

## Love's Acid Test (Part 2 of 2)

*Continued from page 7*

Each person must purpose in his own heart what percentage to give. But as we prayerfully consider this, God will challenge some to put on the training wheels and start at 10% and He will challenge others to go way beyond 10%.

God wants to stretch your faith. Some of you may not believe you can afford to give tithes and offerings. Someone has well said "the reason many can't afford to tithe is because they don't tithe". Today I challenge you to put God to the test; and remember **it's easier to live on 90% of your income inside the will of God, than to live on 100% outside His will.**

### 4. I give - because of my responsibility under the Great Commission.

Mt 28:19 - Go and make disciples of all nations.  
2 Cor. 9:11-13. People all over the world are

praising God because of our giving. When we give it has eternal impact. Many unsaved will be in heaven because you gave.

BCM Missionary, Dr. Dalavai died recently. He was at GCA some years ago. As a result of his ministry and those he challenged to serve the Lord over 15,000 churches were formed and he personally baptized over 100,000. And the people who supported him had a part in all that. 1 Samuel 30:24 - The portion of the one who went down into the battle will be the same as the portion of the one who remained with the equipment! Let their portions be the same!"

**So what's love's acid test?** Our response to God's amazing love. God wants you and everything you have. Commit today to abound in this grace of giving. ✧

## TUESDAY NIGHT

### GCA COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

This program is designed for all age groups and is geared to minister to our church family and the community. The program runs in the following format:

3:15 PM – Homework Assistance

5:15 PM – Free Dinner

6:00 PM – Kids' Club & Child Care

6:45 PM – Teen & Adult Bible Study

7:45 PM – Prayer Time

**ARE YOU  
SIGNED UP?**

Registration is required to properly plan for meals and other programs that we will provide. Go to [www.gcafamilychurch.org](http://www.gcafamilychurch.org), MINISTRIES and then COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS. Click the REGISTER HERE button to access the registration form. A free-will offering will be available to help cover meal costs. ✧

# GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly

## Reflections on My Summer 2014 in Uganda



By Alisha Jordan

The trip to Uganda was from June 28 through August 7, 2014.

ROWAN is the Rural Orphans and Widows AIDS Network. It operates across 30 villages in Eastern Uganda and seeks to love and empower widows and orphans infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS through spiritual support and guidance, education, medical help, and micro-enterprise. For more information visit: <http://loverowan.org/about/>.

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## Where on Earth Are We Heading?

### *Special Sunday Morning Mini-Series*

We've been having a thrilling time going through the book of Matthew and have now arrived at chapter 24 where Jesus gives His greatest teaching on future events. Jesus knew He would be crucified in just 2 days, and took a significant amount of time to teach His disciples about what would happen in the future. Bible prophecy is therefore very dear to the Lord's heart.

On Sunday September 14th we began a new 5-message series entitled, "**Where on Earth Are We Heading?**" The world is in such a state of chaos that we believe some of our family and friends may be interested to hear what the Bible has to say about some of the topics that have become even more relevant in our generation. You may check out the GCA website in case you miss one of the sermons.

As you can well imagine, the devil will not want to see the success of this series and our other fall events designed to reach our community with the life transforming message of the gospel. Please therefore make these events a matter of daily prayer. May you continue to experience God's richest blessing as you seek to please Him. ✧

Oct. 2014  
Volume 2, Issue 6

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The Purpose of this Newsletter

This ministry newsletter is intended to support the vision of the church—to be Christ-centered, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to build lives that glorify and worship God by emphasizing the Word, Evangelism, Discipleship and Caring for the whole man. We hope this newsletter will play an important role in encouraging the members of our assembly to fearlessly stand closer together, for the cause of the gospel of Christ.



**GCA Reflections** is published quarterly for the members and friends of GCA.

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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in each of the articles herein are those of each individual author or contributor and not necessarily those held by the GCA Reflections Staff or GCA leadership.

A special thank you to all who contributed to this issue of GCA Reflections.

## An Exciting New Vision

Presented by the GCA Elders

New Motto:

*"To know Christ and make Him known."*



Short Term 2014

- GCA Community Connections
- Renewed emphasis on Evangelism & Discipleship
- Revamping of Youth & Children's Ministries
- Utilize Interns

GCA Community Connections

*"A Ministry To The Church Family And Community"*

*"To know Christ and make Him known."*

Purposes:

1. To deepen our relationship with the Lord through Bible teaching for all age groups.
2. Outreach to the community.
3. Impacting the younger generation for Christ.
4. To empower our witness by strengthening relationships within the GCA family.

Key ingredients each night:

1. Providing a meal for everyone.
2. Child care
3. Homework assistance
4. Kids' program
5. Bible study options

Medium Term (0-3 years)

Expansion of Community Outreach:

1. Evangelism Explosion
2. Christian Counseling Center
3. ESL Ministry (English as a second language)
4. Food Pantry
5. Workshops designed for community (Parenting, marriage, financial management, etc.)

Longer Term (3-7 years)

GCA Multipurpose Building & Gymnasium

Designed to house expanding outreach to all ages in the community through sports and other activities. ✨

## Love's Acid Test (Part 2 of 2)

*Notes from a sermon by Pastor Brian H. Grant*  
*(Continued from the last issue)*

### 2. I Give - Because it impacts God's blessing on my life.

2 Cor. 9:6 - Don't miss this, it's impossible to sow sparingly and bountifully reap God's blessings.

A farmer who was a generous giver said, I keep shoveling into God's bin, and he keeps shoveling back into mine, but He has the bigger shovel. I believe if the truth of this principle soaked into our souls, it would radically impact our life. But sadly, the evidence suggests that many Christians don't have the faith to act on this. Moody Press reported a few years ago that the average church member contributes between 1.5% and 2.5% of their income to the Lord's work. A survey of income to giving revealed that only 8% of born again adults actually did give 10% or more to the Lord's work.

What about you? Where do you fit? God is saying, he who sows sparingly will reap sparingly and he who sows generously will reap generously. Our giving impacts God's blessing on our life. But don't give to get. Give out of love. If you give hoping to get material wealth you may end up in spiritual poverty. God's best blessings are not necessarily financial or material. Are you sowing bountifully?

### 3 - I give - Because it stretches my faith.

2 Cor. 9: 8. God will supply us with all we need at all times. What an incredible promise. Reluctance to sow generously reflects a refusal to believe that God will carry out His promise. It's a matter of faith.

I am convinced that one of the most practical ways to grow your faith is through giving. **Here's why**; it forces us to deal with the question: Can I trust God to take care of me or must I hold on to the money to make sure I can take care of myself? If we learn to trust Him with our money we'll trust Him in many other areas.

### How do you determine how much to give?

Let me give you 2 principles:

1. It should be purposeful - 2 Cor. 9:7; Let each one do as he has purposed in his heart. This means that our giving shouldn't be haphazard. Don't wait until you get to church.

2. It should be proportionate to our income. 1 Corinthians 16:2 - On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

Does that mean Christians should practice tithing? 10%. They shouldn't need to. When my kids were small, I taught them to ride. And the first thing I did was put training wheels on the bike to help them balance. But once they learned to ride I took off the training wheels. Tithing is like training wheels, we learn to give to God 10% of all our earnings, that's our gross income. It helps us to purpose and learn percentage giving; but once we learn we don't need the training wheels any longer because that's the base from which we now operate.

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## “Find Out What Pleases the Lord”

- Eph. 5: 10 (NIV)



By Jim McConnell  
Adult Sunday School Teacher

In the church, God has brought a disparate group of people together under one roof, but it remains the challenge for God’s people to put into practice the unity that He created when He made us one in Christ Jesus.

True unity begins in the mind: that’s where we understand and decide in favor of God’s truth. That’s what it means, to believe.

“Be transformed by the renewing of your mind” is the way Paul puts it in Romans 12: 2.

We come to Christ ‘messed up’ in our thinking - that’s why we do wrong things, make bad decisions and have relationship problems. Christ wants to change all that by changing us into the kind of people that reflect His character and

nature rather than our own fallen and corrupted nature. We call it, “heart change” - but at a practical level, it begins in the mind.

Even so, that’s only the start, because it may take a while for God’s truth to have its intended effect. It may take a journey through many experiences and trials, including even those of many failures, for God’s truth to sink down into the bones of who we are and how we relate to one another, and bring the enduring kind of change that honors Christ and brings Him glory.

Oh yes, one more thing. Every one of us is a work in progress! That’s why we need to spend time in the Word every day, getting to know what the truth of God is all about, and what it is that pleases Him. ✧

### Adult Bible Studies - Tuesday Evenings

*Continued from page 5.*

**The Minor Prophets** - by James L. R. Catron

**Teacher: Jim McConnell**

A course designed for the established believer. Each of the books that make up the *Minor Prophets* will be carefully studied and their prophecies placed into accurate historical context. Among the prophets discussed are Obadiah, Jonah, Hosea, Micah, Haggai, and Malachi.

**For Ladies Only:**

**The Shelter of God's Promises** - by Sheila Walsh

**Various Teachers ■ Contact Person: Joy Gaddie**

Through storytelling, new insights, and an in-depth Bible study, this course provides heart-filled teaching on ten bedrock promises of God, providing the foundation for daily confidence, joy, hope and, shelter.

## Reflections on My Summer 2014 in Uganda

*Continued from page 1.*

Christian Union is the umbrella organization of Yale Faith and Action, the campus ministry that I have been involved in since my freshman year. Christian Union operates on the Ivy-League campuses and seeks to change culture and develop Christian leaders. For more information, go to <http://www.christianunion.org/about/mission-a-vision>.

This past summer in Uganda was certainly the best six-week period of my life. From the initial day that I entered the village of Mawanga until my very last day in Uganda, I experienced God’s love in a new, more complete way, primarily through His people.

The majority of the nine-person Christian Union team that I went with stayed in Uganda for two weeks, while a student named Ruby and I stayed for an additional month after that. During the initial two weeks, there were zone leader trainings, home visits, and a Saturday children’s program. The zone leader trainings were targeted at community leaders, but were mostly a time of receiving, rather than pouring out for me, because the sessions were conducted by pastors and by two other team members. I learned several key lessons during those days, including insights about hope, casting vision, and prioritizing.

We then went on home visits to learn about some of the people’s lives and to pray with them. We met “Asher,” a widow with eight kids, whose house had burned down. She lived in her brother-in-law’s vacant house, which could be taken from her at any point when the brother-in-law decided to return for it. We went to the home of “Ahalam,” a Muslim man who was at the training session and had said that one of his gifts was preaching the gospel. I asked him if he could see himself turning to Christianity, and he said that based on what he had seen and heard through ROWAN’s involvement in his life, he could see himself deciding to follow Jesus because he now had something he previously didn’t have: hope. A couple weeks later,



he gave his life to Christ!

On Saturday, there was the weekly children’s program, which involved crafts, sports, debate, music, and Bible stories. I helped teach Bible stories, which I greatly enjoyed.

Once the two weeks had passed and the rest of the team left, Ruby and I remained to continue serving in the village. Our task was to visit the 120 people in the “special group” (ROWAN members who are HIV+). The ultimate goal of the home visits was to demonstrate the love of Christ by caring for the people, especially since they have often been stigmatized and isolated by people in the community for being HIV+; and we prayed that people would confess Christ as Lord as well. During each home visit, we conducted surveys, in which we asked a series of 30 questions, including questions about their opinions on marriage for HIV+ people; their perceptions of the role of the church in HIV/AIDS work; and suggestions for how ROWAN can help to reduce stigma and encourage people to identify and disclose their HIV status.

One of my favorite questions we asked the special group members was whether or not they have hope. Most of them said that they had hope because of the great difference that ROWAN has made in their lives.

*Continues on page 4.*

## Reflections on My Summer 2014 in Uganda

*Continued from page 3.*

It was my joy to inform or remind them that everything that ROWAN does is because of the love of Jesus, and that Jesus brings a hope that endures not only when we are on earth, but a hope that is eternal. One observation from all of the home visits was that many people had experienced the love of Jesus, but they did not necessarily know that it was Jesus' love that they were experiencing. Or, if they did know Jesus, they had never been given the opportunity to confess Him as their Lord and Savior; they had never made a personal decision to follow Christ because they only knew of Christ in a vague sense. So it was our privilege to extend the invitation to follow Jesus to those who had not already made that decision.

To use a Biblical metaphor, the soil was so fertile because of all of the work that God had already done through ROWAN over the past several years. It was such a blessing for Ruby and me to have had the opportunity to help reap the harvest of all of the previous laborers. A total of 19 people made the decision to follow Jesus during the home visits! All glory goes to God.

During my time in Uganda, I learned many things, such as patience, love, humility, sacrifice, freeness and openness, gratitude, hope, and joy. I learned that God is in control, His love is vaster than we can ever imagine, and the hope that He gives through Jesus Christ will never disappoint us. ✧



**Sun. Oct. 12 – 5:30 PM**

**Concert in Vineland, NJ**

**Sat. Oct. 18**

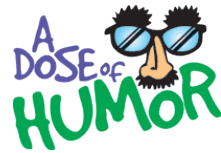
**All-day Missions Trip to Yonkers, NY**

**Sat. Oct. 25 – 6:00 PM**

**Laser Tag at Arnold's Family Fun Center**

**Fri. Oct. 31 – 6:30-8:00 PM**

**GCA Fall Festival**



When a teenager received his driving permit, he asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss use of the car.

His father said, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut, and then we'll talk about it."

A month later, the young man returned to continue the discussion. "Son, I've been real proud of you," the father said. "You've brought your grades up and studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"

The teenager replied, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that. Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair and even Jesus had long hair ...."

"Yes," the father said, "and they walked everywhere they went!"



Dr. Barry Davidson

## Building Blocks of a Healthy Family A Week with Special Guest Speaker Family Psychologist, Dr. Barry S. Davidson from Jamaica

On Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Davidson started us out with 10 points that make a happy family:

- (1) Give children time and attention.
- (2) Express affirmation.
- (3) Teach and model the right morals and values.
- (4) Parents must discipline consistently for children to become responsible adults.
- (5) Stop living in the crisis mode.
- (6) Effective communication.
- (7) Play and humor.
- (8) Having a quality marriage.
- (9) Faithful financial stewardship.
- (10) Make prayer a priority with the family. Feel free to check the sermon out on our website if you desire.

The Tuesday night session of Questions and Answers expanded on Sunday's insights.

Friday evening, devoted to singleness, revealed 5 types of love, lessons from Paul's recommendations in I Cor. 7:25-31, the differences between safe and unsafe relationships, and a lot of really neat tidbits and humorous illustrations. If you want more notes we could share a few in the next Newsletter.

The week culminated in "Connecting", a seminar/workshop for married and engaged couples. ✧

### Adult Bible Studies - Tuesday Evenings

*The following courses are available:*

#### Lessons For Christian Living - by William McDonald

**Teachers: Dr. Darryl Brown & Dwight Neilson**

A course designed for new believers as well as older Christians needing important building blocks to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. As you study the twelve lessons of this course, you will build a solid foundation for your faith. Lessons cover practical issues including: *Sure Salvation, Victory over Temptation, God's Plan for Our Lives, Bible Study, and Living a Useful Life for God.*

#### The Holy Spirit at Work - by Dr. C. Ernest Tatham

**Teachers: Brian Grant & Peter Mack**

This course is designed for the growing or established believer. In the course, the Bible will be studied to present the truth concerning the person and work of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter whom the Father has sent to dwell with us and be in us.

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