

GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly



We're Back!

By Pat Clark
- Editor

Once upon a time, maybe four or more years ago, there was GCA's Newsletter, *Maranatha News*. Many have missed it, even expressing not being able to have the birthday list, which had been included month by month. Well, we are now starting anew, even with a new name – *GCA Reflections*.

This publication will major on the ministries as you will see, and certainly a lot happens at GCA via what God is doing through its ministries. We trust it will be a blessing as it comes to you, DV, quarterly. I am happy the Lord is allowing me once again to be involved. ✨

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Praise the Lord

Following GCA's Quarterly Ministry Leader's Meeting in November, we praise the Lord that 25 reports were submitted, and that's why we can ask: wouldn't you like to take a peek at the reports from other ministries; especially the praise items? Well here's your chance.

Children's Church thanks the Lord for the joyful spirit of the helpers and teachers, especially for the faithful and steadfast team work. The few very special teens who show outstanding service in the Lord's work are a blessing.

The **Couples' Ministry** praises God for the spirit of hospitality in our church, as members opened their home. We enjoyed great evenings of fellowship at the homes of Carlton and Sharon Henry and Robin and Anne Angoy. We are looking forward to the next fellowship at the home of Rita and Nick Grant, on Saturday, Feb. 16.
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Interview with Marcia Malvo and Brenda Wilford

Continued...

Q. Brenda, how long have you been signing?

A. "20 years. Friends and missionaries Chuck and Nancy Snyder, taught us here at GCA, then I got involved with Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, presently at 100 School House Lane in Philadelphia. I ended up working full-time."

Q. Marcia, have you been deaf for life?

A. "I asked my father if I was born deaf, and I was told that I was diagnosed deaf at age 2 or 3, after severe illness. I almost died in a hospital but God protected me. At first I attended regular school, and then at age 8 I was transferred to a deaf school."

Q. Marcia, do you get enjoyment out of life?

A. "Yes, I'm very happy. I've made mistakes but always knew God was with me. I've encouraged my sons Richard age 30 and Marcus, age 7, to go to school."

"Pray that my husband in Jamaica will be able to come here soon! My favorite verse is Gal. 6:9, 'Let us not become weary in doing well, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.'"

Note: Marcia teaches Marcus to sign. He was the one doing the signing at GCA Christmas program. He communicates well. Marcia finds texting helpful as it allows the deaf people to communicate. ✨

BIG THANKS to our GCA Family!!

Submitted by Lisa Lambert, Lorraine Stirneman, and Christine Wigden, BCM Missionaries in North Philadelphia

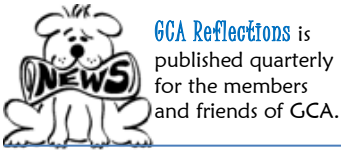


Big thanks to our GCA family for all the help with our Bible Club Christmas Parties in December. Over 220 children attended the parties and were blessed with gifts, Mother's Gift shopping, and food. Every need was met! Money to rent vans, drivers, donations of cookies, mothers' gifts, wrapping paper, and shopping bags. There were people who decorated, shopped, drove, cooked, cleaned up, wrapped gifts, served food, supervised children, and helped in every other way! The children and their parents have expressed joy and gratitude for the magnificent way we celebrated Jesus' birthday. God bless us everyone! ✨

GCA Ministry Contacts Names and Help Wanted...

- **Bereavement Ministry** - need more people to serve at funerals.
Contact Alice Schubrick/Lanora Williams
- **Children Education** - need committed people who show up on their assigned day to serve.
Contact Christine Wigden
- **Children's Church** - additional teachers and helpers needed urgently.
Contact Anne Ridenhour
- **Couples' Ministry** - Contact Robert/Maureen Linton
- **Deaf Ministry**. Sister Brenda seeks a volunteer to jot down voiced sermons and scripture references for the ministry.
Contact Brenda Wilford
- **Ladies' Fellowship** - recruitment of greeters.
Contact Elaine Joy Gaddie
- **Lobby Desk Ministry** – need more volunteers.
Contact Jackie Swift/Brenda White
- **Male Chorus** - need more GCA men to sign up.
Contact Kirk Wheeler
- **Nursery** - Contact Toya Lawson
- **Prison Ministry** - need male speakers and female teachers.
Contact LeRoy Jackson/Jim McConnell
- **Van Ministry** - need additional person(s) to drive van on Sundays when neither Dwight nor Richard is available.
Contact Dwight Neilson
- **Video Recording** - need committed individuals, interested in helping in this ministry.
Contact Juanita Washington
- **Visitation** - need brothers and sisters with a heart for sick and shut-in ministry.
Contact Charles Hart/ Herb Dean
- **Young Adult Fellowship**
Contact Brian/Sherryl Grant

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 help bring the church closer together in helping to understand and encourage each other in ministry.



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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.

Praise the Lord Continued...

Deaf Ministry praises our gracious Lord's unwavering faithfulness and oversight throughout 2012 and ahead. This includes Sis. Shirley Williams' faithful third Sunday interpreting.

Praise God for the **Golden Eagles'** Board of Directors, for the successful Monthly Luncheons and blessing of visiting the sick.

Praise God for willing workers of the **Hospitality and Culinary** Ministry and the joy and love they display in every event, and their ability to work together.

God has provided willing hearts and hands for the **Sunday Morning Refreshment Preparations.** Praise God for cooperative saints.

The **Ladies' Fellowship** is excited by the trip to an all-day conference by Paula Harris, in Exton. It was such a beneficial experience that they would like to invite Paula to do a one-day conference at GCA. Paula Harris is the founder and director of Transformed Worldwide Ministries (out of Exton, PA), a non-denominational ministry and outreach to women and their loved ones. Watch for the start-up of the new **Ladies Study Group** later this year studying *The Shelter of God's Promises* by Sheila Walsh.

The **Retreat Committee** praises the Lord that they have been used by God to build relationships and foster spiritual growth. The ministry is thankful for having a very committed team.

The **GCA Van** continues to transport approximately a dozen people to church each week.

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By Brian Grant

As part of GCA's revived Focus on Evangelism, on December 6th, a team of sixteen of our saints gathered to begin our house-to-house visitation program. This would turn out to be the first of 5 planned visitations in December. Knowing the focus of the Christmas season, the team seized the opportunity to help our neighbors understand the real meaning of Christmas. We left literature explaining the gospel at each home and had several opportunities to engage our neighbors in discussions about the Savior. The outreach was coordinated with special Christmas

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Praise the Lord Continued...

Visitation of faithful team members and the appreciation shown by those visited.

God has used the **Young Adult Fellowship** to build relationships and to foster spiritual growth, to provide a forum for young people to meet peers from other churches and opportunity for young adults to teach and develop gifts. Some were saved at our home Bible study.

Welcoming response of individuals receiving **DVDs** of the services, when not able to sit in on the Sunday, or funeral services.

The **Website** is still up and running.
The continuity of the **Male Chorus.**
Having enough volunteers for the **Nursery.**

The **Prison Ministry's** rise in attendance by both male and female prisoners the first Saturday of each month. ✧

Interview with Marcia Malvo and Brenda Wilford

Conducted by Pat Clark

Q. Marcia, how did you get to come to GCA?

A. "It's been a long time. My sister Lorna Henry was here in America and I was in Jamaica. Lorna kept talking to me about the deaf ministry at GCA. I was already very involved in the deaf ministry in Jamaica. Lorna said to come to America and Brenda (Wilford) will take care of you.

My sister met me at the airport. I was motivated and got involved, fellowshiped with Estelle and other deaf people. I was baptized here at GCA 15 years ago. I was married in Jamaica in June 1997 (Brenda was married July 1997)."

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Focus on Evangelism Continued...

programming and this created a great opportunity to invite the neighbors to our special programs for the season and to introduce them to GCA.

God blessed us with great weather and we had a wonderful time supporting and fellowshiping with each other as we "strolled the neighborhood". The team was not just the usual faithful saints; we were excited to see a few new members as well as one of our young people, Naomi Ruffin. Generally speaking we were well received. A few homes were not particularly welcoming, but most received us cordially. Some expressed surprise to see that a neighborhood church was actually out visiting homes trying to "get people saved". One lady who had visited us a few times was pleased to see GCA's interest in the community. Clearly there is a great need to get into the community as it appears that many churches have given up these efforts.

Praise the Lord our efforts were not in vain. It's been exciting to meet those who have visited our assembly recently and it is very encouraging to know there are new names in heaven because of decisions made as a result of this outreach. What a joy to be a part of this!

If you missed out this time, don't worry. We have plans to do similar outreaches during 2013. And training sessions are being organized. Training dates will be announced. Therefore, anyone can join in, young or old, experienced or inexperienced. God will use your availability.

Hope you will plan to join us for our Easter Season outreach as we continue to spread the Good News to our neighbors. ✧

Please Pray for the following needs...

- **Deaf Ministry** – pray that they will be able to have an in-home Deaf Ministry Bible Study Fellowship this year.
- **Golden Eagles** – pray for the weekly Bible Study.
- **Hospitality and Culinary** – pray as they seek to put together guidelines for directions, use and security of kitchen, supplies, Fellowship Hall and storage rooms.
- **Video Recording** – need for committed individuals interested in helping in this ministry.
- **Retreat Committee** – motivation of new saints to attend.
- **Young Adult Fellowship** – pray that proposed personal invitation increase attendance.