



Greetings A.B.M all over Georgia and Florida. Jeremiah 9:1 “Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!” Children, Let’s be like that ole weeping Prophet Jeremiah. Let’s cry out to God for the lost. God wants us to do what we can do and then He will do the rest. If we didn’t have our home revival, it’s not too late. Come on Band Leaders, let’s get our members on fire. I believe we are living in the end time. Jesus will soon come to rapture His Church away. Let’s also be praying about A.B.M. Rallies in our district. You will be hearing from me on this. I love you and I am praying for you.

Sis. Vera Vaughn - Regional Coordinator



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THE I.R.S. AND THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Melvin Kramer—Regional Overseer

There is an old saying that we all have heard that there are two things that are sure, “death and taxes”. Well this statement is very true, as we have learned. As we look at our pay check stubs it is amazing sometimes how much taxes are taken out. I noticed a bumper sticker not too long ago that said, “If ten percent is good enough for God, it should be enough for the IRS.” I am not complaining about paying taxes. I believe we should all do our part to help in the government and the operation of our country, whether it is at the local, state or national level.

Now my title may sound a little strange, but taxation played a very important role in the birth of Christ. Scripture foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2 says, “But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting”. Now as we look at this story, the Bible says in Luke 2:1 “And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed”. What a bad time to be taxed, as Joseph and Mary were making plans and arrangements for the arrival of the Christ child. But the taxation was used by God to fulfill His plan for the birth of Jesus. It had been prophesied that Jesus was to be born in Bethlehem and scripture had to be fulfilled. Joseph and Mary lived in Galilee. Mary was now great with child. How was God going to make sure that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem? The taxation happened just at the right time and in the right way. The policy was that everyone had to return to the city of his birth to pay his taxes. God was miraculously controlling the events of the world, working all things out for good so that He might fulfill His promise to send the Savior into the world. The taxation led to the fulfillment of scripture, despite man’s plans.

So the next time we get a little down and out when we look at our check stub, just remember that paying taxes has been around a long time and none of us are exempt, not even Jesus.

Message from the Assistant Editor

Thanks to everyone who has sent me articles for the paper and for all of the help with submitting everything to place on the Regional Website. We still need many more articles and news submissions to keep the region up-to-date on what is going on. Pastors, if you haven’t appointed a local reporter, please do so soon and email me the name and address or email address of who it is. I also need the auxiliary/department coordinators to continue sending me articles and information when available.

Please have your articles submitted to me by the 10th of each month. If there are any subscribers who are still not receiving their paper, please contact me by phone (770/383-3416), letter, or e-mail, and we will try to resolve it. Please continue to check out the Regional web site for upcoming events and news. If you would like something to be added, please feel free to call or email me to let me know. I am still needing some pictures of pastors to add to the page. Check it out at <http://www.tcogflga.org> or <http://www.tcogga.com> . God bless all of you and please keep me in your prayers!

Tony Conner—Assistant Editor

To submit articles or subscribe to *The Shepherd's Voice*, send them to Tony Conner at:
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My family and I would like to tell you how much we love and appreciate you. We wish you the most joyful and Merry Christmas! We hope you have a very blessed New Year!

God Bless You.

Bro. Melvin Kramer

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It was a silent night in Bethlehem,
When Christ our King was born,
While shepherds watched their sheep,
On that very early morn.

The radiance of His being,
Will shine through all our lives,
And crush the sins of all mankind,
Upon which all evil thrives.

A brilliant star was shining,
Upon that sacred shrine,
Of the Holy Family kneeling,
Beside the manger of God Divine.

Oh Blessed Child of Mary,
To whom all the world will bow,
'Tis God's Son - The only One,
To this our God forever will avow.

The shepherds followed this radiant star,
Of royal beauty bright,
And listened to the angels sing,
While praising God all through the night.

Oh loving Saviour of mankind,
The souls of man both then and now,
Will sing Your praises forever,
And unto You all knees will bow.

Hosanna in the highest,
Unto Him all nations sing,
Christ our Saviour is born this night,
'Tis Christ our Saviour King.

Each year we'll celebrate Your birth,
To please our God our King,
And pray You will come again,
So peace to this world You'll bring.

Sunday School Department



No matter how long the auxiliaries have been operating in a local church, there must be a continuous growth and development for their ministries to remain vital. This is especially a concern in Sunday School, the only auxiliary which touches every member of every age each week.

This year, let's focus on building a better Sunday School. Sunday School can be one of two things—an exciting and spiritual time for learning which students can't wait to start and hate to see end, or something students politely endure until “real” church starts. Let's also remember our general theme for Sunday Schhol, “Without a vision, the people will perish”. And how true our theme is for this upcoming year. There are many different ways to present God's word, but no matter how talented or exciting the teaching style, nothing...NOTHING takes the place of prayer, Bible study and the background of a life consecrated to God. May God bless you all. If I can be of any service to you, please do not hesitate to call.

For Christ and His Church, Sister Karen K. Farthing
Sunday School Coordinator
478-455-1423

VLB

Greetings to all of the youth and leaders. I pray that each local youth group in the region is growing stronger in the Lord. I hope that many are having youth revivals and activities for spiritual strength and fellowship. The Lord has something great for the youth in our region, but we must fast and pray to find the perfect will of God. I will be sending out Regional Youth Life Team applications very soon to all of the leaders. God can raise up a strong and spiritual YLT in Georgia and Florida to further the gospel to all that will listen. The dates and location for the Youth Convention are still currently pending, but we hope to have them to you by next month. Please let's remember our general V.L.B. theme, “Soldiers of the Cross”. This will be our theme for the Regional Youth Convention. If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call.



Your Brother in Christ,
Joshua W. Farthing

This Is A Test!



This will certainly make you stop and think. You never know what a kind word, a phone call, or an impromptu visit will do for someone else.

It was a cold winter's day that Sunday. The parking lot to the church was filling up quickly. I noticed as I got out of my car that fellow church members were whispering among themselves as they walked to the church.

As I got closer I saw a man leaned up against the wall outside the church. He was almost laying down as if he was asleep. He had on a long trench coat that was almost in shreds and a hat topped his head, pulled down so you could not see his face. He wore shoes that looked 30 years old, too small for his feet with holes all over them, his toes stuck out.

I assumed this man was homeless, and asleep, so I walked on by through the doors of the church. We all gathered for fellowship for a few minutes, and someone brought up the man laying outside. People snickered and gossiped but no one bothered to ask him to come in, including me.

A few moments later church began. We all waited for the Preacher to take his place and to give us the Word, when the doors to the church opened. In came the homeless man walking down the aisle with his head down. People gasped and whispered and made faces. He made his way down the aisle and up onto the pulpit he took off his hat and coat. My heart sank. There stood our preacher...he was the "homeless man." No one said a word. The preacher took his Bible and laid it on the stand.

"Folks, I don't think I have to tell you what I am preaching about today." Then he started singing the words to this song: "If I can help somebody as I pass along. If I can cheer somebody with word or song. If I can show somebody that he's traveling wrong. Then my living shall not be in vain."

Justice --- When you get what you deserve
Mercy ----- When you don't get what you deserve
Grace ----- When you get what you don't deserve

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Date:	Location:	Event:
December 9-11, 2005	Trion, Georgia	Youth Revival
December 9-11, 2005	Miami, Florida	Revival

Check out these web sites:

If you would like to see your church web site listed here, please email me and let me know.

<http://www.thechurchofgod.org>
<http://www.thechurchofgodmillen.org>
<http://www.tcogga.com> or [tcogflga.org](http://www.tcogflga.org)
<http://www.thechurchofgodnorthside.org>

OUTREACH LITERATURE



Greetings to all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I am writing this article to boost the distribution of tracts throughout the region of Georgia and Florida. Being two fairly large states combined into one big region... we have quiet a bit of ground to cover! It's nothing that can't be done. I pray that our region will have a zeal this year about getting the word of the Lord out into the public more than we ever have.

Mark 13:10 says, "And the gospel must first be published among all nations." One great way to do this is... of course through the distribution of tracts.

Psalms 68:11 says, "The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it." There is so many different ways you can do this. Hand them out on the street. Leave a stack of them in local business offices, hospitals, grocery stores, etc. You never know what person might get a hold of one track and what it might do for their life. Taking time out of your day to pass out tracks is a small price for someone coming to know the Lord.

Acts 13:49 - And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

Let's get the word of the Lord out there!!!
Sis. Danielle

We in Warner Robins are carrying on for the Lord! We commend Bro. James Cox & his family on their servant hood over the past two years. While the local church misses the Cox family very much, they have done an outstanding job welcoming in the Tyler's.

We have been carrying on second Sunday dinners in honor of a different local church family each month. This month we honored our Sunday School Secretary Sis. Carol Maddox and her husband Gene. As well as on the third Sunday, we held a diaper shower for Bro. Rigby's expecting daughter.

The Lord has been sending us some hungry souls. We have been blessed with a number of souls from our neighborhood attending our services. One forty-four year old man and his daughter said he really enjoyed the "atmosphere of the church". He said, "The only problem is I'm going to have to help y'all get more young people (coming)." When a non-member gets a mind to work, that really ought to excite us. We have also had some spectacular services where folks made their way to the altar as the spirit drew DURING THE SONG SERVICE!!! People must feel the Spirit of God flowing from us, and if we don't get victory in our services and for our services, they will continue wandering aimlessly looking starvngly for the truth and that unknown (to them) Spirit that they feel calling.

We are beginning a door-to-door prayer crusade & 24-hour prayer-line for the community. We're going throughout the neighborhoods of Warner Robins, not to hound people about coming, though it may be mentioned, but to pray for them. If they know we're close enough to God to get victory for their needs who we don't know, they'll want what we have.

Finally, we received a letter in our mailbox at the church that simply asked the church to pray for a Brandon Looper, who is having trouble with his parents and a troubled young girl now carrying his child. No contact information was given, but if we as The Church of God will pray for these troubled souls, not only will we have contact, but we will see who She is. And, that, brothers & sisters, is what we're all about... "making all men see". Pray for us, and know we're praying for you.



Yours in Christ,
Warner Robins, Georgia—Bro. Tyler, Asst. Reporter

In October the Deland Church celebrated two birthdays: Sister Betty Shaw, October 1, and Sister Lyndal Welch, October 8. We had cake and ice-cream for them and enjoyed good fellowship. The Lord has been blessing us. Brother Allan Hatchett recently received the Holy Ghost and has been set forth as a trial deacon. This month we had a Fall Festival on the 29th. We enjoyed the new visitors that came. The young people enjoyed a scavenger hunt and everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship. Palatka Church visited us at our festival. Our church then visited and helped with Palatka's Fall Festival, everyone had a good time. Deland has had a busy but wonderful time.

Deland, Florida—Kristin Hatchett, Church Reporter

News from the Fold



The Church of God in Cartersville, Georgia has been celebrating throughout the month of October. The youth and children of the church had a great time of fun and fellowship at a pumpkin farm. The children were able to play on the inflatable slides, go on a hay ride to look at several farm animals and even a camel. They also had to find their way through a corn maze. We were happy to have four visitors join us in the fun and games and also be with us in church. Also during the month of

October, we celebrated our first anniversary in our church building. After much prayer, God blessed us with a building to worship in a year ago. We have had several visitors and new members join throughout the year and we give God all of the praise. Pastor Ed Matthews also celebrated his 63rd Birthday.



We had a day of preaching and fellowship with lots of visitors and food. Come and visit with us and see the blessings that God has given to us!



Bro. Tony Conner

Cartersville, Georgia—Church Reporter

LAMB'S CORNER

**FOR unto you is born
this day in the city of David
a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.**

~ Luke 2:11



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C.P.M.A.

Greetings in the name of our Lord:

It is indeed a pleasure to be able to serve in the CPMA department for Georgia and Florida in the upcoming year. I desire your prayers for this ministry in the forthcoming year. This month we would like to feature a sermonette by Brother Jared Nolen, Trion, GA.

Hannah, A Shadow of the Last Days Church of God

We are living in a spiritually corrupt world with a church on every corner and a different belief system to fit every person's values. To the natural, human eye these churches seem to grow and prosper beyond belief. However, as we look at the present state of The Church of God, she seems to be barren. We have lost our zeal and fervor for lost souls. Generally, our pulpits have become filled with weak-kneed preachers, and our altars are empty. My friend, I do not desire to cast a ray of doubt upon this beautiful church which I love, but rather I want to be realistic with *where we are* and *where we are going*. Rest assured, the Bible plainly speaks of where we are going.

The Church of God is destined for victory. The prophet Haggai proclaimed, *"The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts."* (Haggai 2:9)

"But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb. And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb. And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat. Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am I not better to thee than tensons? So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth. Now Hannah, she spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee. And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her. Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD. (1st Samuel 1:5-17,

19, 20)

We, like Hannah, have become barren. The occasional conversion of the sinner might occur in our midst, but yet we lack the power of God's Word ministering to see our altars full of hurting sinners. We're at a point where the sinner can leave our services untouched by the hand of God. They leave as empty as they came. Church, WE NEED A REVIVAL. We must find ourselves like Rachael and declare unto the Lord, "Give us children or else we die!"

The Word of God declares, *"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."* (Isaiah 55:11) God will see His Church through the fire, but until then we must remain faithful and put into remembrance that which we covenanted unto Him.

Hannah did not bear Samuel until she become sore from weeping and pleading her case with God. The Church of God is no different. Hannah worshipped her way through the situation. She put her all in worship which got the attention of God.

Dear one, it is going to take revival for our survival. Revival WILL NOT COME UNTIL we get on our faces and seek His face. The familiar scripture recorded in 2nd Chronicles 7:14 gives us conditions for revival. We must get rid of our own agendas and plans in order to let God rule and operate The Church of God.

We need now, more than ever, the Spirit like the one of the Solemn Assembly to return to us that we might have a "bitterness of our soul" so we can see a spiritual birth take place in our midst.

"Who hath heard such a thing? Who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children." (Isaiah 66:8)

For as soon as Zion, THE CHURCH OF GOD, travailed, she brought forth her children. The King is coming! Let us go forth in the power and zeal of the Spirit and win souls for the last days Church of God!

Samuel grew up to be a prophet. There is a generation coming forward that will be righteous and upright before God. If it takes this generation to rock The Church of God in this day and hour, then so be it! We must see the last days move of His spirit through any means necessary. In the early twentieth century, there was a term used for individuals who were able to accomplish something. They were called "movers and shakers." We need to have movers and shakers within the Body of Christ – moved and shaken by the Spirit. My plea this day is, "Oh spirit of God, birth a generation of Samuels to march on to perfection and to complete the work of The Church of God!"

Brother Jared Nolen, Trion, GA.