

FILL IN THE **BLANKS**

Here are some of your memory verses (all from NKJV):

"And you, being dead in your _____ and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made _____ together with Him, having _____ you all _____.

"Having wiped out the _____ of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having _____ it to the _____." Colossians 2:13, 14.

"...being _____ freely by His _____ through _____ that is in _____."

Romans 3:24

"Therefore, having been _____ by _____, we have _____ with God through our Lord _____." Romans 5:1 ✧

MLK Day Men's Outing

By Nicolas Grant

This January, a group of 40 enjoyed a special 'Sixers afternoon game at the Wells Fargo Center, a *Martin Luther King Day Men's Outing*. The goal for our group was simply to get GCA men out fellowshiping together. The group was comprised of men who brought friends, and fathers/grandfathers who brought their children. In addition to this a few of our friends from Montco Bible Fellowship and Philadelphia Bible Fellowship also joined the group. Some of you that know me are probably aware that I enjoy spending time with people; however I especially enjoy settings where Christian men are spending time with one another.

Prior to the game the Sixers gave our group special access to sit close to the court and watch the team practice. Seeing so many players up close was very exciting for the young kids...as well as the older kids at heart. Overall it was a fun day, and to top it off the Sixers *won the game*; despite blowing an 18-point lead in about 3 minutes! I still haven't forgiven them for that part but at least they got the win.

Special thanks to all of my GCA family and friends who took time out of their day to enjoy an afternoon together. ✧



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In This Issue

- 1, 2 Prayer & Praise Night Starts the New Year
- 2 A Warm Welcome (New GCA Members)
- 2 Good Friday Worship & Communion Service
- 3 Testimonies
- 3 Scrapbooking Club
- 4, 5 A Trip of a Lifetime, Part 1
- 6 To Your Health: Call 911
- 7 In the Eye of the Storm
- 7 Poem: God Sent Us A Savior
- 7 Easter Sunday Celebration
- 8 Fill in the BLANKS
- 8 MLK Day Men's Outing

GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly

Prayer & Praise Night Starts the New Year



By Pat Clark

The New Year didn't start January 1st for GCA. It started January 9th with Praise and Prayer Night. Rousing praise songs led by Dr. Darryl Brown started the evening off along with announcements: The Operation Andrew Initiative and Andrew cards, which included names of specific individuals we know who need to know the Lord (and plan to witness to accordingly); Pastor Brian's messages on the Seven Signs of Christ; the Men's Outing at the Wells Fargo Center on Martin Luther King Day (see separate article); free food stuff

available; and missionaries of the month Charles & Paula Ebron and Ron & Zita Charles from Ireland and Guyana.


The Men's Chorus sounded really good from where I was sitting (further front than usual) as they sang "I'm on the Battlefield for My Lord".

Pastor Brian shared (trying to keep within 20 minutes!) on Nehemiah. Setting: 445 B.C. somewhere between late November and mid-December, a "global vision" between Iran and Jerusalem (a 1500 mile journey).

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.

Prayer & Praise Night Starts the New Year

Continued from page 1.

Character: Nehemiah - a man of prayer and action! Nine prayers are in the book; the longest prayer recorded is in Chapter 9. Zeroing in on the prayer in Chapter 1 he used the acrostic P-R-A-Y to challenge our hearts regarding prayer. **P** - praise (v. 5), **R** - repentance (v. 6), **A** - asking (v.8-11), and **Y** - yielding (v. 11). What do we learn? God hears the prayers of His people and

prayer changes things!

Marlon Henry opened the "popcorn testimony" time with a most appropriate prayer. Five shared. Men's Chorus sang "God's Grace".

The evening ended with prayer groups--praying for the names on our Andrew cards, and a circle of prayer around the sanctuary. ✧



Gerelynn Colquitt Venice Jackson Gwen Kelly Tarika Wooten

A warm welcome to our newest GCA members who received the right hand of fellowship on Sunday, January 21st. May you experience the rich blessings of the Lord as you enjoy growing with us.

IT IS FINISHED...
Paid in Full!



Germantown Christian Assembly
Invites You To

GOOD FRIDAY
WORSHIP & COMMUNION SERVICE

12:00 NOON
March 30th

In the Eye of the Storm John 6:15 – 21

Review by Peter Mack

Pastor Grant has been preaching a 7-part series, *The Seven Signs of Christ, found in the Gospel of John*. Brother Mack reviews Part 6 of this series, “*In the Eye of the Storm*” with Jesus’ disciples struggling to row a boat in a terrible storm.

Pastor Grant used four main points to deliver the message of salvation to the audience. First, he pointed out that God uses storms in our lives to **reinforce spiritual lessons**. Like us, the disciples were facing yet another storm that would challenge them significantly because they failed to master what he was trying to teach about trusting God (Mark 6:51-52). He quoted Joni Eareckson Tada’s statement, “wisdom is trusting God even when life doesn’t make sense”.

Secondly, God will use the storm in our lives to **increase our dependence on Him**. We can cry out to the Lord for help when we are faced with adverse circumstances. He will never allow the storm to destroy us (Isaiah 43: 1-3); the Lord wants us to know that we can depend on Him despite delays. If He puts us in a storm, He will pray [sic] us out.

The disciples were frustrated because things were not going well. This is also true of us when we are faced with our own storm(s). Jesus is usually the furthest thing from our minds when things aren’t going well. Note carefully, that when the disciples took Jesus into the boat, immediately He took them where they wanted to go, something they could not achieve on their own. **Jesus has power over any storm** that we face. Peter was able to walk on water because he had faith to get out of the boat and to put his trust in Christ.

Finally, **storms transfer our minds from earthly things to heavenly things**. The text started off with the disciples focusing on earthly things; that is, they were rowing all night trying to get ashore with all the strength they had. However, if we, like Peter, cry out to the Lord He will save us (Matthew 14:33) because His power is unlimited. Even the wind and the storm will obey His command. ✧

EASTER SUNDAY



He is Risen

Join Us at 10:45 AM
Sunday, April 1st

For a Special Easter Celebration

Submitted by Gillian Walton

God Sent Us A Savior

If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness,
so God sent us a Savior.

- Poem by Roy Lessin



Time and time again people have seen their loved ones or others in dire, even life-threatening situations. The instinctive response is to get the victim in the car and speed down the highway to the nearest health care facility, thinking this will get them there faster. The health issues may be due to severe trauma, profuse bleeding, heart attacks, angina or incidences causing difficulty in breathing from allergic reactions, asthma or other problems requiring urgent attention. The would-be rescuers don't want to stand by helplessly watching the person's life ebb away, so they decide to act in what they intend to be a heroic manner, driving the victim to the medical center. But high adrenaline and nervousness are combining with the distraction of constantly checking to make sure the sick person is not getting worse.

This is not a good decision for several reasons:

1. The anxious, worried driver could get into an accident.
2. He or she could be stopped by the police.
3. He or she could be delayed by traffic.
4. Also, during the ride to the hospital the victim is not getting important life-sustaining treatments to increase his or her chances of survival.

I knew a friend who faced this very predicament and I have since heard of many more. Her husband was experiencing severe chest pains and she thought it best for him to walk slowly downstairs and get into the car so she could drive him to the hospital. Unfortunately, he died shortly after reaching the hospital. Calling 911 ensures the paramedics can start treating the victims as soon as they arrive.

It's not about placing blame--far from it. Many people do what they think is appropriate when faced with life threatening situations. The decision to drive a seriously ill person to the hospital is always a race against time.

When there is an emergency, **call 911**. Paramedics can reach a site in record time these days. Fire-rescue units are well equipped with whatever is necessary to alleviate the emergent condition of patients or, at the very least, give medical care until they get to the nearest medical center. They have the ability to administer life-saving oxygen or intravenous infusions to hydrate a bleeding victim; they can minimize blood loss, administer crucial medications and give CPR if the patient's heart or breathing stops. They can stabilize a patient long before the unit reaches the hospital.

It's usually a gut-reaction to drive a critically ill person to a medical facility, thinking it's the best option to ensure survival. This may, however, be the worst decision as the outcome could be devastating.

Next issue: Look for "Medical Alert Systems."

We are happy that Margaret will now be a regular contributor to GCA Reflections regarding health issues. ☆

Testimonies

Gwendolyn Kelly

Gwen, who recently became a member of GCA, shares this:

A story of signs --- when I started to notice that Jesus was calling me. It began with a funeral, then a scrapbooking club and the Jordan River.

The first time I came to GCA was at a funeral. As we were leaving the funeral service to go to the car, I saw a sign hanging on the railing that said "Scrapbooking"; this has been my hobby for years and I thought now I could have someone to craft with. [A sign.]

I had been told about the Father, Son, Holy Ghost /Spirit, Jesus and the Bible a good part of my life. I believe I always knew they were out there, but the Bible was "too hard to read". I didn't find church interesting and I would hear "If you do this or don't do this you are going to HELL". I've done some of this and that, so I reasoned, *I'm going to hell*. So life went on. Now and then I would ask for help from the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, not putting too much thought into it.

Tarika Wooten

Tarika also became a member of GCA. She shares how the Lord led her here:

The Lord led me to GCA through my son, Shareef Hackett, who kept attending after he helped out my neighbor, Brother Doyle Gray, and volunteered in order to earn credits for graduation.

My son helped out with the little kids for Tuesday Bible study. Then he attended teen Bible study. My girls, Nyrobi and Naya Hackett started going with him. He stopped going but they continued. They helped out for 3 years with Vacation Bible School (VBS), but I never went to the VBS breakfast until the 3rd year. I promised Brother Gray that I would attend and see the girls' artwork and how they helped with the children; the girls didn't attend with me. That's where I met Rita Grant. She sat at the empty table with me with her family and she and I hit it off. She invited me to come to church the next day. I came and enjoyed the teaching of the Word. She then invited me and my family to the Safari trip and our husbands hit it off and have been good friends ever since. I'm thankful that now my husband attends church with me. He had trouble finding a church since the passing of his uncle Benjamin Smith, founder of Deliverance Church. ☆

In 2013, I was able to retire early. Now that I had my five days a week and 10 hours a day back, what to do? [*This looks like a sign.*] Hubby, Steve, had started going to GCA (*his church had gone out of business*) on Sundays and singing in the choir. Meanwhile, I started going to the scrapbooking get-togethers on Saturdays.

Slowly I started to go back to church and began to understand what the person was talking about (with help from audiobook, Google, and YouTube "The Bible Project"). [A sign.] This is my fourth year listening/reading through the Bible in one year.

I took the beginners class at GCA and was encouraged to be baptized again; *no I don't think so*; and left it at that.

The trip to Israel gave me the chance to see what I've been hearing about. The trip included the opportunity to be baptized in the Jordan River [*Now that's a sign*].

Ok, I see the signs; I have decided to follow Jesus!!

Scrapbooking begins again Saturday, March 24th from 12-5 p.m. Just bring 1 to 6 photos for a layout. We have everything else you'll need. Contact is Marsha Hough.



A TRIP OF A LIFETIME, PART 1

By Sharon Henry

Fifty eager and excited travelers embarked on a long anticipated trip to the Holy Land in October 2017. A few in the group had previously traveled to Israel, but for many of us it was our first time. Can you imagine the excitement and anticipation for the believers in the group to see and experience the places that we have read about in the Bible? Pastor Brian Grant and his wife Sherryl were the organizers (and gracious hosts) of this memorable ten-day trip. They did an awesome job in making everyone feel welcomed and included. Their hard work and attentive, detailed planning contributed to an unforgettable experience and a very cohesive tour

group. Many of us have formed lasting friendships and will have precious and meaningful memories for the rest of our lives!

Members of our group left GCA by bus and headed to Newark Airport where we met up with others from other states in our tour group. After going through an intense security screen and checking in to El Al Israel Airlines, we were finally on our way to Israel. The flight was a very long one, but there was time to sleep, time for entertainment and tasty meals. We also had plenty of opportunities to observe the social interactions of people of different cultures travelling on our flight. *Continues on page 5.*

Some of us got a crash course and “in time” experience with how some Orthodox Jewish men interact with the opposite sex which I personally found very entertaining!

We arrived the following morning at **Tel Aviv’s Ben-Gurion Airport** where we met our guide, Deena, and our bus driver, Meir, who welcomed us to “the Land of the Bible”. They were our escorts throughout our entire stay in Israel.

Highlights of Our Trip

- We visited **Old Jaffa** (*Joppa* in the Bible)--traditional home of Simon the Tanner and the port from where Jonah sailed.
- We spent about three days in the **Jerusalem area**, visiting the **Model of Jerusalem** - a replica of the city as it was during the days of our Lord and where the Dead Sea Scrolls are on exhibition.
- We saw the **Mount of Olives** and got a magnificent view of the **Old City** (Jerusalem) and then came to **Golgotha** and the empty **Garden Tomb** for a special time of worship, communion and meditation.
- We visited the town of **Bethlehem** (Palestinian territory) - saw the **Manger Square**, the **Church of the Nativity**, and the **Shepherds’ Fields**; then went to the **Temple Mount area**, where Abraham was to sacrifice Isaac; we also saw the **Dome of the Rock** and **Al-aqsa Mosque** that now stands there.
- We visited the **Holocaust Museum** and the **Western Wall** and its tunnel where excavations are still taking place. We also had the opportunity to pray or meditate at this very holy site for Jews. Men and women prayed separately in designated areas.
- We walked from the **Mt. of Olives** to the **Garden of Gethsemane**, and the **Church of all Nations**, drove across the **Kidron Valley** and entered the **Old City** through the Lions’ Gate (**St. Stephen Gate**) to the **Muslim Quarter**, visited the **Pool of Bethesda**, **Pilate’s Judgment Hall**; walked along the **Via Dolorosa** (Latin for “Way of Grief” or “Way of Sorrow”) and into the **Christian Quarter**, where we saw various **Stations of the Cross** and visited **The Holy Sepulchre** - the site where it is believed that Jesus was buried.
- We drove to **Mt. Zion** to see the **House of Caiaphas** and the **Upper Room of the Last Supper** and saw later that night a phenomenal **Sound and Light show at the David Citadel** against the background of the city walls.
- We experienced **Shabbat of a Lifetime** - members of our tour group had the opportunity to participate in an authentic traditional Jewish Passover meal with two Jewish families on a Friday evening. The families served different courses of food which have symbolic meaning and said various prayers. A blessing said over each child in the family during the Passover meal impressed me greatly. What if we incorporated this practice as believers with our children? Could it make some impact on the trajectory or path some of them take later in their lives?

Sharon sure makes us feel like we are there with her. There’s still more to cover. We look forward to the rest of her report in the next issue. ✧