

Margaret Aitcheson takes to Short Term Missions Q&A — continued

Bro. Charles: *What will be the extent of your involvement?*

Margaret: I want to be used maximally. I want to go see what's there, go with Fidelia to the kids, do outreach, whatever she needs, go for 2 months then again for longer, maybe 6 months.

Meanwhile, from October 8-31, I'll be working with Nicola Carara in Jamaica with a ministry she calls FIGHT – Faith in God's Holy Truth. She's involved with ministering to all ages, especially 14-19, in mentorship, school sponsorship, making a documentary video for TV. They meet at the police station in Kingston in a bad section.

I believe God has called me to a minister to a variety of people especially in the areas of evangelism and discipleship. As a result I have been involved in the prison and counseling ministries, teaching Sunday school lessons and the choir. I believe I will be able to continue serving Him through short term missions involvement. ✧

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Sundays: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Tuesdays: 6:45-7:45 p.m. Bible Study

Saturdays: 11 a.m.-12 noon GCA Soccer
(For more info. see ad on this page.)

Saturday, Oct. 31st: 6-8 p.m. Fall Festival
(For more info. see ad on page 7.)



"Well, Pastor Tom, 'running the race with endurance' is gonna be a little harder from now on 'cause this just cost you an arm and a leg."

GCA Eagles Boys & Girls Soccer Club



Day: Every Saturday until Oct. 31, 2015

Time: 11 AM – 12 Noon

Place: GCA Mission House Lawn
605 East Mt. Pleasant Ave.
(Across the street.)

Cost: Free

**Boys & Girls
Ages 4-6**



October 2015
Volume 3, Issue 3

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GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly



GCA Missionaries

By Nora Brown



As the missionaries that GCA help support go forth to present the gospel, they are faced with many challenges—financial struggles, the burden of seeing people living in extreme poverty with scarcely anything to eat or drink, and most of all, to see and hear of the abuse and rejection that children endure; some which are very young. In the midst of it all this, there is the good news of God's intervention in the lives of people through these missionaries who have dedicated their lives to minister to the needs of others.

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GCA Takes It To The Streets

By Pastor Brian Grant

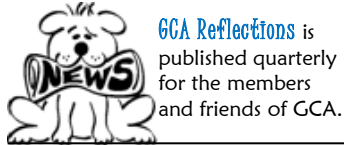
Saturday, June 27 started off with heavy clouds and a light drizzle, but a faithful team of Christian soldiers met at GCA, determined to spread the gospel regardless of the weather. Knowing that this would be a brand new experience for some, plans were in place to teach everyone a system that they could quickly learn and use to present the gospel. At 10 am each individual was presented with a clipboard, survey sheets, tracts

and our witnessing tool "Life's Most Important Question". The next hour was spent in training and role playing, to ensure everyone knew how to use the materials. After a season of prayer, the group divided into two teams, one targeting Broad & Olney and the other the Cheltenham & Ogontz Transit Center.

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.



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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.

GCA Takes It To The Streets

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After about 90 minutes of field work, the teams came back to GCA with great excitement in the air. Several decisions for Christ were reported, several believers received spiritual encouragement and numerous other individuals were presented with the gospel.

Everyone wanted to hit the streets again before the end of summer. Sept 12th became the next targeted date. This time the weather was perfect. Over twenty individuals showed up, ready to hit the streets. Once again, the first hour was spent in training and, after a season of prayer, the mission began. This time the group divided in threes: the largest group went to Broad & Olney, another group started at Durham & Crittenden and headed east, while the final group accompanied Pastor Brian as he went west on Mt. Pleasant to introduce himself and GCA to the surrounding neighbors. By God's grace, once again there were reports of several decisions for Christ, and some who had never witnessed before were now encouraged to keep going.

We thank God for exercising the hearts of so many of His people to participate in this street evangelism program. Let's **continue to pray for those who prayed to receive Christ** as well as the numerous individuals who were given a clear presentation of the gospel. ✧



A woman had just returned to her home from an evening of church services, when she was startled by an intruder. She caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables and yelled: 'Stop! Acts 2:38!

(Acts 2:38 says "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins.")

The burglar stopped in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done.

As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar: 'Why did you just stand there? All the old lady did was yell a scripture verse to you.'

'Scripture?' replied the burglar. 'She said she had an ax and two 38s!'

Margaret Aitcheson

takes to

SHORT-TERM

missions



On September 17th, Bro. Charles Hart interviewed Sis. Margaret Aitcheson, who has recently retired, about her plans to visit missionary, Fidelia Beckford in Bolivia, South America.

Bro. Charles: *Over the years, how did you become interested in visiting Fidelia?*

Margaret: I was saved in Jamaica when I was 16. A year later, in high school, a secretary said to me, "You've been saved a year, you must get involved in ministry." So I ministered in a summer camp, Moorlands Camp. And I've been involved ever since in ministry and missions.

Later at GCA, as Fidelia and her husband and children would visit from time to time, I became involved driving them around. After her husband's death, when she would visit, I carved out a day each time. Fidelia would ask if I would consider coming to Bolivia to help. Over the years she'd keep reminding me, and on her last visit, she suggested, "When you retire, set a date."

Fidelia is involved in church planting, reaching out to children who in turn would reach out to the parents, and all be brought to church. So there would be evangelism, Bible Clubs and teaching. I have assisted with Bible Clubs in the past. I've worked mainly with adults in counseling.

I'll be spending two months, maybe longer, in February and March. I need to get a 3-month VISA for Bolivia.

Continues on next page.

Germantown Christian Assembly

2015 **FALL FESTIVAL**

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 31st
6 PM – 8 PM



As a Halloween alternative, children ages 5-12 come to GCA to play games for candy and hear the Good News of God's love for them.

NO COSTUMES PLEASE

Help us prepare a fun Halloween alternative by placing **individually-wrapped candy** in the lobby box before Oct. 31.



Contact person is Bro. Roger Walton
 Youth Ministry

On July 12, 2015 several folks received GCA's right hand of fellowship. Here are some of their testimonies:

Meldine Lord

Hello, my name is Valmer Meldine Lord. I prefer to be called Meldine because most people assume Valmer is a man's name. I was born and grew up in Barbados. My mother is a devout Christian. My father had his doubts. My mother made sure that I was raised in the faith. I was a Christian more by culture and tradition than by faith. I have always believed, but was not committed.

As I grew into adolescence I started to ask more questions. The world which had seemed so perfectly ordered in my childhood now began to seem arbitrary and capricious. Good things happened to bad people, and bad things happened to good people, and the world seemed trapped in an endless series of wars and disasters.

And then one day, I committed myself to God. I accepted that He has a plan for me. The world is not random. It is divinely ordained. I knew that God loved me so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross, and be resurrected so that I can be saved from my sin and have eternal life. "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow."

You're Invited To
Germantown Christian Assembly's

Join the Celebration! **Fourth Annual** *Bring Family and Friends!*
FRIENDS & FAMILY Day

Sunday
October 18, 2015
 10:45 a.m. Worship Service
 1:00 p.m. Fellowship Lunch

Testimonials

Cecille Holland

My name is Cecille. I was raised in a Christian home, taken as a child to church, and when I could attend on my own, my parents saw to it that I continued.

I really came to know the Lord as my Savior one Saturday night in the 70's at Youth for Christ under the teaching of Brother Gerry Gallimore. I was baptized at Boulevard Baptist Church in Kingston, Jamaica and there after dedicated myself to serve in the children's department.

I migrated to the USA in the 80's, met up with my extended family and friends, the Grants and the Lintons. They invited me to GCA where I have enjoyed good fellowship with Christian friends and most of all the good teaching from the Word of God.

All this has inspired me to continue to further impart that which the Lord has empowered me to do and that is to touch young lives, as I work with the kids of GCA.

I can truly say with the Psalmist David, "O taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man that trusteth in Him." (Psalm 34:8)

Prince Davis

I was raised in the church and taught Christian principles from a tender age. I was always active in church and knew that this was the right way of life. I accepted the Lord at age 13. I didn't understand everything but I knew I wanted to be a part of the Kingdom. The Christian walk is challenging but I pray that God keeps me on the right path. I fall short but thank God my Lord is merciful. My desire is to grow in the Lord and to fulfill my purpose here on earth. ✧



Lourine Powell Heads to Jamaica with GOGF November 2-12, 2015

Lourine says she is going to Jamaica for Jesus. The mission group will be visiting an orphanage, a school and a hospital. She wants to be used wherever they need her. Please pray for open hearts to the Gospel.

GCA Missionaries

Continued from page 1.

In Christine's (Wigden) Chat, she shared the success of those attending GCA's Vacation Bible School and Camp Streamside in the Poconos. She reported that over 100 children ages 2-15 attended VBS. During this time a three-day Missions class was held in which many of the children made a decision to pursue becoming missionaries.

At Camp Streamside, Christine praises God for having over 30 children attending, some for the first time. While some of the mothers were a little fearful at first when they left, the children had a wonderful time making friends and participating in many group activities. As a result, they are making plans for next year.

Likewise, Maria Gusmao in Brazil, in her August 2015 Newsletter, praises God for making it possible for them to move into their own camp instead of renting and having to do repairs each January and July to someone else's property. She praises God for doing marvelous things in many lives. Maria reports that in the small kids' week, there were 86 kids and 67 of them made decisions for Jesus. In the teens and young adults' week, there were 39 campers with 9 decisions to accept Jesus, and 24 consecrated their lives to the Lord. In the poor kids' camp week, there were 84 kids, and 56 made decisions for Jesus. In the English Camp there were 63 campers and at least 15 of them accepted the Lord.

Maria praises God for working in the hearts of many people and for radical changes that can be seen in the lives of these new converts.

Don't forget to pray for Maria and for all our missionaries as they continue to serve the Lord in these very challenging times. ✧

GCA Community Connections Tuesday Evenings Through December 15, 2015



ESL CLASSES (English as a Second Language)

Community Connections is designed to minister to our church family and the community.

Program Schedule

- 3:15 p.m. – Homework Assistance
- 5:15 p.m. – Free Family Dinner
- 6:00 p.m. – Kids' Club, Child Care & Prayer
- 6:45 p.m. – Teen & Adult Bible Study
- 7:45 p.m. – Prayer Time

*A free-will offering will be available to help cover meal costs.

Register online at www.gcfamilychurch.org.

RECONCILIATION

By Jim McConnell

In **2 Cor. 5:20**, the Apostle Paul entreats his hearers—whom he has just identified as the ‘reconciled’ of God (v. 18)—“to **become** reconciled to God.”

“What on earth is he talking about?”

The Apostle is talking about that though the sins of the Believer are forever put away and under the Blood, there remains some unfinished business that has to do with the wreckage and harm caused by those sins; lingering and long-suppressed issues that need to be addressed by opening one’s self up to the searching gaze of an All-holy God. He’s talking about coming out, at last, from behind Eden’s tree and dealing honestly and openly with the roots of our offenses and their effects.

You can see from this passage (2 Cor. 5:17-21) that true reconciliation always works **upwardly**, bringing peace between God and the forgiven sinner; **outwardly**, restoring peace with others, and **inwardly**; bringing the so-important ingredient of peace with Self. Here’s where David found it must start:

*Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me and know my anxious thoughts;
And see if there be any hurtful way in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way.*
Ps. 139:23-24 (NAS)

That’s tough work. None of us likes to be exposed for what we really are in our sins. Satan knows that. In fact, he knows that fear of exposure can keep the sinner from honest reconciliation with God, with others and with Self. Look what that fear of exposure did to Adam and Eve.

1. They tried to ‘fix things’ by their own efforts. That didn’t work, so:
2. They hid behind a tree. That didn’t work, either. So, when confronted by God,
3. They dissembled, **avoided the issue**. Nakedness exposed was not the issue.
4. They took the ‘blame-game’ route, ultimately blaming God Himself.

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Reconciliation

Continued from page 4.

Shifting blame didn’t work, either. Blaming others is powerless in resolving guilt. In fact, blaming others only digs guilt deeper into the soul; it keeps the guilty party from experiencing spiritual freedom and keeps them locked into repeated patterns of failure and destructive behavior.

This ‘Eden pattern’ has been representative of the unchanging character of sin ever since. It demonstrates how we really are the children of our first parents, Adam and Eve. It shows how fear of exposure will keep the sinner

trapped in the power of their own sin and guilt, never able to come to genuine remorse over the sinfulness of their own actions that can lead to a different outcome of repentance, healing and reconciliation. Thus, the entreaty of Paul is made even to the Believer. It’s time to come out from behind the tree and let grace have its perfect work of bringing true healing and reconciliation with God, with others and with Self. ✧

GCA BIBLE INSTITUTE CERTIFICATES

On August 9th, the following individuals received certificates for completing the Bible Institute courses offered during Community Connections last spring:



Evelyn Cartagena
Herb Dean
Amy Dowling
Elaine Gaddie
Frances Jones
Alice Shubrick
Carolyn Smith (from Arizona)
Emma Trusty
Juanita Washington

Congratulations!

One of the recipients was over the age of 90! Will you be on the list of names to receive a certificate next semester? You’re never too young or too old! ✧