



Open Letter from the President, "God Has Spoken! He has the Final Say!"



Rev. Dr. John C. Dortch, President/CEO

Last week, I announced the closing of the Circle of Hope Ministries' Veterans' First Thrift Store. That decision was made because Jim and Kathy Powley, the elderly couple who voluntarily, lovingly and successfully managed the thrift store decided to resign to enjoy the remaining golden years of their retirement, and we did not have anyone who would commit to taking on the managerial responsibilities of the store, as a volunteer. Initially, I was sad and disappointed, as were all of our dedicated volunteers, because it appeared that that component of our ministry to our veterans had come to an end. However, in faith, I surrendered my will to what appeared to be the will of God. So, my prayerful response, even though I didn't understand why this was happening, was that "All things work together for good, for those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28), and I am fully persuaded that I am in that number of believers. So, accepting by faith what appeared to be the will of God to close the thrift store, I made the decision to convert the retail space where the thrift store is located to an administrative office for the Circle of Hope.

The article was published on Thursday, November 16th. And we officially closed the thrift store, the next day, on Friday, November 17. At the end of business on Friday, we closed. That very same day, I received a call from Pat and Gordon Mabie, the couple who had managed the thrift store before moving to Arizona. They told me that they had recently returned to the Beaufort area and that they had read the article in the newspaper, and they volunteered to resume that management of the thrift store. So, after a brief transition period, we will officially reopen the Veterans' First Thrift Store on Tuesday, December 4th, with business as usual. My beloved, the message for all believers is that when we, in faith, are willing to sacrifice in accordance with our understanding of the will of God concerning us, He will keep a ram in bush, as He did for Abraham and Isaac when they were prepared to give their all at the altar of sacrifice. Oftentimes, our trials are a test of faith. "Knowing this that the trying of (our) faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work that (we) may be perfect(ed) and complete, wanting nothing." (James 1:3,4). My beloved, remember, trust and obey. "God Has the Final Say". Give Him praise! Amen? AMEN! AAMEN! With love and continued prayers for you, your family and loved ones, jcd, a witness & humble servant of the Most High God