

FILL IN THE BLANKS

These Bible memory verses are more recent. We hope you are keeping up. See how you do:

"Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who _____, for in whatever you _____ another you condemn yourself; for you who _____ the same things." Rom. 2:1 (NKJV)

"And do you think this, O man, you who _____ those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the _____ of God?" Rom. 2:3 (NKJV)

"So then each of us shall give _____ of himself to God. Therefore let us not _____ one another anymore, but rather _____ this, not to put a _____ or a cause to fall in our _____ way." Rom. 14:12-13 (NKJV)

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly _____ above all that we _____ or _____, according to the _____ that works in us." Eph. 3:20 (NKJV) ✧



December 2017
Volume 5, Issue 3

In This Issue

- 1, 3 Haiti Mission Trip
- 1, 2 Sermon
- 2, 6 Pastor Grant's Sermon Notes
- 2 New Year's Eve Service
- 3 A Special Christmas Eve Celebration at GCA
- 4, 5 Christmas Settled the Age-old Question of Life, Origin and Purpose!
- 5, 6 Sisters of Compassion Mission Report
- 5 Cartoon
- 6 Pastors Appreciation Event
- 7 Email From OHIO
- 7 Ladies Breakfast Event
- 8 Fill in the BLANKS
- 8 King's Kids Choir
- 8 GCA Basketball-4-Christ Event

GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly



By Lorraine Stirneman

We arrive in Port-au-Prince on a VERY HOT afternoon. We have a six hour ride over rough, bouncy roads and curves as we go up and down and around the mountains. It is beautiful along

the ocean with palm trees, fishing boats etc., but on the city streets are piles of empty bottles and trash; imagine Philadelphia with no trash pickup. The streets are crowded with people, animals, trucks, cars, buses, and LOTS OF MOTOR BIKES with as many as six people on one bike!

At the guesthouse we're happy we have air-conditioning in our room, but only for half a day. We are anxious to start teacher training. *Continues on page 3.*




By Peter Mack

The sermon, "True Greatness in God's Kingdom" on Sunday, October 29th delivered by Michael Boyd (pictured above) was right on point. True greatness in God's kingdom does not depend on the position or title that is occupied, as requested by James and John, but rather comes from a place of humility in the form of a servant. As individuals, we seek recognition and respect based on the power of our position, which may be okay with those outside of Christ. However, we glorify God best when we embrace and perform the duty of a servant. *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.

Germantown Christian Assembly
610 East Mt. Pleasant Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19119

(215) 242-5550
FAX: (215) 247-5389
Email: gcafamily@verizon.net
Web Site: gcafamilychurch.org
Elders:
Brian H. Grant, Pastor
Dr. Charles I. Hart, Pastor Emeritus
LeRoy Jackson
George Peters

GCA Reflections News Staff
Editor: Pat Clark
Production Artist: Sandy Wheeler

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.

Sermon

Continued from page 1.

The message was rather engaging, using the biblical text to drive home the need for salvation. James and John wanted to shine the spotlight on themselves in order to stand out from their fellow saints. This desire for attention created strife and disrupted the unity.

The speaker challenged the congregation by reminding us that our gifts and talents were given to us, not for self-gratification, but for the purpose of serving the Lord. His illustration was so relevant as he described the athlete with the tattoo on his arm "GOAT"-- Greatest Of All Times. To hear the whole sermon, check out GCA's website! ✧



Pastor Grant's Sermon Notes

As the world celebrated 500 years of the Reformation, this fall Pastor Grant gave a series on the “Key Pillars of the Christian Faith.” What are they?

- 1. Sola _____ (or _____)
- 2. Sola _____ (or _____)
- 3. Sola _____ (or _____)
- 4. Solus _____ (or _____)
- 5. Soli _____ (or _____)

If you need answers, consult your notes or see page 6. ✧

Germantown Christian Assembly
NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE
10:30 PM ♦ Sunday, Dec 31st
Followed by a time of fellowship!





Email From OHIO

Here's an email which should encourage all of us:

Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 10:36 AM
To: bgrant@gcafamilychurch.org
Subject: Thank you Pastor Grant!

Dear Pastor Grant, thank you for your church's online video sermon ministry. I live in Columbus, Ohio and I just watched your video of your sermon on 8/8/17 on your website. It is titled, "The Work of the Holy Spirit, Part 1". I really appreciated that sermon and I enjoyed it.

I occasionally attend church here in Columbus, and I am saved. I have been saved for the past 30 years. I read my Bible every day and pray several times a day. Jesus Christ is Lord of my life.

Pastor Grant, I will be watching your videos regularly. I love your preaching and teaching. I value your excellent use of Bible references in your sermons.

I use the computer at the local library to access your website and watch your sermons.

Thank you again for your excellent ministry.

Sincerely,
C. J.



These photos were taken last month at the GCA Ladies Breakfast. Discussion: Breast Cancer Clinical Trials from the staff of Fox Chase Cancer Center.



PASTORS APPRECIATION EVENT



so thankful to all of you who have prayed and contributed to this ministry while we were away! May the Lord continue to richly bless. (Editor's note: Young people, your turn next.) ✧

Sisters of Compassion Mission Report

Continued from page 5.

We also had opportunity to visit and fellowship with believers from the Port Maria Assembly. We met members of the Parish Council, as well as the Honorable Richard Creary, the mayor of Port Maria. We visited the Port Maria Hospital, talked and witnessed with a nurse there, and also met with Dr. Isaac Brown and Pauline Meek (Regional Director and Assistant Director of Public Health in Port Maria). Some supplies we had were given to the hospital. Dr. Brown is a Christian and was actually baptized by our own Pastor Emeritus!

The highlight of our trip was a visit to Bethsaida Home for the Aged in Kingston, Jamaica, a small Christian home sponsored by Christian Brethren Assemblies of Jamaica. This facility has a financial need and needs food and other supplies to continue its daily operation. It has about 25-30 elderly residents who know the Lord as Savior and are cared for by Christian volunteers and caregivers. It was such a blessing and encouragement to interact and talk with these elderly saints. We had a blessed time singing songs of praise and various ones reciting their favorite verses or passages from God's Word. Some of the residents requested us to sing many of their long-time favorite songs. One such song was "I Want God's Way to be My Way Every Day!" What a blessing to see these elderly saints of God having such a "sweet spirit" in their latter years and so thankful in spite of their circumstances, praising the Lord and looking forward to the hope of our Savior's soon return.

Our trip was a short but a very fulfilling one. We developed new friendships and strengthened old ones. We continue to be open to the Lord's leading as to what and where He wants the Sisters of Compassion ministry's next project to be. We are grateful and



Mission Trip to Haiti

Continued from page 1.

We were told to be ready at 8 a.m. for our driver to pick us up in time for our class at 9 a.m. Well, we WAITED, AND WAITED until 9:30 when our driver arrived. We were an hour late for class, but so was everyone else. Many people had to walk several miles to get there, so when they arrived, breakfast was served (rolls and juice) and then we finally got started.

Jacques Forge, BCM missionary from Canada, was our translator. His brother and wife began this ministry years ago by taking seven orphans into their home. The ministry grew until they now have 65 orphans with a large orphanage and a church on the property. The Sunday school teachers were in need of training and materials, so we were invited to help.

About 55 people, mostly teen and young adults, came from ten churches. The students were quite attentive but it was hard to know if they understood everything as it was being translated. We soon realized that some of the teen girls from the orphanage were gifted teachers and we quickly put them to use.

One girl told us how the story of Esther changed her life. She had many sores on her body and other children made fun of her. She thought she could never be loved; but when she heard about Esther and how she had no family either, it gave her hope. She is now a beautiful



19-year-old young woman who wants to be a doctor. May God help her to reach that goal.

When we taught the lesson on "How to lead a child to Christ" there were many, many questions. "Do you have to get saved if you were born in a Christian home?" "What if you got saved, and then started to sin again?" "How often can you get saved?" "What if you got saved and then someone put a curse on you?" This went on for an hour. We just sat down and let Jacques answer the questions. One of the students came to Jacques afterward and prayed for salvation!

A young lady named Myrlande lives in the city and started a Bible Club among the poorest children in the slums. At times she has 1,000 children! She has a great love for the Lord, and an amazing gift to hold their attention. We were happy to give her some 5-Day Bible Club materials.

Christine organized a VBS for the orphans and neighborhood children in the afternoon. She had loads of games, crafts, songs, and a Bible lesson each day. The children were so excited, and several of them received Christ as Savior.

By the end of the training, we were able to provide materials to six churches, and all the churches had information on how to prepare 72 lessons just using the Bible. Our prayer is that all the teachers will be better prepared as a result of the training! ✧



Christmas

Settled the Age-old Question of Life, Origin and Purpose!

By Dr. Elijah Korich

Psalms 91:1 states, *"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork."* This is what is called the teleological argument for the existence of God. This psalm is one of the clearest Biblical statements that nature itself is meant to show the greatness of God. It has been pointed out that these words are in the present tense. The heavens **"are declaring,"** and the sky **"is proclaiming"** the creative work of God. It's a continual display, to constantly show us that God exists and tells us how amazing a creator He truly is.

Growing up as a shepherd in Kerio Valley, in the Rift Valley of Kenya, this was my childhood experience. Beautiful skies, mountain ranges, escarpments, sunrises and sunsets, all converge to create in my small mind a philosophical question of "the meaning, origin and purpose of life".

I was surrounded by mountains; to the south, west and east and to the north was a vast plain as far as my eyes could see. The question that went through my mind everyday was, "How did the formation of hills and mountains/escarpments come to be?". This went on till I was 15 years of age, having not seen anything to call school, or even anything of reading or writing. But answers to my philosophical questions came when the Christmas story--the story of a Savior--was brought to my village one sunny afternoon. A man who had gone to British farms was converted to Christ. He could not wait to go back to where he originally was born. Having a half-torn Bible, he found me in the field taking care of my father's cow. This was the moment he shared about Christmas and the meaning of Christmas. This was my "aha" moment when the questions of meaning and purpose of life were answered.

Continues on page 5.



The Lord had been preparing me by letting so many questions flood my mind, and He sent someone when He deemed it was time for me to get the answers, even before I learned how to read or write. By the time I started learning my alphabets at 15 years of age, sitting on a stone writing in the dust, I had already received the answer of all answers. The Lord had come into my heart.

I had no idea that, 30 years later, God would send me back to bring some change as only He could. PRAISE HIM!

Learn more at the website of Keiyo Soy Ministries Inc. (www.ksministries.com) ✧

Sisters of Compassion Mission Report

By Sharon Henry

On August 26th 2017, members of GCA who are associated with the Sisters of Compassion ministry left the United States for Port Maria, Jamaica. The purpose for this trip was distribution of personal care and medical supplies and to serve the residents and caregivers for one week at the infirmary at Port Maria.

Participants included Lourine Powell, Carol Pessoa Jackson, and Sharon Henry from Germantown Christian Assembly. Our host and ministry coordinator was Dr. Monica Burgher, who lives in Port Maria and serves as a missionary in Jamaica. The personal care and medical supplies, supplemented with 120 pillows, were shipped in 11 barrels prior to the group's arrival in Jamaica.

This group of sisters in the Lord was excited to be a part of this ministry and be called and used by the Lord to serve and show compassion to "the least of these" as mentioned in the Bible. Many of the residents at the infirmary were abandoned by family members after being in the hospital; others came from families who could not care for them. Like many government-run facilities in third-world countries, it lacks medical and personal

supplies needed to give basic care to its residents. This shipment of supplies would therefore raise the level of care.

Unfortunately (but according to the Lord's divine design) we were not able to see the items distributed to the infirmary. But we praise the Lord for allowing us to go and still work among the residents giving personal care, interacting with residents and staff members, and witnessing to those at the infirmary. There were familiar faces and we had the opportunity to meet new ones. This was the third trip for Lourine, the second for Sharon and the first visit for Carol.

Continues on page 6.



Left to Right: Carol Pessoa, Dr. Monica Burgher, Sharon Henry, Dr. Isaac Brown, Lourine Powell and Pauline Meeks.

