

Caribbean Grilled Chicken Breast.

Here is a recipe used for the Friends & Family Day Luncheon in Sept. 2015

Marinade

2/3 c. pineapple juice
2 T. minced onion
2 T. fresh lime juice
1 tsp. curry powder
1 T. honey
1/4 tsp. salt

Ingredients

1/4 tsp. black pepper
1/4 tsp red hot pepper sauce
4 skinless bone-in chicken breast halves, about 6 oz. each; washed and dried.
2 slightly under-ripe bananas, halved lengthwise and crosswise (8 pieces)



Directions

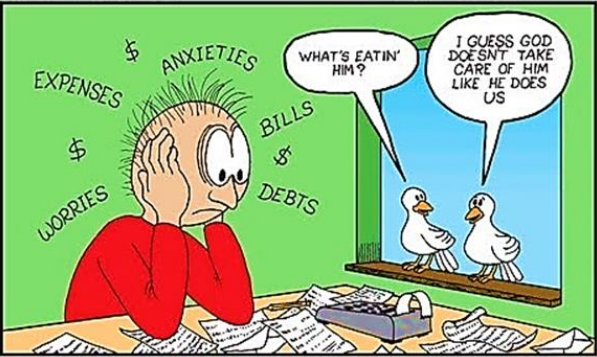
Combine the marinade ingredients in a large resealable plastic bag. Discard all the visible fat from the chicken. Add the chicken to the marinade, seal the bag and turn to coat chicken. Refrigerate for 2-12 hours, turning chicken occasionally.

Preheat the grill on medium. Meanwhile, remove the chicken from the marinade. Pour marinade into small saucepan. Bring to a boil over high heat for 5 minutes. Set aside. Grill chicken on covered grill for about 20 minutes, turning chicken occasionally.

Brush the bananas generously with the marinade. Place on grill. Grill chicken and bananas for 10-15 minutes or until the chicken is tender, turning the bananas once. Brush the chicken with marinade before serving. ✧

DON'T WORRY

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?
- MATTHEW 6:26-27 NIV

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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

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

Saturdays in May: 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. GCA Flag Football & Skills Program

Saturday, May 28th: 6:30-8 p.m. Service Project

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GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly

GCA Members Earn Emmaus Certificates



During the last Community Connections that ended in December 2015, members of Germantown Christian Assembly were able to enroll in two courses offered by the Emmaus Correspondence Bible School, *Hebrews* and *Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth*. If they successfully completed the test from the course, certificates would be issued. On March 13, Pastor Grant gave out certificates to Emma Trusty, Alice Shubrick, Jackie Swift, Juanita Washington, Carolyn Smith (in Arizona!), Shirley Williams and Milton Hicks (from the neighborhood!). Good work scholars!

Do Christians and Muslims Worship the Same God?



By Jim McConnell

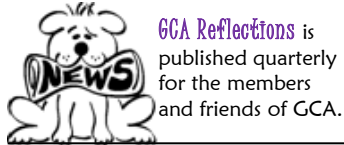
We frequently hear statements being made that Christians and Muslims worship the same God. So we need to ask the question: Is that true? Well, yes and no.

It is true that the same word for God, *Allah*, is used in both the Koran and the Arabic translation of the Bible, but that does **not** mean there is any similarity between Islamic worship and Christian worship. That is because Muslim and Christian understandings of who God **is**, are completely different.

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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.



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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.

Do Christians and Muslims Worship the Same God?

Continued from page 1.

Language experts tell us that the Arabic, *Allah*, comes from the same Semitic root as the Hebrew *Elohim*, which is the general name of God, the Supreme Being, whom we first encounter in Genesis 1:1. Though this agrees with the Islamic concept of God as the Supreme Being, Muslims believe that God is defined exclusively by the Islamic name, *Allah*, and must be worshipped only in Arabic, while Christians believe that God is not defined or fully known by **any** one name but may be understood and worshipped through many names and in any language.

In Old Testament times, the Lord appeared to a man, Manoah, the father of Sampson, and when Manoah asked him his name, (Judges 13:18) the Lord replied, “*Why do you ask me My name, seeing it is wonderful?*” (“Wonderful,” meaning, beyond man’s ability to comprehend) Indeed, God has revealed Himself through many names in the Bible—names that tell us much about who God is and what He is like. However, the totality of who God is, is beyond the ability of the human mind to define or contemplate. So we understand that God cannot be contained within the limitation of mere words, but may be freely worshipped through many different names like those commonly used in the language of differing peoples of the world; names that describe the local concept of the Supreme Being.

Continues on page 6.

Christian One-Liners

Seating Arrangements - Where will you be seated in eternity? Smoking or non-smoking?

Nutrition - The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.

Tithing - Give God what's right -- not what's left.

Problems - The problem ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

God is like a TV Commercial...

Allstate: You're in good hands.

Hallmark Cards: He cared enough to send the very best.

Delta: He's ready when you are.

A Ford: He's got a better idea.

Coke: He's the real thing.

NEW VAN PROJECTED

By Dwight Nielson

Our current van has been in service for 16 years. Though it has met our needs, its primary shortcoming is its rather steep step-up height, which has been remedied with a stepstool. It has been suggested by a number of members that a van or bus with a lower step-in height would allow elderly and disabled riders easier access. Toward this end, the leaders have looked into acquiring a van to fit this bill. It would have a center aisle with two-abreast seating for up to 14 passengers.

A new van costs at least \$55,000, which is more than the assembly can afford at this time. A used van that costs about \$25,000 is therefore being considered. If this van is acquired, we would still keep the existing van.

This will be the project for our 2016 GCA Anniversary offering. ✧



Here is a picture of the van being considered.

Some Highlights from the March 20, 2016 Business Meeting

- Carlton Henry reported that for the first time in the history of GCA, we finished with **all bills paid**, no debt or other liability, and a cash reserve fund.
- The financial report for 2015 and the budget for 2016 were approved with all in favor. As the the budget only represented a **1% increase in giving** over the 2015 budget, Pastor Grant encouraged us to increase our giving, allowing the assembly to do even greater outreach than is now being done. In addition, he indicated that the elders are looking to increase our ministry staff and this can only happen if the Lord supplies the resources.
- Bro. Nick Grant informed us that **security cameras** have been installed at GCA and are also being installed at the Mission House.
- The deacons updated us with the status of the **electronic sign** in the front of GCA. Funds needed to secure and install the sign have

already been received, but our application for a permit was declined by City Hall. An attorney has been retained to pursue obtaining a variance. A hearing regarding this will be held in April. The church will be made aware of the date and time as soon as they are determined.

- Pastor Grant informed us that, beginning in April 2016, the “Inquirer’s Class” will be replaced with **2 brand new classes**: “Jump Start”, a new 6-week discipleship class for new converts; and “New Beginnings”, a shortened class for those desiring membership at GCA.

- He also informed us that the elders are proposing **a change to the By-Laws** to better clarify our position that marriage is exclusively a union between one biological man and one biological woman. This will be voted on at the next business meeting. If you would like to receive a copy of the proposed changes, please contact the church office. ✧

A Tribute to Mom & Dad


To Herbert & Marion Locke
(Parents of Sharon Henry)

Thanks, Mommy & Daddy, for teaching me from early in life to love God with all my heart and to hide God's Word in my heart that I might not sin against Him.

You have sown seeds into the lives of your children and grandchildren based on Deuteronomy 6:6-9. Based on God's promise, it has blossomed and will continue to bloom for generations to come.

I'm eternally grateful for both of your godly examples!

Much love, Sharon Henry



A Tribute to our Parents


To: Lawrence & MaryRose Terrell

We are grateful for the years the Lord allowed us to spend with our loving and godly parents.

They raised eight children to believe and trust in the Lord as Savior. Many sacrifices were made on our behalf, much teaching and nurturing of character existed, and their love for the Lord was always paramount in the lesson set before us. Their love for each other was also an excellent example for us to follow.

We all thank the Lord for giving us such special, loving and devoted parents. We continue to LOVE and CHERISH them.

Elaine Terrell and Ann Terrell Ridenhour



Do Christians and Muslims Worship the Same God?

Continued from page 2.

Thus, we can rejoice in common faith with Kenyan Christians who worship God by the ancient name, *Mungu*, and with Japanese Christians who worship God as the ancient *Kami*, and with our Christian brothers and sisters of India who worship God by the ancient Hindi name, *Paramatma*. But we do not at all share a common concept of God with Muslim worshippers of *Allah*. The fact that the same name is used for God in both the Koran and the Arabic Bible actually means very little, for the imagined God of Muhammad and the true God of the Bible are totally different in their person, character, and relationship with mankind. They have nothing in common.

It is true that in the teachings attributed to Muhammad - the Koran - one may learn that God *is*, but the Muslim will never learn *who* God is. Muslims will never learn of a God they can address as "Heavenly Father". Though they approach *Allah* several times each day in prayer, addressing him as "The Most Merciful," they will never know the extent or the specific nature of God's loving mercy, which is knowable only through the sacrificial, substitutionary death of Christ, that brought God's merciful saving grace within reach of undeserving individuals. Muslims will never know a God who *is* love, nor will they ever be assured of His mercy. Instead, in their ignorance of the one true God, they serve a god that is distant, unpredictable, and with whom mercy, forgiveness and heaven can never be assured. And that does **not** describe the God of the Bible. ✧

Sunday School Program:
Morning Glory –
An Easter Play


By Nora Brown

On March 27, 2016, Sunday school children from GCA acted out the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. About 20 young people ranging from nursery age to high school participated.

The program began with prayer by David Grant and scripture reading by Jim McConnell. Tiffany Grant and Marsha Hough then led the audience in a responsive scripture reading.

The story could not have ended without the Good News being spread abroad that Jesus rose from the dead. David and Phyllis Johnson from the adult class brilliantly accomplished this act.

It is hoped that the message that Jesus is no longer dead but alive will be reinforced in the heart of each and every child. May this play encourage them to learn more and more about the Lord so that they will be able to share this Good News with friends and unsaved families. Proverbs 22:6 tells parents to "Train up their children in the way they should go so that when they become old they will not depart from it". As the teachers assist in this area, let's pray that God will give the patience to continue the good work they have begun. ✧



Nursery – “LET THE CHILDREN COME” portrayed mothers bringing their children to Jesus to be blessed; it also featured Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem as He came riding on a colt.

Kindergarten – “LET’S EAT” portrayed Jesus’ last supper with His disciples. Jesus informed His disciples of the death He was about to die, and commanded them to keep the Lord’s Supper in remembrance of Him until He comes.

Grades 1&2 – “COCK-A-DOODLE CHOICES” portrayed the denial of Jesus by Peter. Peter pledged never to leave Jesus, but that pledge was broken by his fear of being put to death by the Roman soldiers. The crowing cock resulted in Peter’s shame and sorrow.

Grade 3 – “HERE COMES THE JUDGE” portrayed the time that Jesus would be judged. Many people made false accusations about Him and demanded that He should be crucified.

Grade 4 – “AND THE EARTH TREMBLED” portrayed how the earth trembled as Jesus “gave up the ghost” and died.

Grades 5&6 – “TICK TOCK” portrayed the anticipation of Jesus resurrection on the third day as He said He would.

Grades 7-9 - “HE IS BA-A-CK” portrayed the resurrection of Jesus Christ while the angels declared to Mary that He is no longer dead but is risen.

Grades 10-12 – “THE GARDEN TOMB” portrayed the empty tomb. Two thousand years later, many still come to see the empty tomb.

By Margaret Aitcheson

(Editor's Note: Margaret had shared in our October 2015 issue of *GCA Reflections* her plans, in the will of the Lord, to visit Fidelia in the near future. Well, she did and now she shares this article.)

George Beckford was born and raised in St. Mary, Jamaica. As a teenager he dedicated his life to the Lord. Our own Pastor Emeritus Charles Hart was his pastor at Highgate Gospel Chapel in Jamaica. After seeing slides on Bolivia, South America, he was convinced that the Lord was calling him into missionary service there. He attended Bible College in Mandeville, Jamaica to prepare for missionary work. After graduation, he worked with various churches and then joined the New Tribes Missionary Organization in preparation to go to Bolivia. In Bolivia, he had intensive training in the Spanish language and finished months ahead of his peers.



George labored zealously as a pioneer in evangelism, discipleship and church planting in the areas between Santa Cruz and Yacuiba, a very tough and rugged area with limited resources and unreliable transportation. He was able to persevere doing great exploits for the Lord because he believed he had a true calling from God to the people of Bolivia. He was charismatic with a big smile which usually won over his most ardent critics.

Fidelia Alvarez was born in Bolivia and accepted the Lord as Savior at the age of nine. She attended Bible college as a teenager and also did a course in child evangelism in Argentina. She worked in her church and the surrounding areas teaching Bible clubs and training teachers in child evangelism. She also taught in her local Bible college and eventually was training teachers all over Bolivia.

She was introduced to George Beckford because of her work in child evangelism and teacher training, and he invited her to train teachers in the areas he was working. They started working together; George pastoring the churches he founded, and Fidelia training teachers for children's ministry and Bible clubs. They forged a tight bond, a lasting love born out of their admiration for each other's dedication, diligence and commitment to the Lord's work and Word, common goals and compatible personalities. They married and continued working together.



People are really enjoying GCA Movie Nights. There has been a great turn out, especially for the two in GCA's Fellowship Hall. People thought ***“God’s Not Dead,” “God’s Not Dead 2”*** and ***“War Room”*** were excellent. Here are some comments from the movies shown at GCA*:

- 👍 *“We should do more.”*
- 👍 *“Great for sharing with non-believers and/or marginal believers.”*
- 👍 *“Very well done--emphasizes the power of prayer.”*

Fidelia was impressed by George's unshakable faith in God. They saw God working miraculously in their lives. George became quite ill with hepatitis after a particular meal he had eaten. Hospital treatment was costly and Fidelia was worried about how they would manage. George trusted the Lord to provide the necessary funds and focused on his treatment and getting well. His mother, a believer herself, sent the necessary funds to pay for his care.

On another occasion, George's life was threatened by the mayor of the area when he realized George was going to build an evangelical church there. This would be the first church in that area and the mayor believed a Catholic church should be built first. However, when he sent men to kill George to prevent him from building the church, they came to where he was preaching but were unable to do so.

George and Fidelia had three children. As they got older the Beckfords decided they would send them to the Missionary school many miles away in Cochabamba, for an English education rather than a Spanish one in the Bolivian schools. Fidelia went with the children and George would travel to see them periodically, laden with all types of goodies for his family. On November 11, 1992, during one of those trips to see his family, George was killed as a truck struck the bus he was travelling in. George had worked tirelessly in Bolivia for over 20 years and had founded six churches; five are still active today, some vibrantly so.



Fidelia is still teaching Bible clubs and training teachers to do the same. She has a passion for seeing children come to a saving knowledge of Christ and understanding how they can live for Him. Every week she can be seen in action teaching children about Christ's love for them in Bible Clubs that are located in different areas of Cochabamba and its surroundings.

My time spent in Bolivia has left a deep impression on me. When we pray and support our missionaries financially we just never know how the Lord will work in them to fulfill His purpose, even in the face of tough and rigorous circumstances because they remain committed to the call of God. Let us continue to encourage them by our prayers and support which will demonstrate our love, care and concern for them and the advancement of the Kingdom of God. ✧

- 👍 *“Good movies emphasized knowing how to defend your faith.”*
- 👍 *“Intellectual as well as a nice exploration into the truth of who He is, and historical.”*
- 👍 *“They both gave me added ways to share the Gospel.”*
- 👍 *“...helped inspire prayer life.”*
- 👍 *“...helped inspire apologetics research.”*

* Note: ***“God’s Not Dead 2”*** was featured at the AMC Theater #12 at the Plymouth Meeting Mall.