

“Happiness Post” from Missionary,
Sonny Acocoro (in Part), Dec. 22, 2015

Sonny and Ruth Acocoro served side by side for 45 years (41 of those years with Bible Centered Ministries International) in their native country, the Philippines. GCA has helped support them and their ministry through the years. Now located in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and in their later years, ministry for them has drastically changed. Sonny spends some of his time communicating via internet. Here is an excerpt from a recent blog:

What is The BEST Gift I Can Give to my Beloved This Christmas?

December is the season for gift giving. Many of us have asked ourselves this question, “What BEST gift will I give my beloved this Christmas?” And when we say, BEST, there is only one. Right? There are lots of good and better but BEST must only be one or else it is no longer the BEST.

In my previous Post, I told you that I’m taking care (24/7) of my wife whose Alzheimer has caused her to no longer remember my name, and her kidney

function has gone.

Will it be food? But she eats very little now and her likes change from day to day. Will it be a beautiful dress? But she refuses to go out and would rather just sleep almost all the time. So what is the BEST gift I can give her? After many days of thinking, I decided to give her nothing but **LOVE and MORE LOVE**. Do you think this is the BEST gift for her?

The reason why I’m giving her my BEST LOVE and more of it is because, if I give her love, UNDERSTANDING and THINGS will follow. Therefore, if she gets angry at me for no reason at all or if I ask her questions and she only stares at me without answering any word (because she can no longer form a sentence) then I will just smile and be happy for now I understand, that she does not mean to offend me but it’s just because she is sick.

So what do you think? Will I be giving her the BEST gift: Your comments will be highly appreciated. lacknothinginlife@gmail.com ✨

Soccer News

By Roger Walton

We had four teams this year. God willing, we can take it up to five teams in 2016. The children received a GCA Eagles T-Shirt and a participant medal at the end of the season. We had a great time. The season ran for 5 weeks. Praise the Lord.

The GCA Soccer Club Committee would like to thank the parents, coaches and all those who helped behind the scenes to make this a great season. ✨



January 2016
Volume 4, Issue 1

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GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly

Crusade Mission Trip to Jamaica



By Lourine Powell

After many months of prayerful preparation, the day arrived (November 7, 2015) for a team of us to meet at the Philadelphia airport. Pastor Tony Hart, three ladies and I were that team. From there we flew to Jamaica. Although we were from various backgrounds, we were strongly connected in vision and purpose which brought about a beautiful spirit of oneness that made it easy to serve whenever, wherever and however there was a need.

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Parents, Teach the Word

By Roger Walton

I praise the Lord for the honor it has been to serve as the Superintendent of the Sunday school at GCA. Thank you to the Sunday school staff and teachers.

Many have asked what I will be doing next, but before I answer that question, I would like to share what I think has been my greatest discovery as the Sunday school Superintendent. I have learned a great deal.

My biggest discovery has been the importance of parents and guardians teaching the Word of God at home. Some may say that is a given, parents **should** be the first teachers, but it’s my observation that parents have handed the responsibility over to others.

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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.

Parents, Teach the Word

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My biggest discovery has been that Bible knowledge is best imparted by parents—and Sunday school plays a secondary role. Sunday school teachers are important and do a great job, but parents and guardians taking the time at home to teach the Word of God is very important. I’ve come to this conclusion based on Deuteronomy 6:7-8.

The parenting workshops we had at GCA over the years have formed the result of my discovery. In the latter part of my tenure, I have placed a lot of my energy in equipping parents and guardians with tools and encouragement to get them to teach and talk about the Word of God at home. This is especially important when the child is young. As I look back over the years, I have seen the benefits of parents and guardians who take the time to teach the Word of God at home.

What’s next? I will continue to follow God’s leading. I will focus on reminding some, and teaching others, that God’s role for parents is very important.

Thank you all for your prayers and encouragement over the years. I appreciate you all. God bless. ✧

What a Wonder!

If ever I reach heaven I expect to find three wonders there: first, to meet some I had not thought to see there; second, to miss some I had expected to see there; and third — the greatest wonder of all — to find myself there.

John Newton

John 14:6



A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn’t find a space with a meter.

Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: “I have circled the block 10 times. If I don’t park here, I’ll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses.”

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note:

“I’ve circled this block for 10 years. If I don’t give you a ticket I’ll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation.”



Interview with GCA Member
Estelle Johnson

By Pat Clark

Q. Your birthday was December 10, 2015. How old are you?

A. 91. I don’t feel like 91, born in 1924. I keep doing the math. I feel sassy. I thought I was supposed to have headaches, arthritis, etc. I feel so grateful. I don’t complain. I’m thankful for my children who come over.

Q. How do you do it?

A. I was obedient to the Lord. The Lord has blessed me. I never smoked, did drugs or gambled. I worked hard for everything I got; spent my money wisely.

Q. How and when were you saved?

A. I was young, maybe 11 or 12, at Mt. Tabor Baptist Church in Richmond, Virginia.

Q. What difference has it made in your life?

A. He’s my life. He took me by the hand. I cannot express the gratitude I have. Couldn’t have done it without Him; wasn’t an easy life. My kids all accepted the Lord when they were young.

Q. How long have you been a member of GCA?

A. It seems like it’s been from back when GOGF was getting it started.

Q. What was your life’s profession?

A. I wanted to be a teacher, but then my parents got divorced. I worked at Nabisco and Whitman’s. I would teach the new ones.

Q. How is the Lord using you now?

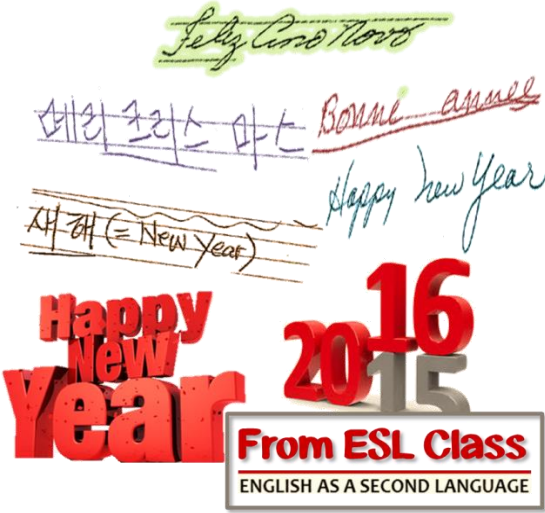
A. Influencing my grandsons and great grands, encouraging my young people. When they come into my house they know how to act, no smoking, no alcohol, no drugs. They know who I belong to and what I stand for. It’s a blessing.

Q. Do your teen years seem far away?

A. I don’t even think about them; I’m enjoying now.

Q. Do you have a favorite verse?

A. “If it had not been the Lord who was on (my) side”, where would I be? Psalm 124:1, 2. ✧



Writing a news report from a portion of the book of Acts can be daunting, but not to this special news anchor. She submitted not one, not two, but three reports in December. Thank you Lea!

We selected the best of three covering Acts 9:1-18. The article is presented below.

CONGRATULATIONS
GCA News Reporter
Azalea Murray

Winning News Report
From 35 AD



Former Killer Converts

Damascus Journal around the year 35 AD

Saul of Tarsus, a notorious persecutor of Christians, has openly converted to Christianity as the result of a sudden, mysterious event that occurred recently on the road to Damascus.

Christianity, or “The Way” as it is commonly known, has been the target of Saul’s hostile treatments since he heard of its doctrine and the witnessing of its members.

Saul revealed he had received the consent of the High Priest to journey to Damascus to round up, arrest, jail and persecute Christian men and women. Nearing the city, a sudden, piercingly bright light from the sky caused him to fall to the ground. A voice identified as that of Jesus, a crucified martyr of the faith, commanded him to wait in Damascus for further instructions. Saul’s companions, who also heard the voice but saw no one, lead the blinded Saul into the city.

Meanwhile, Ananias, a Christian disciple, said a vision from God directed him to seek Saul, who would be found praying at a nearby house. Ananias laid his hands on Saul, resulting in the restoration of his sight, and his subsequent infilling by the Holy Ghost.

Saul confirmed his conversion by a public display of a Christian ritual called water baptism. It was rumored that he admitted the Holy Spirit had been pricking his conscience since he witnessed the earlier, enraptured martyrdom of Stephen, to which Saul had consented. The activities and feats of this bold, new disciple continue to attract and inspire the religious community. ✧



Crusade Mission Trip to Jamaica

Continued from page 1.

Our days and time varied: door-to-door street evangelism, visiting three schools, a nursing home and the orphans at the Hart Children’s Homes. Each evening, we were ready to teach children’s Bible school at 4 pm, before the night services. The number of children varied—all loveable little charmers. On Wednesday, I shared my testimony with ten children. I told them that I was once a little 7-year-old girl who didn’t know God, because no one **told** me about Jesus! The Scriptures were not explained to me; that Christ gave His life for my sins. Then I let them read it for themselves. I asked each child if they understood what was needed to be saved. They said yes. Then I told them I would do an “altar call” based upon what they had heard and, as the teachers were singing a song, they could ask the Lord to come into their hearts and

forgive his or her sins. The song that was sung was “O, How He Loves You and Me” which included the line, “He gave His life, what more could He do?” When the song was over, I opened my eyes and saw the raised hands of three little girls and a boy. It was like double-vision! I told them, if they understood what they had done, they should sign their names and birthdays so that the teachers and I could pray for them. I said, “To God be the glory!”



I don’t know when but, God willing, *I’m going back!* ✧

George & Ruth Peters

By Brian Grant

In October 2015, we were privileged to welcome Brother and Sister George and Ruth Peters into our fellowship. The elders have been having discussions with them since April 2015.

Bro. George received Christ as Savior in 1975 and was baptized the same year. Since then he has been in good fellowship with a sister assembly in Bangalore, India. Ruth is from a Hindu family and is one of the fruits of Bro. George’s ministry of evangelism. They were married in 1979 and have two married daughters who live in Canada, and a 4-month-old granddaughter.

In 1980 they went into full-time Christian service to serve the Lord in evangelism and church planting and have been living by faith in Christ since that time.

They spent 2 years at the Torchbearers Bible School in Canada and returned to India to form Share the World Ministries and Green Valley Bible School in Bangalore, India. Through the school, they were able to have a discipleship training ministry from 1985 to 2011. The Lord enabled Bro. George to disciple and baptize several hundred young people, most of whom are still involved in ministries in several parts of India. Ruth was a true partner in all these ministries, while also excelling in the gift of hospitality. This is a couple with a passionate desire for the things of the Lord.

Bro. George is a gifted and seasoned Bible teacher and has spoken in churches and Bible schools in India, Norway, Sweden, Germany, Italy, the Philippines, England, Canada and the USA. We at GCA have already been blessed and challenged by his teachings. ✧



By Dwight Neilson

2015 Germantown Christian Assembly YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY – First Sunday: **Pastor Phil Ginyard** from First Baptist Church of Swedesboro, New Jersey spoke. **Larry Ray and family**, missionaries with Pioneer International to Egypt, presented their work on Tuesday, January 13. A new Bible study series, *The Joy of the Christian Life*, in the book of Philippians, began on January 20. Teachers included Brothers Peter Mack, Jim McConnell, Michael Boyd, Wali Ahmad, Dr. Darryl Brown, Richard Grant, and yours truly. A Parent Leadership workshop (during the Sunday school hour) began on January 11. Roger Walton led basketball at the Leeds Middle School gym Saturdays.

FEBRUARY – **Pastor Tyrus Barker** of Montco Bible Fellowship spoke on the first Sunday. On February 8 Pastor Brian started a series on “The Passion of Christ” that included the following topics: *The Passover Lamb*, *Cries from Gethsemane*, *The Pain of Betrayal* and *The Road to Calvary*. This series ended on Easter Sunday (April 5) with *The Impact of the Resurrection*. A new Inquirer’s class started for teens on February 22, taught by Peter Mack. Nicolas and Rita Grant held a couples’ fellowship at their home Sunday afternoon on the 22nd. Black History Month – Presenters included Marlon Henry, Taylor Noble, Hannah Walton, Nicholas White, Chase Davis, Stevie Purnell, Daniel Edwards, and Ezra Walton. Profiled on each successive Sunday was: **Lott Carey**, **Betsy Stockton**, **Berlin Nottage**, **Dr. Gerry Gallimore**.

MARCH – On March 1st, GCA’s radio program, *Living God’s Way*, was launched on WFIL – 560 AM Sundays at 5:30 PM. The semi-annual business meeting was also held. At that meeting, Carlton Henry was introduced as the new treasurer. At the Golden Eagles luncheon on March 18 they bid farewell to John and Patricia Watts who moved to Florida. Attendees were treated to a dramatic presentation by **Sis. Angie Barker** of Montco Bible Fellowship. Community Connections restarted with an **English as a Second Language** (ESL) program being offered for the first time. KSM’s annual Walkathon was on March 21st on the Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. **Dr. Gerry Gallimore** was our speaker for the Missions Conference. The theme was *Send the Light to the Nations*.

APRIL – Good Friday (April 3) Pastor Brian spoke on *The Darkest Day in History* in a two-part message with Breaking of Bread in between and music by guest musician, Zeffro Gaskins. On Easter Sunday, Pastor Brian began a 12-part sermon series (called *Pentecostal Power*) which coincided with the television series “A.D. The Bible Continues” which aired on NBC from Easter to June 21st. A Ministry Workers’ Appreciation Breakfast was Saturday, April 18th. A GOGF Spring unity rally was held at Calvary Gospel Chapel April 25th. Our youth competed in (and won) in a Bible Bowl there.

MAY – The GCA Annual Family Retreat was held at Harvey Cedars Bible Conference Center at Long Beach Island on the Jersey Shore. The theme was *Spiritual Journey – Strengthening Your Relationship with God*. **Pastor Tyrus Barker** was the main speaker. Workshops at the Evangelism Explosion took place Saturday, May 9th and focused on reaching Muslims, Jews, unsaved Protestants, Catholics, Jehovah’s Witnesses, among others. Several teams went out into the neighborhood around the church, as well as Germantown (to Muslims) and Broad and Olney (to commuters). There was a baptism on May 26th which included Kayla Cameron, Troy Chamberlain, Nadia Chamberlain, Jonathan Jackson, Taylor Noble, Melbourne Brown, Alice Francis, Vincent Lee, and Dennis Richardson. Also receiving the Right Hand of Fellowship were Wadiya Adger, Valencia Roy and Lyndon Stephenson. GCA men sang in a Mother’s Day chorus.

JUNE – On Evangelism day (June 27) teams went to Broad and Olney, and Ogontz and Cheltenham Avenues. GCA women sang in a Father’s Day chorus. **Pastor Thomas A. Troutt, Sr.** of Philadelphia Bible Fellowship was the main speaker at our 42nd anniversary service. Graduates included Chase Davis, Marlon Henry, and Stevie Purnell from high school; Alisha Jordan and Rehema Korich from college; and Angela Gaddie-Edwards from graduate school.

JULY – VBS held their Jungle Safari program with a fun fair kick-off on the grounds of the Mission House on Saturday, July 11th. The closing program, which included a pancake breakfast, took place on the following Saturday. Meldine Lord was baptized on July 12th. Also, receiving the Right Hand of Fellowship were Romio Gentles, Cecile Holland, Mitzie Rodgers, Prince Davis and Steven Webb.

AUGUST – The church held its annual picnic in Peace Valley Park in Bucks County on August 8th. VBS reunion cookout at the Mission House was on Sunday, August 9th as part of Sunday Night Connections.

SEPTEMBER – KSM annual luncheon was on Saturday, September 19 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on City Avenue. Community Connections restarted Tuesday, September 22 with classes including *Hebrews* (Jim McConnell), *Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth* (Brian Grant, Peter Mack, and Michael Boyd), and *God Is Able* (various women). There was a youth service at GCA on Friday, September 18th in collaboration with sister churches. The service included praise and worship, poetry, and a message by **Jamil Strickland** of Philadelphia Bible Fellowship. Evelyn Cartagena, Shantell Hamilton and Vedette Hamilton were brought into fellowship. A couples’ fellowship cookout was held at the Korich’s during the afternoon of Sunday, September 20th.

OCTOBER – Missionaries George and Ruth Peters were given the Right Hand of Fellowship as GCA’s newest members. The 4th Annual Friends and Family Day on Sunday, October 18th came with brunch after the service. The Golden Eagles took a trip to the Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster County to see the play *Joseph* and they dined at the Shady Maple Smorgasbord. The 6th Annual GOGF Unity Convention was Saturday, October 24; the theme: *United in Christ We Stand* – **Dr. Conway Edwards** from Dallas, Texas was the main speaker. Our Fall Festival was on Saturday, October 31st.

NOVEMBER – At the semi-annual business meeting held on Sunday, November 15th, Andrea Cameron was introduced as GCA’s new assistant treasurer. A Spiritual Life Survey was distributed. Pastor Brian ended his series through the Book of Acts for this year (started on Easter). Doyle Gray assumed the duties of Sunday School Superintendent, taking over from Roger Walton who served over seventeen years in this capacity.

DECEMBER 5th many of our members went to New York City and experienced **The Ride**. The Christmas Concert was December 13th. The theme was *The Wonder of Christmas*. At GCA, our BCM missionaries had their annual Christmas party for BCM club members on the 16th and 17th. The Sunday school shared its annual Christmas program on December 20th and a wonderful Christmas brunch was enjoyed after the general service. A Christmas Eve candlelight service was held on Thursday, December 24th with Dr. Darryl Brown as speaker.

Also brought into fellowship were Kelli Caldwell, Jay Caldwell and Michael Boyd. ✧