

Sherryl Grant

Continued from page 3.

Q. What is your background to be able to do this ministry?

A. As I stated before, I **had** no background for this job. I was one that sat on the bench and enjoyed the choir singing. I had for most of my life, been involved with music of some sort, but usually in small groups and with my sisters.

Q. Do you have a favorite or a life verse?

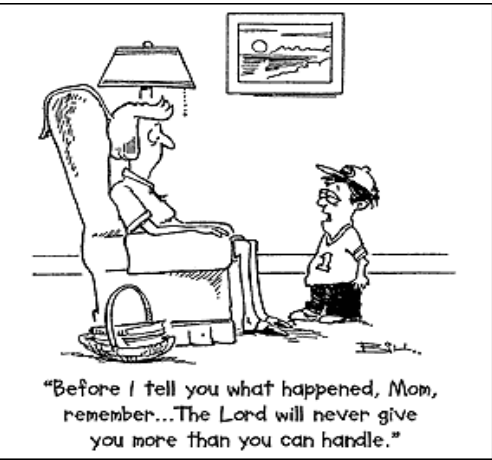
A. Psalm 61:2. "From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I."

Comments: I would like to say to the choir, a big "Thank You!" for your patience with me and for teaching me so much. I look forward to each rehearsal and am excited to see the Lord work through us each week as we sing His praises. ✧

Youth Activities

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

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



Q. What would be your advice to those seeking to serve the Lord?

A. Step out and trust Him if you think He is leading you in a particular direction. I've found that He never places you in something or somewhere that you don't enjoy or **grow** to enjoy! When you are obedient to Him, He always provides, and that's when you know that it's not **you**, but Him accomplishing His will. Time moves so fast that many people lose a lot of precious time trying to make a decision on what to do for the Lord, and eventually do nothing. It's never too late!

Join us for the GCA Church Picnic

Peace Valley Park
230 Creek Road
Doylestown, PA 18901

Saturday, August 8th
11a.m. to 6 p.m.

Picnic Areas at Pavilion #2
Play Area, Boat Rentals
Hiking & Bicycle Trials
Softball and more!



July 2015
Volume 3, Issue 2

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GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly

THE POWER OF LOVE

By Pastor Brian H. Grant

Wednesday, June 17, 2015 was a particularly dark night in America. Our hearts were broken as we saw and heard the news of the evil and violence that had taken place at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. A 21-year-old white male had entered this landmark black church, sat with members in a Bible study for over an hour before opening fire on the unsuspecting believers. Nine innocent lives were ushered into eternity by this brutal and grotesque act of violence.



Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Charleston, South Carolina

This was indeed a stark reminder that racism and hatred is still alive.

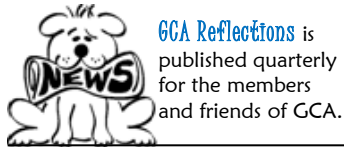
The "Power of Hate" was once again on full display, leaving in its wake parents, children, other family and friends reeling from this tragic and senseless act of violence. But despite their incredible loss, the grieving families would soon shock the world. The "Power of Love" was about to overcome the "Power of Hate". In the midst of their "fog", the bereaved families drew strength from their faith in God and spoke of forgiveness. Over and over, the news media carried interviews of family members sending this message to the murderer, "We forgive you". The **reconciling** Power of Love was displacing the **destructive** Power of Hate.

Exactly one week later, the church gathered for Bible study in the same room where the bullets flew. Interim Pastor Norvel Goff Sr. said, "This territory belongs to God." They were not going to allow the Power of Hate to discourage them from serving God. He then proceeded to lead them in a Bible study fittingly titled, "The Power of Love". He referred to the hatred of the gunman and said, "We are better than this".

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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.



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

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.

A special thank you to all who contributed to this issue of GCA Reflections.

THE POWER OF LOVE

Continued from page 1.

What a powerful lesson! On our journey, we sometimes experience abuse, injustice, hurt and betrayal which may prompt us to “get even”. But “we are better than this” because of the “Power of God’s love”. So let’s demonstrate the reconciling Power of Love. If these families could forgive a hateful mass murderer, what hurt can we refuse to forgive?

The journey is not over for these grieving families as their lives have been turned upside down. They will need an extra portion of God’s grace. Let’s therefore continue to pray for God’s comfort, strength and provision in the days ahead.

As America celebrates Independence Day, we have been reminded once again that Dr. King’s dream still has not been fulfilled. We must therefore redouble our efforts in **praying for our beloved country and spreading the love of Christ**. We can be certain of this, the message of God’s love can overcome the Power of Hate. ✧



CORRECTION

Re: article Highlights of GCA 2014 May statement – should have read: GCA hosted the Evangelism Explosion Conference on a Saturday, conducted by Herbert Betz of Morgantown, PA.



A Sunday school teacher shared the parable of the prodigal son with his class, pointing out how resentful the older son was when the father welcomed the wayward brother home with open arms and a party.

Amid the celebration, the teacher emphasized, someone in the story failed to share in the joy. “Can you tell me who that was?” the teacher asked.

Eagerly, a little girl raised her hand. “I know, I know!” she exclaimed. “The fatted calf!”

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sat. July 11th
11 AM – 3 PM
**KICKOFF
CELEBRATION**



GCA Fun Fair

Mon. to Fri. July 13-17th
9 AM – 1 PM
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Ages 2-15
Where Kids Explore the Nature of God!

Sat. July 18th
9 – 11 AM
**POST VBS
CELEBRATION**



*All-U-Can-Eat
Pancake Breakfast*

Bible Quiz

- 1) During Israel’s 40-year sojourn in the desert, where did the Lord turn bitter water sweet so the people could drink it?

A. Egypt
C. Canaan

B. Mt. Sinai
D. Marah

Answer: See Exodus 15:23-25.
- 2) Which two spies urged the Israelites to move into Canaan, opposing the other 10 who were afraid?

A. Shaphat and Igal
C. Gaddi and Gaddiel

B. Hoshea and Caleb
D. Shammua and Nahbi

Answer: See Numbers 13:6, 8, 16, 30; 14:6-8.
- 3) Which of the following is an accurate husband-wife match from Scripture?

A. Abram and Ruth
C. Hosea and Ruth

B. Boaz and Ruth
D. Ananias and Ruth

Answer: See Ruth 4:13.

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Melbourne Brown

Occasionally I would go to church and listen to the preachers. I never took the preaching seriously. In my mind I was “not so bad” a sinner: I was not doing the things some others were doing; I was kind-hearted, always ready to help; I would constantly pray asking the Lord to show me how to go to heaven. I never asked the Lord how I can serve Him. One Sunday I heard the words of a preacher like I have never heard them before. The preacher asked: if you died at that moment, are you sure you would go to heaven? I tried to hide from the preacher, but he moved from the pulpit and looked straight at me saying, “You will go to hell.” I went home with a heavy and broken heart. I told my wife I am going to ask God to save me. She said, “I will pray with you.” Right then I prayed. The next Sunday I heeded the call of the preacher. I met with one of the deacons. I knew then that I was ready. I did not miss one Sunday’s worship. I attended classes. I could not wait to get baptized. On the 26th of April, 2015 I got baptized. I looked at the water in the pool and stepped in. After I went under the water I have a feeling like none other. My heart cries out thanking God for saving me.

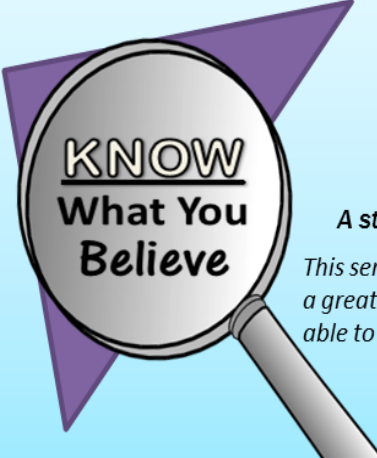
Vincent Lee

I was a member of the Catholic Church for a very long time but did not give much thought to what it means to be saved. However, I would hear the Gospel from time to time and became aware that something was missing from my life, so I gave my life to the Lord Jesus Christ and decided to follow him.

I was recently baptized at GCA and it felt so good to show everyone what Christ has done for me. Please continue to pray for me that I may grow stronger in the things of the Lord. Pray that the Lord may show me how to use my gifts for Him and that I may continue to share my faith with the unsaved.

Valencia Roy

For the two years I was away from Germantown Christian Assembly I spent a lot of time with the Lord. I was not interested in going to another church, but God let me sit by the brook, just like Elijah. During that time, God was teaching me things that I never knew before. He led me to listen to Christian programs that went deep into matters in the Bible. I have learned so much through these programs, strengthening my faith in the Lord and making me stronger than before. My mind kept coming back to GCA and God started me thinking about going back to church. My longtime friend, Lisa Lambert, helped me to make the decision to come back to GCA. I believe God was leading me back to GCA, because the doctrine of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is very strong here. My roots started here at GCA. And I’m glad I have returned home to GCA!! ✧



GCA 2015 Summer Bible Study Series

Tuesdays, June 16th to August 18th
6:45 to 7:45 PM

A study based on the book, “Know What You Believe” by Paul E. Little.

This series will dig deeper into ten of our fundamental Christian beliefs to give us a greater appreciation of what God has done for us, so that we will be better able to “contend for the faith.”

Note: The book is available for purchase.

Plan to join us and invite your friends!

Music Ministry Q&A — continued



In the last issue we had some questions for members of the music ministry. Here are the responses from Sis. Sherryl Grant:

Q. What position do you have in the music ministry at GCA?

A. I am currently director of music, along with my brother Kirk Wheeler, without whom, I could not accomplish my job. I praise the Lord for him, his constant encouragement, and his family.

Q. How did the Lord lead you to this position?

A. After we lost our previous director, I began to feel the Lord tugging at my heart, but I was very reluctant. I had all sorts of excuses as to how unprepared I was for the job. I had never before led a choir, arranged songs, prepared music each week for the uplifting of a congregation etc. etc. It seemed a daunting task to say the least. After a couple of months, I remember praying and talking to the Lord, saying that I was going to do it, in

obedience to Him, and fully trusting Him to provide to do the rest. He immediately brought to mind Carol Cymbala (the director of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir), who is a very accomplished writer, composer, and director, yet she doesn't even read music! Wow, how God has used her for His glory. Within a couple days, I received a call from the church office, telling me that I had received a package. I hadn't ordered anything, and wondered what this was all about. I picked it up. It was in the shape of a small pizza box. I discovered it was from a Christian music company and it was full of sheet music, as well as a CD that I could listen to and place orders for choir music!! I never knew that such a thing existed. Then He provided our most excellent musician, Christopher Wheeler! God had provided and I was without excuse.

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Testimonies



L to R: Wakiya Adger, Melbourne Brown, Alice Francis, Nadia Chamberlain, Troy Chamberlain, Jr., Kayla Cameron, Lyndon Stephenson, Jonathan Jackson, Vincent Lee, Taylor Noble, Dennis Richardson and Valencia Roy

On April 26, 2015 Kayla Cameron, Troy Chamberlain, Jr., Nadia Chamberlain, Jonathan Jackson, Taylor Noble, Melbourne Brown, Alice Francis, Vincent Lee and Dennis Richardson were baptized and received the right hand of fellowship along with Wakiya Adger, Valencia Roy and Lyndon Stephenson. Here are some of their testimonies:

Kayla Cameron

My baptism – I accepted the Lord when I was five years old. I attended my class when I was nine years old. I did not want to miss a class even when it was icy and snowy. I was excited when it was time for me to be baptized. I was very happy to finally go in the water. There is a song, “I have decided to follow JESUS.” And I have.

Troy Martin Chamberlain, Jr.

Ever since my baptism I feel differently about myself. Any time I sinned I didn't feel right, because I knew it was something that I should not have done. Now I ask Jesus to forgive me and take away my sins, so I can be a better person like He wants me to be.

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Testimonies

Continued from page 4.

Nadia Chamberlain

When I got baptized, I felt different. It felt like all my sins had been washed away. Now I am doing my best to sin no more. Being baptized made me feel more confident and stronger being with Jesus. I've been waiting for this moment ever since I was younger and it finally came. I am so grateful to God and relieved!

Jonathan Jackson

I knew that I would lie sometimes and disobey my parents, teachers, and family members. I realized that I was a sinner and had sin in my heart. I knew my relationship with God was broken. I learned from my dad through the Bible that I needed to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Jesus fixed my broken relationship with God by dying on the cross for my sins. Now that I have accepted Jesus Christ in my heart, I am a child of God.

Taylor Noble

Prior to my baptism, the Lord God came into my life when I was at a tender age of 12. I asked Him to come into my heart and to rid me of my sinful ways. Ever since that has happened I've come to love God and serve Him in such a unique way. From the time I asked God to intervene within my life there were plenty of times where I failed God. Despite my actions He has always been there for me. There were many situations where I knew in my heart that it was God who allowed certain things to happen (or prevented them from happening). Before God became my "all in all" I didn't understand who God really was and what He could do. I attended a private Christian school at the age of 6, and at that time I was on fire for God. As time went on I lost those feelings for God and I started to pull away from Him. I am so glad that God caught me at the age of 12. I admit that I was still a young Christian at that age. Being baptized and having the experiences I had with God made me realize how awesome and wonderful and mighty He is.

Alice Francis

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As a young child, I was brought up in a Brethren Church called Central Gospel Chapel, in Jamaica, St. Mary. I came to the United States in 1980, and started to visit GCA on and off. My mother, Victoria Jahalal, and sister, Michelle Ford, played an important role in my accepting the Lord as my personal Savior. By the grace and mercy of God, on March 16, 2015, 35 years later, God gloriously saved me, in answer to prayer. I am now a happy Christian.

Continues on page 6.