

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in the Church of God, Thank God that a new year has started and God has a remnant that wants to do His will. One thing we can do, if we can't do anything else, is to pray and read God's Word. Oh, let's get into God's work Church of God. Let's do what we can and God will do the rest. Remember John 3:16, For God so loved the world, that includes everyone. There's work to be done and He expects us to do it. I am available any time you need me for anything. Just call or write me. Jesus Loves us.

It is also time for us to be about our Father's business. Let's don't forget to have Revivals this year. Let's boost, pray, fast and work. I believe that every church should have a Revival this year. If we will all work together, I believe that we can accomplish this. Don't look at circumstances and say that we can't. The Word of God says that I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me. Hallelujah let's have Revival and win the lost for Jesus and the Church of God!

Sister Vera Vayghn
Regional A.B.M. Coordinator and Evangelism Booster for Florida - 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.tcogflga.org>

**Message
from the
Assistant Editor**

Please don't forget to check out our Regional web site. You are able to view *The Shepherd's Voice* there and also a lot of the past issues. Check it out at <http://www.tcogflga.org>. Thanks to everyone who have been sending in the articles. Don't forget, we can also use some information for the Regional Web site. 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**

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WE ARE BLESSED

Melvin Kramer—Regional Overseer

When Jesus was on the cross, I believe that all the disciples were there to witness the agony and the torment that he bore. When it was finished and he gave up the ghost they probably began to think that it had been a good three years to spend with this miracle worker, as on countless occasions the blind were made to see, the deaf to hear, and the lame made to walk. But now it was all over and they would just have to live off the memories. But the story did not end there. For on the first day of the week the news came that the Lord had risen and the tomb was empty. That same day at evening time the disciples were gathered together in fear not knowing what would happen to them. Jesus then appeared unto them to comfort their troubled hearts. At that meeting all the disciples were there except one, old doubting Thomas. After the reunion had ended, the disciples found Thomas and told him that they had seen the Lord. But he was not too sure about that, because he was there to see with his own eyes what took place when Jesus hung on the cross. His exact words are recorded in John 20 verse 25, "Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe". What a statement from a man that saw all these miracles we mentioned before. But his attitude was about to change. Eight days later all the disciples, including Thomas, were gathered together and Jesus came into the room with something to show Thomas, as he said "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side". Thomas said, "My Lord and my God." Now verse 29 of John chapter 20, brings us to our topic, as Jesus told Tho-

mas "because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet believed". This to me is why we are so blessed, that we have our hope, faith, and our trust in a man we have never received a phone call or a letter from, neither have we seen him on CNN news. In the world's eyes this is pure foolishness, but it lets me know that I am blessed to be a partaker of God's saving grace and a child of the King. Some people can only put their trust in what they can see. That is why Paul said that we must walk by faith and not by sight. So the next time you get a little down and out, just remember the words of the old chorus, "I am blessed, I am blessed, everyday that I live I am blessed. From when I wake up in the morning till I lay my head to rest, I am blessed, I am blessed".

God Bless You,
Bro. Melvin Kramer

Available For Revival

Allene Cox
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(706) 857-7026

Billy Joe Gaddis
110 Pickelsimon Rd.
Winder, GA 30680

Grayson Kent
392 Old Louisville Rd.
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(478) 455-1463

Justin Lott
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(229) 686-7548



James L. Morgan
Rt. 4 Box 196
Metter, GA 30439
(912) 685-2216

Vera Vaughn
3383 Harrison Blue Rd.
Perry, FL 32347
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Billy J. Williams
2966 N. Holt Road
Acworth, GA 30102
(770)974-2282

Wilson McMahan
4411 Woods Bridge Rd.
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Richard Razsi
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Hazlehurst, GA 31539
(912) 375-5276

Steve & Carolyn Wilson
3320 Stoneback St. 0121310
Waycross, GA 31503
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Hello, Florida/ Georgia Region! Greetings to you in the name of the Lord. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to send your Sunday School quarterly reports in on time. I will be receiving all reports dated 3rd and 4th quarter and also 1st and 2nd quarters of 2007. In order for The Church of God to adequately report as a region we need to function as one.

As soon as you have your 3rd Quarterly Conference at your local Church, please forward your reports to me @ The Church of God, 900 W. Ash St., Perry, Fl. 32347. Let us be found adequately reporting for The Church of God. We want God to be on time for us, let us return the hospitality. God will bless you for your hard work for Him. Thank you for your consideration on this matter and let us pray one for another.

A Time to Build... Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

In this hour, time is of the essence! There is no time in The Church of God for slacking. We must seize every moment, every opportunity for the Lord. Ecclesiastes speaks of different times for different things. Are we redeeming the time? On Sunday morning are we redeeming our time? Or are we just going through the motions of our SS program?

Every Sunday morning, I walk into my SS class with little feet following behind. I call my class to order with prayer. I then look and this is what I see. Big curious eyes looking back at me, it seems they are waiting anxiously for what is going to happen next. I have realized, "Oh God, this is my time with them, am I doing what you want me to do?" Am I using my time wisely? Am I teaching lessons that are appropriate for them at their age? Oh God, help me to do just what you want me to do, just how you want me to do it, nothing added, and nothing taken away."

Sunday School is "...a time to plant,..."

"...a time to build up;..."

"...a time to gather stones together;..."

"...a time to get,..."

"...a time to sew;..."

"...a time to speak;..."

"...a time to love,..."

Let us be ever so careful to use our time wisely with our students in SS. No matter what age group you are teaching let us be found "...redeeming the time." Not entertaining. Always remember, your paths may never cross again after your student has left your class, so, we need to do what Smith Wigglesworth once said, " Don't leave 'em like you found 'em!"

*Regional SS Coordinator,
Rita Phillips*

LAMB'S CORNER

Wow! What Happened at Babel?

L
 QDE
 BXELA
 SJERDAR
 DIFFERENT
 QNSETTLEDGH
 PEOPLETOWERUP
 INIMRODATSHINAR
 ZHVGMBRICKSDRONGT
 ZFYHCONFUSEDTONGUES
 BABELKCITYCEEIMADFHSY

Babel	Common	Earth	People	Shinar
Bricks	Confused	Languages	Scattered	Tongues
City	Different	Nimrod	Settled	Tower

Have you ever known somebody that speaks a different language? It can be fun to try to communicate with people from other countries. It can also be frustrating. When you really want to tell somebody something that is important, but you don't know the right words...it can make you want to scream. Why do people speak different languages? A long time ago, when everybody spoke the same language, the people joined together to rebel against God. The way that God put an end to their rebellious activities was to cause everybody to speak different languages. The people couldn't plan evil deeds if they couldn't understand each other. Find the hidden words in the tower above, then read about the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11:1-9.

Children's Ministries

Psalm 127:3— Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord and the fruit of the womb is his reward. You and I often see our little ones as needy and dependent boys and girls with dirty faces that need to be washed, hungry bellies that need to be filled or "boo-boos" and "owies" that need to be kissed. While all of this is true, we rarely see our children as the Lord sees them. As indicated in the above reference, he sees them as an absolute treasure.

Most of the time in the secular world, people are forced to wait for a long period of time for the inheritance that has been left to them. Sometimes the delay is due to legal process which involves the "maturing" of funds. Often it is by mandate of the deceased as in a trust fund or other stipulations. Thankfully, there are no biblical processes which dictate how long it takes for a child (an heritage of the Lord) to be given back to God in his/her spiritually mature form.

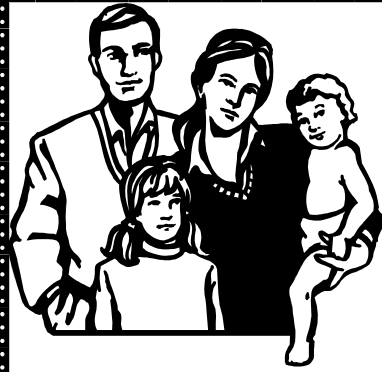
Children should have the opportunity to frolic in fields with no care or concern for debt, relationships or employment. However, any fun loving child can prove to have more spiritual maturity than some of us older saints. These children have **present** worth that you and I should help encourage and present to the Lord. After all, the Bible tells us that everything that was created was done so for his pleasure. That pleasure is not only to be received of him when we are praising and honoring him around his throne. He can receive that pleasure in the children and you and me right now.

Recently, I was seeking the Lord about the church "issues" which we adults have been privy to. My youngest son, Daniel knelt quietly beside me. His words were simple and straight. Although he spoke barely above a whisper, his words have thundered in my ears. Here is Daniel's prayer: "Lord God, I know you hear me. Now, we love you and you promised you would take care of us. Whoever is doing the bad stuff and devil's work needs to be spanked so they can be good from now on. Everybody that's doing good work for you, tell them they are being good boys so they will know everything is gonna be ok. In the name of Jesus. Amen." It was funny but so sincere. He hugged me and said, "OK, momma. Time to read to me now 'cause I already talked to Jesus and he is gonna fix it."



I know the Lord heard Daniel. I felt such peace in his simple faith. This year, do what you can to encourage spiritual growth in a child. You may be a Sunday school teacher or gleaner leader. If you are, help shine those little nuggets. If you aren't an appointed children's worker, you likely see children every week at your church or neighborhood who need a smile. Even as parents and grandparents, aunts or uncles, we can offer an encouraging word. Just as the finest silver must be polished to retain its beauty and value, these little ones need attention to grow and become a beautiful inheritance/heritage for the Lord. I'm very insecure about this appointment but I'm willing to try my best. If you or your local church needs ideas or help or if you can offer assistance to another church, please let me know. We want to grow our youth in number and in the spirit this year. God bless you,

Allene Cox, children's ministries worker
 706-857-7026 menmyrc5@yahoo.com



Hello, Florida/ Georgia Region! I would like to take this time to boost our 1st Annual Family Retreat.

We are planning to have it in Branford, Fl. from March 22nd to 25th. What is Family Retreat? When I think of family retreat my thoughts turn to "Family". What is a family? A family has members of all ages, from old to young. Why do you suppose God instituted the family unit? The family is a group of people knitted together with love. When I see my family I see love. I see people that care about each other. I also see that their is no gap. We celebrate birthdays together, anniversaries, etc...

I look at my older children interact with my babies through love. I often think, "This is the way it should be in The Church of God". My Pastor needs to know my children. My children needs to know my Pastor. I need to know your children as well as my sister. We need to know each other like a family knows each other. Family retreat is about family... It's about bonding with each, and getting to know each other more than just at church, or just at conventions.

Family retreat is a time to put everything aside and learn about each other. At our church in Perry, Fl., occasionally, Sis. Perry (Tallahassee Pastor) visits our church. She's welcomed by us as well as our children. Our children know her like a family member. There is no gap or distance in their relationship because of the age difference. Because our children has come to know her through family camp from prior years. My three year old (Anna) runs to greet her and says, "Hey Sis. Perry!" It touches my heart to see that relationship grow with no age barriers. It doesn't matter to Anna that Sis. Perry is much older than her; all she knows is that she is her friend. I want to encourage you to attend Family Retreat this year; we want to get to know you as well as you getting to know us. Let God,...bind us together with love...

Sincerely,
Sis. Rita Phillips



It is a blessing to see the CPMA ministry operating in our local churches across the region. I was privileged to fellowship with the local congregation at Commerce twice this year to assist in conducting two special services. During a flag dedication service in February 2006, a new American flag and Church flag replaced the old banners that had served as Church markers for years. A new sign was recently erected on the church grounds and a dedication service was held in August 2006. I appreciate the

C.P.M.A.

vision that Brother Samuel McMahan and his congregation have for the CPMA auxiliary and for their dedication and hard work for The Church of God.

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



Greetings and love in Jesus name. Sunday School at 10:00 AM with Worship Service at 11:00 AM will begin October 1, 2006 in Lenox, GA at the Lisenby home. Getting to **207 W Revels Ave** is quite easy. From I-75 take Exit 49. Go east to the traffic light. Turn right at the light (onto US Hwy 41). Go two blocks to Revels Ave and turn right. 207 W Revels is the first house on the left.

Everyone, please feel welcome to worship with us at any time. You may bring your musical instrument and be a part of musical worship. If you have friends in this area please share this information with them as well as e-mailing or calling us with their contact info.

We can be contacted by phone at 229 546-3131. If we are unavailable, please leave a number where we can call back. The internet

contact point is: bettysebox@yahoo.com.

We also desire your prayers and support in beginning this work where the nearest local church of The Church of God is at Lakeland, Georgia only 33 miles away but requiring 50 - 55 minutes travel time.

Serving as he leads,
Raymond Lisenby, Evangelist
Betty Lisenby, Teacher

Greetings in the name of Jesus,

I know the Region joins me in thanking Sis. Lisenby for the great job she did as our BTI Coordinator for the past few years. I hope I can keep up that high standard of serving this department. In Matthew 28:19-20, two words stand out to me, GO and TEACH. In fact, in this COMMISSION to the CHURCH, Jesus repeated the word TEACH two times.

B.T.I.

One may say, I can learn the same thing in Sunday School, Bible Study, or at home, any way, I have the Holy Ghost and He will teach me. All of this is true and very important. There are other elements involved when you go to BTI. Making new friends, self sacrifice, day-by-day study of the Word by dedicated, knowledgeable, Holy Ghost filled men of God for our instructors. You know that your instructor has been fasting and praying, for you can feel the Spirit of the sweet Holy Ghost.



One can't explain the joy and LIFE changing experience that they receive in BTI, so early in the 06-07 Assembly year, I'll be setting goals and asking the other BTI boosters to do the same.

God bless, as we all work for our MASTER,
Bro. James L. Morgan.
FL/GA Regional BTI Coordinator