyone else.

Second, Dr. Pruitt always said this at the beginning of the meeting. “If you have some pet doctrine that is important to you, that’s fine. Just check it at the door and pick it up on the way out.” Although there was always excellent teaching based on solid biblical principle, this was not a conference based around any particular teaching or doctrinal stream. The emphasis was on the need for relationships between ministers.

As the years went by, God blessed this conference and drew many to it. At one point there were over 200 pastors, ministers and their wives or husbands coming from all over the world. The atmosphere and spirit that was cultivated by Dr. Pruitt and the anointing on his life caused relationships to naturally develop at a level that caused many to last for a lifetime.

People who would have never even met became lifelong friends, fathers and sons and mothers and daughters. It was a truly unique thing that resulted in a real unity born of fellowship. This unity changed the Body of Christ in many nations.

As is the way of things, time passed circumstances changed, and the conferences came to an end. For many of us there were other very good conferences that provided important things for our lives, but nothing that could take the place of the atmosphere and relationships that Dr. Pruitt's unity through fellowship approach provided.

In 2011 some of us approached Dr. Pruitt, now a robust 80 years old, and asked him to consider releasing that anointing again. After much prayer he agreed. On June 22, 2011, surrounding the celebration of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, the first Unity Through Fellowship Conference was held at the Executive Banquet and Conference Center in Newark, Delaware. We believe this is a new beginning for this approach to ministry relationships.

We would like to invite you to attend our next gathering which will be June 19-22, 2012 at the same location. Plan on brining your spouse as we believe that ministry marriages are under great pressure and the fellowship you will experience will strengthen that area as well. You will meet people who are dealing with the same things you are. You will make friends and renew relationships. You may find accountability relationships that will change your life. You will certainly find covenant brothers and sisters that will be there when you need them.

You will also find anointed praise and worship that will help us all have a real encounter with the Lord. You will receive some powerful teaching that will strengthen you and your ministry. Finally there will be prophetic ministry, both personally and corporately that will bring healing and direction to those who need it.

So remember; check your "pet" doctrines at the door. Forget about big and small in relation to your ministry. Just come ready to receive but just as important ready to give. Over food and in times of fellowship we will strengthen one another, pray for one another and minister healing and life as we share our time together.

I look forward to meeting many new friends in the years to come.

Pastor Bill Kiefer

Senior Pastor: Living Word Christian Center Greene, New York