

# FILL IN THE **BLANKS**

Do you remember these verses? All verses are from the NKJV.

“Again I say to you that if \_\_\_\_\_ of you \_\_\_\_\_ on earth concerning anything that they \_\_\_\_\_, it will be done for them by \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.” \_\_\_\_\_ 18:19

“...and to give you who are \_\_\_\_\_ with us when the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ with His mighty \_\_\_\_\_.” 2 Thess. 1:7

“There is a \_\_\_\_\_ that seems right to a \_\_\_\_\_, but its \_\_\_\_\_ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.” \_\_\_\_\_ 14:12

“The \_\_\_\_\_, who deceived them, was \_\_\_\_\_ into the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and brimstone where the \_\_\_\_\_ and the false \_\_\_\_\_ are. And they will be \_\_\_\_\_ day and night \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”

Rev. 20:10 ✦



**TEEN GETAWAY**  
At  
**Word of Life Camp**  
August 11-17, 2019

**A FREE FAMILY FUN EVENT!**

**BRING YOUR BASKET**

**EASTER EGG HUNT**

**Germantown Christian Assembly**  
605 E. Mt. Pleasant Ave., Philadelphia  
**Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
10 AM to 12:00 PM

**Rain or Shine!**

**Ages 2 Through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**  
**Food, Music & Crafts!**

Call (215) 242-5550 For More Information

GOGF Ministries & Sister Assemblies  
*Bible Bowl Competition*

**3:00 p.m. Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

**At**  
**Germantown Christian Assembly**

Teens ages 13 to 18 play among sister assemblies.

This is a wonderful opportunity for teens to study the Word of God and fellowship with other Christian teens.

Practice is on Tuesdays at 7:45 p.m. at GCA.

Contact is Geraldine Elie

March 2019  
Volume 7, Issue 1

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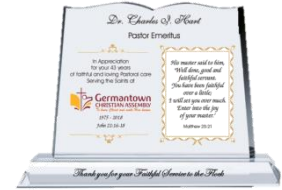
# GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly



By Ann Ridenhour

## Recognition of Ministry and Retirement Celebration for Dr. Charles I. Hart



Celebrating the ministries (spanning 61 years) of Pastor and Mrs. Charles Hart started in the Sunday morning worship service on January 27, 2019. Special music featured Lauren Grant and the Hart sisters: Sherryl Grant, Kathy Bado, and Stacey Veeraraj. Special speaker Pastor Thomas A. Troutt, Sr. of Philadelphia Bible Fellowship shared a message, “Before I Let You Go” from Acts 20:17-38. That afternoon, Germantown Christian Assembly members met at the North Hills Country Club, in Glenside, PA. This occasion was very special for all of us. About 230 guests enjoyed a meal which included salmon and Chicken Marsala.

*Continues on page 3.*

## Grateful

By Jonathan Jackson

(An 8th grade teacher asked her class to choose a topic to write on. Jonathan chose the following, unbeknownst to mom and dad.)

I am grateful for having a family that I can trust and admire. They protect, love, and discipline me. I want to make sure I do my part and then some, not to crush their expectations.

On the other hand, they need to show me tough love, often known as discipline.

I love spending time with the family because it is so strong that cannons cannot penetrate the love. My parents do not let me keep doing wrong when I do it because of their love. Love is what keeps my family going through trouble while they try to help me grow.

Parents usually do not like disciplining their children, especially me; but it is a great way of influence on the mind. Discipline also keeps me aware of the dangers of evil deeds and helps me become a more mature individual. Most of my siblings were disciplined and are now living successful careers.

*Continues on page 2.*



## 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.

Each issue will be available on the GCA website under "News & Events".

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

# Grateful

*Continued from page 1.*

My family follows a path of happiness and success to protect others like they protect me.

The most important thing is protection like a vest blocking a bullet. My father and mother keep me truly safe, so I don't fall into a trap of hurting others. I listen to their ideas because they are better than mine, and they have years of experience on me. The best thing is they cannot see me fail because they will not let me. There will not be a moment ever again I will hurt them aka disappoint me.

In conclusion, my family is making me into a mature young man through love, discipline, and protection. They protect me like a king with a royal guard, sun that never fades like their love, family you cannot take for granted because of the sacrifices they make for me to help me become successful. ✧

## GCA Adult Bible Study Courses

- ♦ **The Gospel of Mark**  
*Taught by Jim McConnell*
- ♦ **Bible Doctrines**  
*Taught by Pastor Brian Grant*
- ♦ **Philippians, Colossians and Philemon**  
*Taught by George Peters*
- ♦ **Ruth: Loss, Love & Legacy (For Ladies Only)**  
*Taught by Various Teachers*

For more details or to register online, go to [www.gcafamillychurch.org](http://www.gcafamillychurch.org).

## SISTERS OF COMPASSION



*Sharon Henry, Carol Pessoa, and Lourine Powell, pictured above, upon their return from their missionary trip to Jamaica. They reported that 40 people came to know the Lord! We'll hear more from them in the next issue.*

## GCA Community Connections Tuesdays from March 19<sup>th</sup> to June 11<sup>th</sup>

- 5:15 p.m. – FREE Family Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. – Prayer Time
- ESL (English as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Language)
- Child Care
- Kids' Club (ages 3-12)
- 6:45 p.m. – Teen Bible Study
- Adult Bible Studies
- 7:45 p.m. – Prayer Time

## We Were Married For 10 Years

*Continued from page 5.*

The answer was swift and clear: it wouldn't work. Just think about. If I did that, then Dave would think I was happy with the way he was treating me. I rationalized that if I didn't critique Dave's performance, he would think I was satisfied... and thus I would be enabling him to remain where he was, instead of growing into the husband and father he needed to be. And that wouldn't be good, right?

I went on like this for several days until I felt God tugging at my heart. As much as I didn't want to admit it, I knew He was calling me to surrender this situation – to give Him my worries, fears, and disappointments. I could tell that God wanted me to ask Him what He wanted me to do. I was afraid of what He might ask of me. The truth was, I didn't want to become a doormat. Or lose my voice. Or feel like I was just a passive, weak-willed woman. But finally, I took a dive and let God win. I told Him everything I was feeling. I shared all my fears and I asked Him what He wanted me to do.

It did not take very long to sense a still small voice deep in my soul: "Cheer for him." It was time to change – so I prayed.

*"Father God, forgive me! I have not been respecting Dave and in fact, I have been nagging him, criticizing him, and I haven't been cheering for him. I give you my marriage and I give you my life. I ask that You help me to see Dave the way You see him. I give up my control of trying to change him. And I ask that You would give me Your power to cheer and appreciate Dave, even when I don't want to... even when I feel like he doesn't deserve it. I'm asking that Dave would know how much You love him by the way I treat him. I can only do this with Your help, Father! Amen."*

It started with that simple prayer, but it didn't end there. One evening a few months later, as our family of five sat down for dinner, I said, "Hey, before we pray and eat, I want to stop for a minute and say thanks to Dad for working so hard every single day to provide this meal – and every meal for our home." Then I turned to Dave and continued, "It's easy to take your hard work for granted. You are a really good man. Thanks for all you do for us."

Dave's face was beaming as we shared the moment. Later that night, Dave told me my words were the best thing that had happened to him all week. What? A few measly words that took less than a minute to convey? Seriously? Yep... all he heard in that moment was applause.

As I began looking for the positive things that Dave was doing – things in which I could genuinely encourage him, I began to see God actually change me inwardly. My crusty, dissatisfied heart was starting to soften. Joy began to displace my discontentment.

Peace began to weave its way in and throughout me as my anger and bitterness began to ebb. And no, I did not lose my voice. Rather, I took my complaints to God first and asked Him to help me speak my heart and mind in a way that Dave could really hear it – in a way that didn't overwhelm him with constant booping. The change was simple: positive words of affirmation flowed in abundance so that when negative words needed to be shared, they could be actually heard – and swallowed – a little easier.

Our words have the power to bring life and death! I want to be a woman that my family can't wait to come home to. Outside our homes, our husbands, friends, and children are being bombarded with negativity. We can be the ones to bolster their sails and bring them joy. As Dave often says, "A man will always go where he's cheered!" I want my man to come home.

*This excerpt is taken from "Vertical Marriage by Dave and Ann Wilson." Copyright © 2019 by Dave and Ann Wilson. Used by permission of Zondervan. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com). ✧*





# To your health

By Margaret Aitcheson



A heart attack, also known as myocardial infarction (MI), is a serious, life-changing and often life-threatening event. It occurs when blood flow from the coronary arteries to the heart is blocked by a buildup of fat, cholesterol and other substances or by spasms or torn blood vessels. Oxygen supply is cut off and the heart muscle begins to die.

**Warning signs of a heart attack:** chest pains or discomfort that can travel to the jaw, shoulder, back or arm; shortness of breath; nausea or vomiting; fatigue, dizziness and sweating. The victim can experience some or all of these symptoms.

**Managing a suspected heart attack:** If you think someone is having a heart attack, call 911—this is a medical emergency. While waiting, the victim should rest and do no activity, including going downstairs. Loosen tight clothing. If nitroglycerin medication is available, help him or her take it. Chewing and swallowing an aspirin tablet will help it absorb quicker.

Your doctor may use a variety of tests to diagnose a heart attack such as *cardiac catheterization*: a flexible catheter is inserted into the blood vessels to view areas of blockage and blood flow. Treatment depends on severity and can include medications, stents and bypass surgery, cardiac rehabilitation and lifestyle changes. If someone survives a heart attack, it can recur within five years.

**Prevention:** Make prevention your priority. Speak with your doctor to learn about your personal risk for heart disease. Quit smoking. Do daily moderate exercise such as walking and lifting light weights for 30 minutes. Control weight, cholesterol, diabetes and high blood pressure. Manage stress. Modify diet to include more vegetables and beans of all types. Decrease salt, butter, fats and portion sizes.

Life is precious. Therefore, make every effort to live well, making wise, godly choices so you can enjoy your life. Ephesians 5:15-17. ✧

### Praise the Lord!

The church has a new roof. Have you seen it? The church didn't have to pay a penny! The insurance took care of it!



## Recognition of Ministry and Retirement Celebration for Dr. Charles I. Hart

Continued from page 1.

The special events coordinators of GCA planned the recognition celebration over the course of a few weeks. They included Sharon Henry, Cheryl Abney, Jackie Swift, Juanita Washington and Sharon Small. During the event, the honoree was seated in the center of the room.

A beautiful video tribute was shared. Presentations of sentimental thoughts and words were given about Brother Charles by friends, family, and "the younger generation." It was mentioned by these observant individuals how Bro. Charles would zero in on training young men wherever he was, including foreign nationals when he had the chance, as if they were his own sons.

Pastor Brian Grant welcomed Pastor Hiawatha Kennedy of the Willingboro Christian Assembly to pray while elders and other pastoral guests laid hands on Brother Charles. This gesture, and the love expressed, was an awesome and touching moment for all of us to hear and observe for this beloved servant of God.

Pastor Charles is a gentle spirit. His tenor voice is soft-spoken, yet profound and effective. During Brother Charles' tenure as pastor of GCA many of us became aware that there was something very special about this man of God and his ministry. His actions told us that he was in the field of ministry for the love of Christ and His Word.

The outstanding and most precious footsteps of Pastor Charles' ministry are his *spiritual stamina* and his passion for missions. Under the direction of Pastor Charles I. Hart and his late brother, Dr. B. Sam Hart, the focus on the mission field and missionary work within Germantown Christian Assembly became global. Spreading God's Word to inner-city children and families locally was also a priority for the church.

There are flags, representing countries where GCA helps support missionaries, hanging in GCA's sanctuary—a reminder of GCA leadership's participation in helping to spread the Gospel throughout the world. Brother Charles' special calling enabled him to accomplish his goals, and further his vision. The congregation of GCA and many others truly appreciated the opportunity to have honored this man of God. ✧

### Celebration of Black History Month



Speaker: Dr. James G. Murray, Jr. of Phila. Bible Fellowship



Presentation of Berlin Martin Nottage by Gabrielle Alexandre and Kayla West



King's Kids



Voices of Praise



Male Chorus

The 2018 Christmas Program was riveting and well performed in front of a packed audience in the church sanctuary. "A Christmas to Remember" presented Everett and Audrey Green with their daughter Tiffany (portrayed by Andre Wright, Lauren Grant and Alexis Toliver respectively) having their car stranded in a snowstorm with no way to navigate for days. The Wilsons' (portrayed by Amir Johnson, Kayla West, Olivia Grant, Nicholas White, and Marlon Henry) nearby homestead offers shelter and gives them an opportunity to share the Christmas story much to the shagrin of the Greens. Tiffany quickly trusts Christ as Savior and pleads for her parents to also--which they do. PTL! If you weren't there, don't you wish you were?

The praise dance "Just for Me" was quite the finale. Leah Brice, Sydney Brice, Aniya Gentles, Olivia Grant, McKayla Hoilett, Kayla West, LaToya Henry, Gail Morrison-Longmore and Mariane Carter were well coordinated. Praise the Lord for the program and message! ✧



2018 Christmas Program • Just for Me • King's Kids • Voices of Praise • Male Chorus

Bro. Jim McConnell, and a few others who are registered with the Bucks County Correctional Facility (BCCF), visit the facility to conduct meetings the first Saturday evening of each month. There was a time when Emmaus Bible Correspondence courses were available to the inmates. The courses would be processed at GCA, corrected, graded and a new study course given. A few even completed up to 30 courses. That was then.

Bro. Jim says, "I am concerned about Emmaus' access to prison inmates these days. In our own BCCF ministry, we are not permitted to give the inmates anything nor receive anything from them. No tracts; no Bibles; no prayer request slips." I think they can still get Bible correspondence mail, but we can do no more than tell them of the availability - if they take the initiative to find out how to do it.

"Pennsylvania state prisons currently have a total ban on all incoming inmate mail. Mail is sent to an address in Florida where it is screened and electronically copied with the copy sent to the inmate. It seems many other states do likewise." Recently, through Emmaus, we learned firsthand once again how God can use these courses. In one institution, an inmate recently wrote the poem, "Born To Win".

**"Here's the Backstory:** One day at rehab, Marty excitedly handed me this paper Wayne had sent indicating how much Wayne has changed...

So, that night I go to the jail to visit Wayne. It turns out that the *Born To Win* course was left in the cell by a former inmate. *But Wayne read the course and, through it, received Christ.* Pages of the course now hang on the walls of the cell.

Wayne says that he is not a good writer so he had another inmate, like a scribe of the Apostle Paul, write down the words of the poem. The man, a former drug addict, is a believer who was with the group of men who started the church while Marty was in rehab.

Both Marty and Wayne are doing well spiritually. To talk to these two men and see their smiles, one would never know that they had recently been living rough lives except for their current physical circumstances. Marty also completed *Born To Win* with the encouragement of another brother in rehab who has continued doing Emmaus courses since leaving the county jail."

For me this reveals the greater story of how God works this incredible web of intersecting lives to accomplish His greater purpose on behalf of frail people. We are truly a chosen people. Thank you for being part of that and this story!!!---Associate Instructor Lou Rittweger (SC) - December 2018

*GCA Family, will you covenant with the prison ministry here to pray for the crew that goes each month to Bucks County; for receptive hearts, for the Emmaus Courses to somehow be able to be available? Also, please let Bro. Jim McConnell or Bro. Leroy Jackson know if you feel that the Lord would have you join their team. ✧*

## Born To Win

Locked-away and left to rot. I blamed the world for the time I got.  
Mad at life. I'd curse then cry...how could you, God? Why? Oh why?  
My days were marked by fits of rage as I fought and kicked against my cage.  
My nights were marred by fitful dreams as I plotted future, vengeful schemes.

Then finally one day I let God in when I found a book called Born To Win  
Unsure at first; I had my doubts. Till I cracked the book to check it out.  
I read each chapter one-by-one. My walk with Jesus had begun.  
He took my hand and lifted me from the bowels of hell and set me free!

Now His Word I study every day from the books Emmaus sends my way.  
And like the Bereans before me, I search to prove each word is true.  
In my cell I sit upon my bed and thank the Lord for my daily bread.

For the blood that Jesus shed for me and for His work on Calvary  
And now that I'm hip to Satan's lies, I will my faith not compromise.  
I'm no longer bound to death and sin, for now I know---I'm Born to Win!

Wayne (SC) - December 2018



## We Were Married For 10 Years

Bro. Kirk forwarded this very powerful article. As he said, it really ties in to last week's (Feb. 17th) message about "bigging him up" as part of Pastor Brian's series, "Secrets to a Happy Home".

If someone would have asked me on my wedding day what I loved about my husband Dave, I would have enthusiastically responded with, "Are you kidding? EVERYTHING! In fact there isn't ONE thing about him that I don't love!"

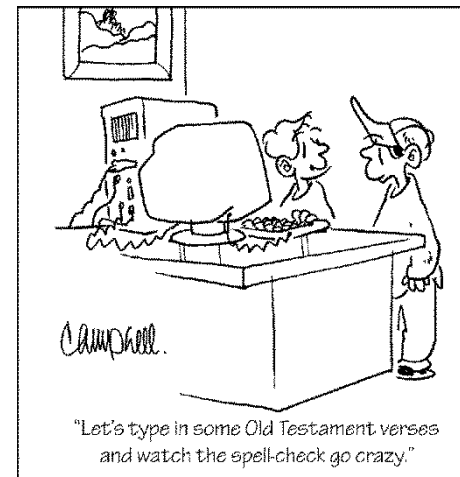
Fast forward to the same question six months later and I would have quickly responded, "There isn't ONE single thing I like about him!" That is when I began my quest to change my husband into the man I thought he should be. The man who would bring me the happiness I longed for.

Fifteen years later not much progress had been made. I had no idea why my efforts were not making headway.

One morning Dave and I were speaking to a group of young moms at our church. Dave began enthusiastically telling the women what almost every one of their husbands probably experienced growing up. "You see, when your husband was a boy, he most likely had a mom or a dad or a relative cheering for him telling him, "Good Job!" As your husband got older he might have had a coach or a teacher, or some mentor telling him he was good at something, and that coach or teacher, cheered him on and encouraged him to work harder." Dave was totally into his talk now.

He told them that as a college quarterback he had coaches and fans cheering him on and shouting, "Dave Wilson, You're the man!" As he said those words, he started clapping his hands energetically. His passion was filling the room as he had completely captured the women's attention. He then continued his story by saying that when I said yes to his marriage proposal, I was shouting, "Of all the men in the world, I choose you!" As he yelled those words, he looked straight at me with a look that said I was his biggest cheerleader.

I was thinking, "Man, this is good." And then he lowered the boom. "But ladies, after we have been married awhile", he sadly said, "we men walk in the door and all we hear is BOOOOOO! My heart dropped. Was he saying, that I boo him all the time? My face turned red as I picked my heart up off the floor.



On the ride home I defensively asked, "You think I boo you all the time? I then said, "I'm not booing you. I am HELPING you!" "It doesn't feel like help", Dave quietly said. He wasn't angry or defensive and that bothered me because he seemed to be broken. His battered soul worried me and made me wonder if I was the cause of the wind going out of his sails? Dave then added, "You don't literally boo me, but you are constantly critiquing the things I do or say. I feel like I can't do anything right. You constantly remind me of all the things I'm not doing and all the things I should be doing...and what other husbands are doing. Really, who wants to come home to that?"

Silence engulfed the car. I was shocked! I had no idea that he was feeling any of this. When we got home I went upstairs and began to ponder what things would be like if I were to constantly cheer for him... you know, tell him he was awesome all the time and such.

*Continues on page 7.*