

Hello Church of God. It is great to be alive and to know the Lord Jesus Christ. Remembering the old song “Aint It Grand to Be a Christian, Aint It Grand, Aint It Grand” Oh I’m glad to know I’m saved, I’m happy to know I’m free. The Bible says, “ If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed”. Let’s work like we never have before. When you go to the store, go witnessing. Wherever you go, put God and the Church in it. If you need Holy boldness, ask the Lord to give it to you. Remember to pray for the world and please remember The Church of God.

Loving and Praying for you,

Always, Sis. Vera Vaughn - A.B.M. Regional Coordinator

Message from the Assistant Editor

Thanks to everyone who has been submitting things to place on the Regional Website and to include in *The Shepherd's Voice*. Please continue to send me articles for the paper and website with your local church events and news. I also need to hear from some Pastors on who you have appointed for your local reporter and if you haven't yet, please appoint someone or a group of people to share the news of your local church. Auxiliary/department coordinators, please continue sending me articles and information when available. It would be nice to have some extra articles to have on hand for future issues. You can email me the article, mail it to me, or even give me a call if you need to. Whatever is easier for you will work for me. Please continue to check out the Regional web site for upcoming events and news. 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: **41 Greatwood Drive, White, GA 30184 or theshepherdsvoice@tcogflga.org**

Two copies of *The Shepherd's Voice* are sent to each pastor. If you want to be sent extra copies, there will be an annual charge of \$4.00 per extra copy. Of course you may make your own copies, print it from our web site or *The Shepherd's Voice* may be sent directly to a home for an annual subscription rate of \$8.00.



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THE BUILDING OF A BRIDGE

Melvin Kramer—Regional Overseer

As we are approaching April 16th, Easter Sunday, my mind goes back to that blessed day. This was not just some ordinary day, but a day that would bridge the gap between man and God with the resurrection of his only begotten son. For about three years the ministry of Christ let us know that this was not just another prophet or teacher, but a man on a mission as Luke 19:10, states “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost”. As we look at the life of Jesus we see a man that was doing good everywhere He went. The Bible tells us that He preached the gospel, healed the sick, had mercy and compassion for everyone, and lived a life that was perfect before God. The Bible even states that what we read in the four gospels of what Jesus did was just a drop in the bucket, for John 21:25, says “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen”. Even as we look at the good things Jesus did the mission was still not complete, the bridge was not yet connected to the other side. The story continues as we find him being led away from the Garden of Gethsemane to a mockery of a trial, to an old whipping post, and finally to the cruelest form of capitol punishment. He was sentenced to die on an old rugged cross. No doubt as the disciples watched as Jesus died, their thoughts probably were that it has been a good three years, but it is all over now, we’ll just go back to our families and our old jobs, and just live off of the memories. Even in all of this it seemed that all hope was gone without the last span of the bridge being complete, but things were about to take a turn for the better. The Bible tells us in Luke 24:1-6, “Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stoned rolled away from the sepulcher. And they entered in, and

found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was in Galilee". Finally the bridge was completed and the road was accessible to all of mankind no matter what race, creed or color. Paul summed up the bridge building in I Timothy 2:5-9, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time".

God Bless You.
Bro. Melvin Kramer

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A Glorious Easter



In the end of the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulcher.

And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow;

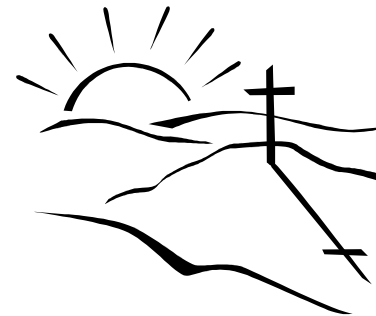
And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not; for I know that ye seek Jesus, who was crucified.



He is not here; for he is risen, as he said.

Come see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee. There shall ye see him; lo, I have told you.



And they departed quickly from the sepulcher with fear and great joy, and did run to bring his disciples word. And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and worshiped him.

FLORIDA/GEORGIA MEN'S RETREAT 2006



On March 24th and 25th thirteen men attended the first **Georgia & Florida Men's Retreat**. It was held at the Warner Robins church in Georgia. Our guest speaker was unable to attend, but we had some great sermons from Brother Melvin Kramer and Brother Grayson Kent. We also had some great classes taught by Brother Terry Tyler and some great singing and music throughout the retreat. We would like to thank Brother Terry Tyler for doing such a great job getting everything together. We are looking forward to more great retreats in the future. Thanks to those who were able to attend and we pray that more men will be able to make plans to attend next year.



W.M.B.

I had a dream and it was like no other dream. That is why I am compelled to tell you about it. It's as if I came into this dream and it had already started. Me and a part of my family were running from some people that were trying to kill us. We were in this store and I saw some tools. I had a thought that we would have to take these tools to go into the woods to live, but then it was as if I were at home. Two of my children were inside and me and my husband were outside. All of a sudden we looked up and it looked just like someone (God) had thrown the moon across the sky like a baseball. We began to pray and then in an instant I thought of Suzanna. I yelled to her to pray to be saved, but when I said the words I knew it was too late. It was too late to pray. I thought of my other daughter Brittney, who is a backslider, she wasn't with us and I didn't know where she was and I didn't have time to find her. It was too late.

I woke with a horrible feeling in my stomach. I began to pray for myself, my family, and then for the Church. I asked God to save us all, save us all, save us all. Thoughts went through my mind of all of the statistics on how people die and how many die each hour, each day, but I continued to pray for God to save us all and to do it everyday. I don't know how He will do it, but He will. He tells us so in the Bible. We talk about that great inflow all the time, but do we really expect to see it happen? As I began to recall these scriptures, I began to realize if we pray without doubting, believing we shall have it. Then we must accept it, but when we do, we know for sure that Jesus is coming back soon. Is this why we have no inflow? Are we trying to stall Jesus' return? We know what prayer and fasting brings. How can we pray and fast without there being an inflow? We can't! When we receive a burden and we begin to pray, it will only lead to one thing...JESUS.

Let us pray now before we do not have a chance to pray. I think about this dream and say that I don't want to look into the future, it was bad. Yes it was and it can be, but God doesn't give us dreams to just accept our reality and deal with it, but rather to find a way to change it and that is exactly what I intend to do. Daniel told Pharaoh that God had given him wisdom to change the future (well maybe not in those words, but the meaning was the same). If he did not like what the future held, he was able to change it. Pharaoh could have said forget it you are crazy, but what did he have to lose? He could have said fine, save enough just for me and my family. But he was able to save all of Egypt and the outlying cities around him because he believed that he was able to make it through and look at the inflow. We can learn from this. We can change the future not only for ourselves, but for the entire world. Let's believe in Jesus and what He came to do. God so loved the WORLD, That He gave his only begotten son... Ask and ye shall receive...Let's ask for the WORLD!

Sis. Brenda Raulerson

Regional W.M.B. Coordinator. Florida - Georgia

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Event: Florida/Georgia Ladies' Retreat

Date: April. 21-23, 2006

Location: McDavid, Florida - Bluff Springs Campground

Check-in Time: 4:00 pm

Evangelist - Sister Mary Shelton from Hillsborough, TN



Dear Brother Kramer, Ministers, and Members of The Church of God of Florida and Georgia,

Greetings to all of you in the mighty name of Jesus from the great country of England! I hope that you are all well and rejoicing in the victory that only our mighty God can give us. Thank the Lord, Sister Hawkins and I are fine and we have been adjusting to our new life in The United Kingdom. The Church members here have accepted us with open arms and have given us their love, prayers and support these past three months. We have a wonderful local church and a "true -blue" Church of God pastor. The Spirit of God has been moving in our services and we expect to see great things happen in England and beyond as we are faithful and obedient to the the Lord. Recently, we had our Minister's Convention and God blessed us with 74 in attendance.

I wanted to write to all of you and thank you for the offering that you took up for us at your Minister's Convention. It has helped us very much and we appreciate the sacrifice that you made in giving to the Lord. We love all you very much and are proud to be a part of you as members of The Great Church of God! If you ever need us for anything, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Rob and Missy Hawkins
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Birmingham, England B14 5NY
Phone: 011-44-121-436-6032
Email: Rob.MissyHawkins@juno.com

May God bless you and see you at the Assembly, God willing!

Yours faithfully,

Rob Hawkins
National Overseer/England



Greetings from Wildwood, Florida. We had a weekend revival with Pastor Raymond Lisenby of Hudson, Florida in February. He preached anointed messages. All were blessed and encouraged. To God be the glory. We appreciate Pastor Lisenby and his wife for being with us in these services.

We had a Mission Crusade in March with several in attendance. Brother Bill Williams from Cartersville, Georgia preached Holy Ghost sermons on Saturday and Mission Sunday morning. We thank the Lord for Brother and Sister Williams being with us and we give the Lord all of the praise and glory for His many blessings.

Numbers 6: 24-25 "The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee..."

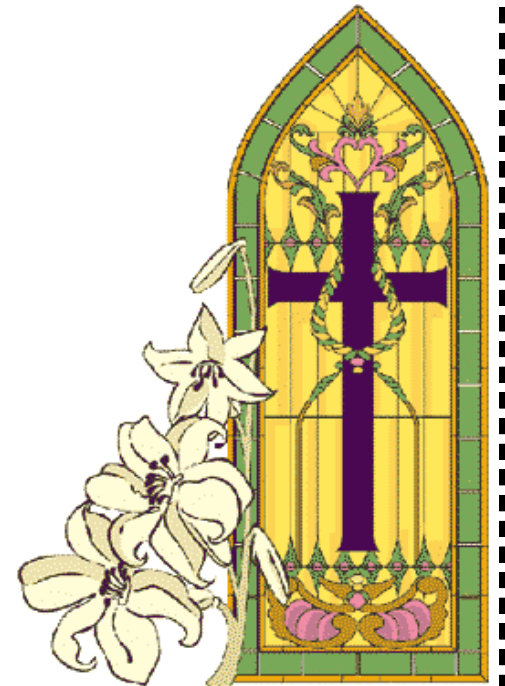
Sis. Betty Burley
Church Reporter—Wildwood, Florida

Commerce, Georgia—La Primera ingles/espan`ol sevicio en Commerce ~ las fuerzas armadas bueno~ Did i say that right? We had a translator in our service on Sunday, March 26, 2006. Hermano Rafael Hernandez traductor para a nosotros and it was good.

Bro. S. Wilson McMahon
Church Reporter—Commerce, Georgia

We have scheduled Family Fellowship Day for May 6th. It will be held at the Lott residence in Nashville, GA. We will have many activities that you can participate in including: Softball, Football. Basketball, Volleyball, Kickball and many other Games and Activities. There will also be a fish fry starting at 5PM. There will be services throughout the day including a sermon after the fish fry. I know many have heard about the "south Georgia Fish Fry's" and how much God has blessed us in times past. Come expecting a great time in the Lord. Enjoy the fellowship, the food, and the spirit of the Lord. We invite everyone in the region to come. If you need any more information, directions, or help finding a Hotel nearby give us a call at (229)-686-7548 or e-mail either jalott@valdosta.edu or tcoglg@yahoo.com

Bro. Justin Lott
Church Reporter—Lakeland, Georgia



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)



C.P.M.A.

Greetings to each of the brothers and sisters in the Lord, God has certainly showered an abundance of blessings upon the Florida/Georgia Region this past year. It seems like just yesterday we were enjoying the fellowship with one another at the General Assembly – yet, our Regional Convention will

be upon us in just a few short months.

Since the last edition of *The Shepherd's Voice*, I have received two letters concerning the ministry of the CPMA. I appreciate the effort and sacrifices that each member across our region has made this past year to support the ministry of the Church of Prophecy Marker Association.

A project is currently underway to gather the necessary materials to publish a second CPMA handbook. If you have program outlines, songs, or other items pertaining to CPMA and would like to make a contribution to this project, please send your information to General Headquarters (Attn: James Nabors, CPMA Coordinator). Your submission will be a blessing to the church's next generation of CPMA leaders.

I appreciate the effort and sacrifices that each member across our region has made this year to support the General Headquarters Expansion Project. I am encouraged by our region's participation in supporting the Expansion Project through personal pledges and offerings, as well as the December Christmas Donation project. By now, I'm sure each of you has been made aware of the latest fund raising drive. Each of the local churches has been assigned a particular goal to try to reach by the Regional Convention. Your pastor and/or CPMA leader has the amount of your goal. Our region has been asked to raise \$7,250.00. I believe that with the Lord's help and everyone's participation, our region can achieve the goal that has been set before us. Let's do our best to get behind this project and meet our goals! God will continue to bless us for our generous support of His Church.

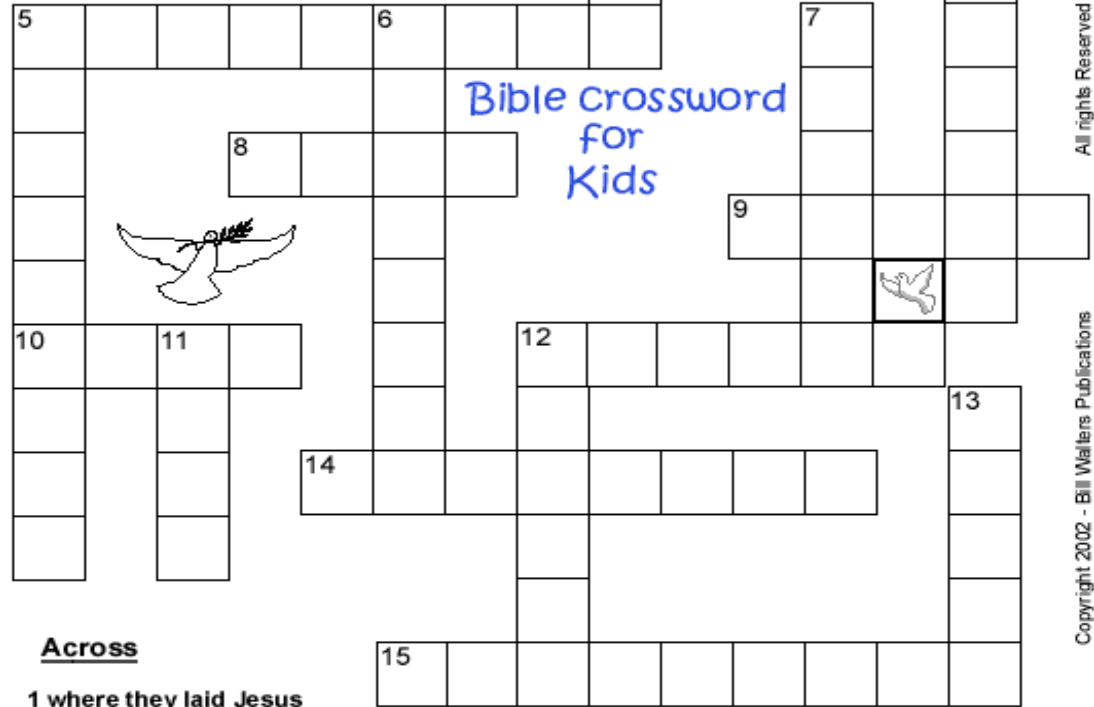
Also, there is still time to become a CPMA member for the 2005/2006 Assembly year. Thanks to all the churches that have already become 100%!

Grayson Kent
 Regional C.P.M.A. Coordinator. Florida - Georgia

LAMB'S CORNER

The resurrection of
 Jesus Christ

from the Books of Matthew and Mark



Bible crossword
 for
 Kids

Across

- 1 where they laid Jesus after He died (Matt. 27:60)
- 4 the place where Jesus died (Matt. 27:33)
- 5 Jesus and two thieves were _____ together (Matt. 27:38)
- 8 mother of Jesus
- 9 The angel said "He is _____ He is not here" (Mark 16:6)
- 10 They made Jesus wear a scarlet _____ (Matt. 27:28)
- 12 Jesus was betrayed for _____ pieces of silver (Matt. 27:3)
- 14 Jesus was _____ of any crime (Matt. 27:4)
- 15 The 12 companions of Jesus

DOWN

- 2 Jesus shed His _____ for our sins
- 3 Judas Iscariot _____ Jesus (Matt. 27:4)
- 5 Roman commander of a hundred men (Matt. 27:54)
- 6 Jesus said " My God, My God why hast thou _____ me" (Matt. 27:46)
- 7 a title of Jesus (it means anointed one) (Matt. 27:17)
- 11 They laid the _____ of Jesus in a tomb (Matt. 27:59)
- 12 Jesus wore a "crown of _____"
- 13 our Lord and Saviour

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PRISON MINISTRY

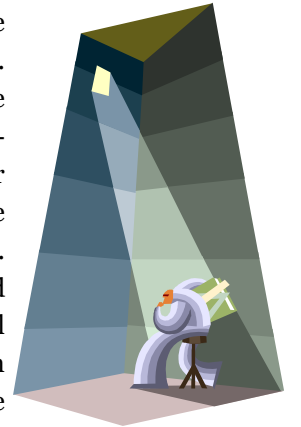
Greetings to the brethren and all who are in Christ Jesus. I would like to testify of the greatness and the grace of God. On the second Sunday mornings I am privileged to be allowed to go into the Georgia State Prison and hold services for the inmates who attend church there. I was asked if I would have communion service. I replied, I will, and came home and started preparing. I am aware of the seriousness of the ordinance of communion of the Lord, and he that partakes of the

Lord's supper unworthily, brings damnation unto himself. (See 1 Corinthians 11:26-30). I was concerned that some men might not truly be saved and if I led them into a communion service I would be bringing more harm to them than good. So I prepared my message and went to the prison. I opened up with prayer, and took request for special prayer. I was so nervous, I forgot to sing a congregational song, I set up the communion seats and took out my message. I wanted to preach it strong and straight to them. I wanted them to know, they weren't playing church here, this is the real thing! I told them that The Church of God believes the whole Bible, rightly divided, and we practice the New Testament as our rule of faith, government and discipline, and walk in the light to the best of our knowledge and ability. Amen!

I preached as hard as God would allow me and strait as the Bible puts it, hoping to let them know we don't play with God. Jail house religion is fine for some, but for us, the redeemed, the blood bought sons of God, it's not a religious show. So since we, The Church of God, practice the whole Bible, I told them not only are we going to have communion, but we are going to have feet washing also. Some eyes got rather big, some smiled, as if to say "all right", and some seemed to say, "What have I gotten myself into here?". After my sermon, I asked, now, who will come up and be a partaker of the Lord's body and blood through he communion service? Out of 35 men that came to church I had 18 men come forth for communion of the Lord. As they tarried for one another, I noticed that they began to feel the Spirit and started to cry and get more into what was going on. I was very blessed to be the minister of such a special time as this. After communion, I got out the pan, and the towel, and said now we are going to wash the saint's feet. I started the service by washing the feet of my brother in Christ, and a member of The Church of God at Hazlehurst, Bobby Gaddis. Then I asked



for all the men to come around and we started to wash feet the ole time holiness way. Again we would pray for one another as we washed the feet. God was in this service also. The men would feel the power of God as we obeyed His commandments of God's Word. As we prayed for a man, I noticed his face began to change, and be broken with tears, and said, Brother Rick, I feel God in this stuff. Another man told me "I've never felt the power of God so strong, for so long, in my life" as he began to weep also. The power of the Spirit was so great with the love of God. Each man had his turn to wash, and to be washed, and I could tell, my Father was well pleased in what we were doing that morning in the middle of a maximum security prison in the state of Georgia, the Spirit of God was all over these men, broken and spilled out unto God, crying and hugging one another in the love of God. Most of these men had never heard of feet washing, though most denominations practice the communion service. But we must practice all of Jesus' commandments and teachings, not just the ones we feel are dignified and popular with the world. God approves when you obey the teachings of the Word of God. These men have felt God's approval and the Spirit, now, the men want to have communion half way through the Sunday School lessons that I teach every Sunday night to them. There are 13 lessons in each booklet, we have been teaching them the important Bible truths of The Church of God. They have learned many things that denominationalism doesn't teach, but one lesson I didn't teach, God did, He taught that if we obey His teachings and commandments, He'll bless you in doing so. They look forward to the next communion service, but they can't wait to wash the saint's feet. Praise God for His wonderful mysteries of obedience to His Word.



If you would like to talk to me about getting into a prison and starting a prison service or teaching Sunday School lessons to inmates, please call or write to me, I'll be happy to share my knowledge and experience with you.

God Bless You all—Bro. Rick Razsi

The Church of God Prison Ministry Team of Georgia and Florida.



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