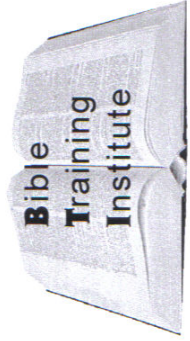


That I May Know Him and the Power of His Resurrection



What a mighty Minister's Convention! If you were unable to attend, you missed a great blessing. All the boost by our regional coordinators were wonderful. The theme for BTI this year is "That I May Know Him". Brother Anders' message was most timely in letting us know that if we are to truly know him, we must begin to rebuild the altars of God. We were fed and reminded of all we must do to get His favor. The Church of God needs to get better acquainted with the head of the church if we are to have the glory of the latter house. To help us do that, I am encouraging every local church in our region to participate in taking the Christology course offered by correspondence through headquarters. It is a study of the life and purpose of Jesus. I have purchased one book for each of our churches. If you were not at the convention to get yours during my boost, let me know and I will mail yours to you promptly. Please let me know if I can help your local church in any way to complete this study. I want to encourage as many as possible to attend the Cleveland school for BTI as well. It begins May 10 with registration from 1pm-3pm and classes begin May 11th. God bless you all as we endeavor to know him and the power of his resurrection.

James R. Cox BTI Representative Fl/Ga
478-982-8209 menmyrc5@yahoo.com

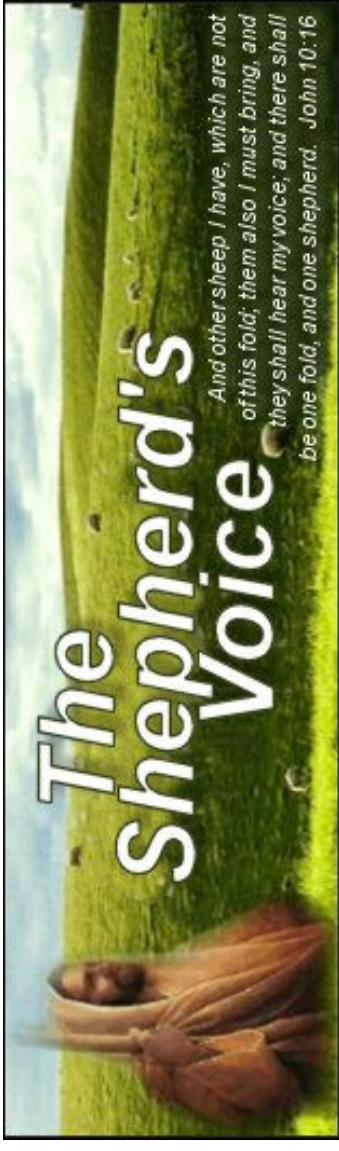
.....: **Merry Christmas!** Thanks for another great year and I really
: appreciate the great participation from our auxiliary/department
: coordinators and church reporters. Please continue to send me
: articles and information when available. Please have your articles
: submitted to me by the 10th of each month. If there are any sub-
: scribers who are not receiving their paper, please contact me by
phone (770/383-3416), letter, or e-mail. 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. Do not
forget that you can view **The Shepherd's Voice** from 2005 up until now online on our Region's
web site at <http://www.tcoflga.org>.

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@tcoflga.org

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A Publication of The Church of God in Florida/Georgia

November / December 2007 Vol. 13 Iss. 06

COME, YOUR HEARTS & VOICES RAISING!

Melvin Kramer—Regional Overseer

There is an old hymn that says "Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising, Loudly sing His love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom".

Most people miss Christmas. They're so caught up in the retail rush that they're exhausted and perhaps depressed by the holiday pressures. We know depression rates and suicide numbers increase during this season.

But as we read through the Christmas story as Luke presented in the first two chapters of his gospel, we find seven distinct people or groups who celebrated that first Christmas. They all had exactly the same response to the wonderful events of that day.

Elizabeth's Response (Luke 1:39-42): Luke's gospel begins not with the birth of Christ, but with the birth of the forerunner, John the Baptist. Zacharias and Elizabeth, an older couple, were given the promise of a child. When Mary came to visit to share her own news, Elizabeth was "filled with the Holy Ghost" and "spoke out with a loud voice". I imagine Mary and Elizabeth might have given each other some little gifts as tokens of the blessed events or may have crowded into the kitchen and cooked a feast. But the giving of gifts and the eating of food wasn't their main concern. They were full of praise and thanksgiving at what God was doing in their lives in sending these two babies into the world.

Mary's Response (Luke 1:46): Then it was Mary's turn to be full of praise and thanksgiving as she proclaimed, "My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour". What a wonderful praise given by the chosen vessel that would bring the Saviour into this world.

Zacharias' Response (Luke 1:67-68): After Mary returned home, Elizabeth gave birth to John. At that time Zacharias' mouth was opened to say, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people." What a turn around from having been struck dumb for unbelief to



his tongue loosed and praising God.

The Angels' Response (Luke 2:13-14): The first verse of Luke, chapter 2, describes the birth of Christ; then the scene shifts to the shepherds' field. It says in verses 13 and 14, "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will to- ward all men".

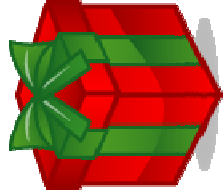
The Shepherds' Response (Luke 2:20): "And the shep- herds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them."

Simeon's Response (Luke 2:25-29): Forty days later Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to present Him to the Lord. There the old man Simeon "Took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast pre- pared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel".

Anna's Response (Luke 2:36-38): Anna also gave thanks to God and spoke about the saviour that had been born.

Seven times people were exposed to Christmas in Luke's gospel, and seven times they worshipped. Seven times their hearts were filled with praise and thanksgiving. Seven times they blessed God and magnified the Lord. What should our response be to Christ- mas?

God Bless You.
Bro. Melvin Kramer



THANK YOU!!!! so much, dear Region, for your Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts to our family. What a surprise to receive these at the Ministers Convention! Your generosity and thoughtfulness touched our hearts! May the good Lord bless you and yours greatly! You are wonderful and we appreciate you all!

The Kramer Family

PRISON MINISTRY TEAM

Greetings to The Church of God, The Following is a letter sent to several men who are presently incarcerated in the prison System in Georgia. I apologize for the lateness of the letter I have been out of town working and haven't had time to do much work in the Prison Ministry for the past few months. I just wanted to get this out to let you know a great man of God has gone home to see his Savior, Jesus Christ.

He was a member of The Church of God at Hazlehurst since 1997 and in good standing with God, and with his fel- lowman. Bobby Gaddis was the first man I took into the Church by Covenant and he was a true dear friend. He will be greatly missed by many people within the prison system and within the Church of God, and by me. It feels so good knowing someone who you ministered to within prison made it to Heaven when so many without the confines of prison are lost and trying God. God Bless You,

Richard Razsi / Prison Ministry Team of Georgia and Florida

Greetings my Brethren, and to All The Church of God,

I hope that this letter finds you all in Good Faith and full of the Peace and Love of God our Savior Jesus Christ. I am writing this letter to all the Brothers and in Christ that I have had the honor to Minister to and to know as a friend and Brother in Christ Jesus our Lord. I have the privilege and honor to inform you that our Brother Bobby Gaddis has gone home from his journey upon this earth to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



His life here on earth expired on August 21st at 8pm in a prison hospital in Augusta Georgia. He will be cremated and laid to rest on Sunday August 26th in Commerce Georgia at The Church of God. He went home with out pain and at peace with his fellow man and with God. His life was a testi- mony until the end and he witnessed to the doctors and nurses and guard staff as if his life was a healthy and free life, because with Christ as his Lord and Savior he was healthy in the Spirit and his life was full and free because he who the Son sets free, is free indeed. Bobby was a plain example of the grace and love and power of God through the saving grace of Jesus Christ. He lived what he believed and believed what he lived for and that was the Lord Jesus. His love for God was seen and felt by all who knew him and witnessed his life through sharing the gospel and talking to people about their soul.

I can't tell you how many people he witnessed to, but you know the witness of his walk and what he professed he lived and what he lived he stood strong against the opposing side. Men like Bobby Gaddis give all of us a hope and assurance of the grace and love of God and we can see the Salvation of Jesus Christ first hand in a mans life. Those of you who knew him give God Glory for the great things he has done through Bobby Gaddis and thank God we were able to witness the divine change in a mans life and enjoy the fruits thereof.

I will miss my Brother greatly, but I know without a shadow of doubt, he is with his God whom he served and loved, and we who are remaining let us press toward the mark of the high calling of God and one day we will see him again when dust shall sing.

Please Pray for Bobby Gaddis's family and pray for one another in the love of God.

The song God gave the men incarcerated is true, Man can find LIFE ON DEATH ROW. If Bobby Gaddis can be changed and live a life pleasing unto God inside prison walls, shall we not be able to find life outside of death row, wherever we are, that life is in Gods Son Jesus Christ. Please take a time and pray for your Brothers in Christ, no matter if your rich or poor, free or in bondage the only thing that matters is that your name is written in Gods Book of Life. On that day, it will be the only thing, that matters, Except a man be born again, he can- not see the kingdom of God, nor will he live there. GOD BLESS YOU.

GIVING OUR CHILDREN THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL

Christmas time! A time to celebrate God's greatest gift of all – His only begotten Son, Jesus! Oh, what a wonderful gift!

Let's give our children the greatest gift of all – teaching them about God's greatest gift – His only begotten Son, Jesus!

What a privilege, honor and blessing to be Mommy and Daddy, Granny and Pa, Aunt and Uncle to our children! And, along with our blessing comes responsibility, responsibility to teach them the way of the Lord.

Just as the most important decision in our lives is to choose the way of the Lord, so is the most important thing to teach our children is the way of the Lord. Denise Campbell said it best in her poem:

TEACH THEM

**They've heard of Bugs Bunny, The Smurfs and Dragon Tales.
But have they ever heard about The old rugged cross and nails?
They know all about Mickey Mouse, Barney and Old Saint Nick.
But do they know the peacemaker, The healer of the sick?
Blue's Clues won't tell them about Him, The Tooth Fairy won't leave tracts.
The Easter Bunny won't tell them where to look, Only the Bible holds the facts.
Do our children know about Jesus, Or is all they know fun and play?
Is their world only make-believe? Have you taught them to pray?
We hold a great responsibility To teach our children right.
They could know about the Lord Before they ever read or write.
Teach them about the Savior Right from the very start.
Then maybe some day, Jesus will live in their hearts.**

Bugs Bunny, Barney and Blue's Clues are fun shows to watch; however, there are a few episodes that warrant us to turn the channel. Smurfs and Dragon Tales are full of witchcraft, and the Bible teaches us to stay away from that, so, please, always turn the channel on these.

The world's influence is so strong that it even reaches our children. Though we may not have had any input into a particular subject, some things enter their precious thoughts and hearts and out it comes.

Think about this...

Children learn by example. Be careful what you do and say and how you react to situations. They watch and listen more than we realize. And, they have great memories!

Children absorb what's around them. Include the Lord in their environments. Hang a picture of Jesus over your baby's changing table and talk to her about Jesus at diaper time. Tell her all about Him! Point to the picture and say, "Jesus" and before you know it you'll be able to ask the baby where Jesus is and she will look up at the picture. It's an amazing time when your baby looks at the picture and on her own says "Jesus"! It's the most beautiful sound in the world to hear your baby say the Saviour's name!

Children are hands-on people. Purchase Bible storybooks and keep them on your coffee table. (Be sure to read the storybooks before you buy – some do not match up to the Bible.) Watch how often the children pick up the books and turn the pages. What an opportunity to share five minutes reading the story and sowing seed.

Children are excited when you are. Be excited on Sunday morning, Sunday night and Wednesday night. Let's be faithful to attend church. Teach them that it's a privilege to go to the house of the Lord.

Children can do a lot at a very young age. When in church be sure to participate in prayer and teach them to talk to the Lord. Sing during song service and teach them to sing and clap their hands unto the Lord. Have your tithes and offerings ready before service and when the offering plate comes, hand it to the child to put into the plate. Listen attentively to the preaching and teach them to hear what the preacher is saying. (Of course, we all know that 1 to 4 year olds are more content standing in

Who's Who?

Each publication of the Shepherd's Voice will feature questions about someone. You have the opportunity to win a prize if you can figure out who it is and write into the Shepherd's Voice and/or call or send Allene Cox your guess with your personal testimony as well. If you don't feel you can write or mail it in, just contact Allene Cox and tell it to her and she will see that it gets published. Only one person can win per publication so, whoever contacts me first is the winner.

What will you win? You will receive by mail a gift card and the satisfaction of knowing you are getting to know your spiritual siblings better. Don't assume someone has called or contacted me before you. It would amaze us to know how little we really know about one another. If the person being featured is not revealed, the hints for that person will be continued until someone guesses correctly. Don't hesitate! Get involved! You may be the next featured person or the next winner!

READY????? Here are the hints...

Who among us ...

**Considers themselves to be a 33inch David the Giant Killer,
Who loves to eat tacos, rice and beans,
Thinks tractors and trucks are the greatest things around and
Will be eating their favorite vanilla ice cream with birthday
cake on May 26?**

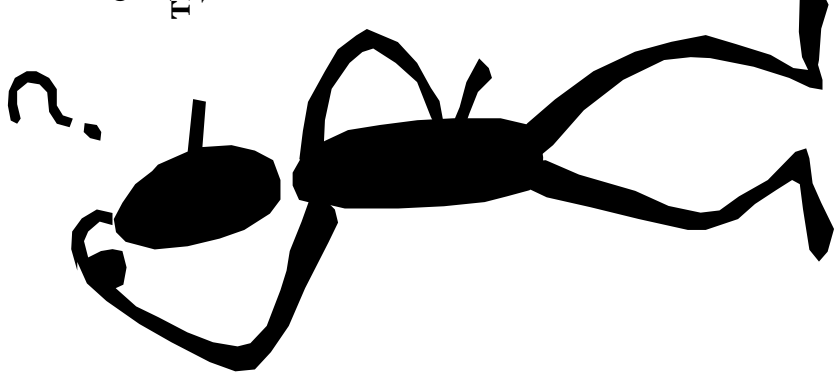
Ask around and you'll soon discover you know this person like no other!

The Winner from our last series of question was Grayson Kent from Millen, Georgia. He won a \$10 gift card with her correct answer of Brother Kramer!

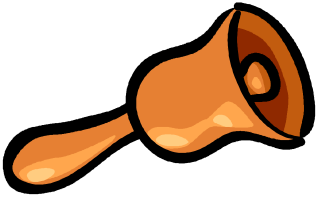
We appreciate Bro. Kent's participation. We also love Brother Kramer. Who would guess our overseer would like ketchup on eggs and is a hermit cactus? God bless you both for all you've done to help us get to know one another better! Now, you can be the next winner! Just make a guess as soon as you get your Shepherd's Voice.

was Rita Phillips from Perry, Florida. She won a \$10 gift card with her correct answer of Jodi Lynn Kramer! We love Sister Rita and her participation. We also love Sis. Jodi. She was out little birthday girl!

God bless you both for all you've done to help us get to know one another better! Now, you can be the next winner! Just make a guess as soon as you get your Shepherd's Voice.



Ring Those Glory Bells



If you were at the General Assembly, you were blessed to hear the Alabama children's bell choir. We have been motivated by their presentation and hope to purchase two sets of bells for our Florida and Georgia children. The system is simple for the children of all ages to learn. It is operated by a color system and therefore requires no reading of music. It teaches discipline and instills a sense of contribution in worship services. I am eager to get the set and begin working with our regions children in our district conventions so that they can be prepared for the regional convention. The cost of all that we need to get started is \$275. If you feel you'd like to help us with this project, please send any contribution to the regional treasurer or myself payable to The Church of God and I will be quick to order and begin the process for our children to bless you at the regional convention. Thank you so much!

Commercial aside, I'd like to give you children's workers one more boost. I know how it feels to be overwhelmed and often unprepared when in walks those little ones you weren't expecting. They are eager to have attention and are little sponges just waiting for someone to share the gospel with them. Special holiday services and special occasions seem to bring children that would normally never be in your services. What should you do? Is the fact that they may never return an excuse to not see that they receive teaching on their level on this particular day? No. I suggest that you get ahead of the game this year at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Mother's and Father's Day and have a little something in mind, just in case. There are so many interesting places in the Bible that you can prepare and have in a notebook with you in the event the children are there. Here are a few suggestions;

THANKSGIVING- A turkey cut out and made from paper sack that has cut out feathers with things to be thankful for and a bible verse. Each child can bring their feather and if they are old enough to read, read the verse that corresponds to the thing they are thankful for. They add it to the turkey. Then a prayer of thanks can be made by the group from all the feathers on the turkey.

CHRISTMAS- Making wreaths from construction paper and glue or tape. Explain that the wreath is a symbol of Christmas because of it's historic use in remembering the death of people. Years ago, a wreath placed on the door of the deceased person's home was a symbol of remembrance and reverence. We use it to symbolize Jesus coming to Earth and being the Messiah who would one day kill sin and death by his own death. Each child can take home the wreath after they explain why it is a Christmas symbol.

MOTHER'S DAY- Take any story from the scriptures that talks about a special mother. Sarah, Hannah, or Mary and talk about what she did to change the lives of her child. Mary was the first to prompt Jesus to perform the miracle that launched his ministry. You can make a construction or tissue paper flower as you tell the story.

FATHER'S DAY- This can be done the same. Talk about the Love of our heavenly father in giving Jesus. You may correlate this to Abraham and Isaac. You may point out that unlike Abraham, no angel appeared to stop the sacrifice of Jesus. The reason was for each child and the father's love for them. You may make crosses or make cherry cool aid and help them understand the blood sacrifice of Jesus.

As with all children's programs, give the children an opportunity to accept the Lord in the class setting. You may not see the immediate results, but the opportunity given may lead to a God fearing child later in his life. I have written a years worth of children's church materials if your local workers are interested. I have tried to break it down by quarters. If you are interested, please email or call me and I will get you an overview to look over. The title is My Incredible Journey.

If you need anything, please let me know. Thank you for all you are doing to help the FL/GA children prepare for an adulthood in Christian service.

Allene Cox , Children's Ministries
Menmyrc5@yahoo.com 478-982-8209

News from the Fold

Pastor James Cox and the congregation of the church in Millen, Georgia, celebrated an "Old Fashioned Day" on Sunday, November 18, 2007. The women and young ladies were adorned in fashionable outfits of bonnets, aprons, and long dresses or skirts. The men and young boys sported suspenders, straw hats, or overalls. Bishop Melvin Kramer was the guest speaker for the morning worship service. He delivered an inspiring message that blessed our spiritual appetites. An abundance of physical food graced the tables outside when dinner was served following the worship service. An afternoon of fellowship and special singing and music was enjoyed by visitors and members of the church. The local church also praises the Lord for successfully blessing the two fund raisers that were held in October.



**Bro. Grayson Kent
Millen, Georgia—Church Reporter**

Greetings, thanks, and love to each of you in Jesus' name from the Spring Hill/Tampa Family.

1. Series of Aircondition/heating Units Taken From Outside of Churches—Your love and prayers are sweetly felt in the family of The Church of God of Spring Hill at Hudson, FL as well as the Tampa Mission. We dislike sharing unfortunate news; however when Satan is diligently working to tear down what God has brought together, we must gather our prayers for Strength from God to continue in Jesus' Name. Once again we bring to you a special prayer request. You may know of the many churches and government facilities recently plagued with possible airconditioner/heating unit failure. Upon checking, many of these are finding as did the family at Spring Hill Church last week, the air conditioner was not working improperly. It was not working at all due to the outdoor A/C-heating unit simply NOT BEING THERE. Upon reporting this incident to the Sheriff Dept. and the insurance company, we learned that this was one in a series of such actions. As we work with the insurance company and our local aircondition/heater service provider, please pray for a quick and satisfactory replacement and repair of this unit. Since we are small in number we appreciate your uplifting prayers being added to our own prayers. Also pray for the people whose needs or what they believe are needs are attempting to satisfy these needs through illegal means. They are so very useful to Satan in his work. First and foremost is their need for spiritual healing. With that accomplished all other needs will be met. We are reminded that God provides for His children as long as the children are obedient according to His Word.

2. Introduction of New Spring Hill Pastor—The Spring Hill Family is pleased to introduce you to our new pastor, Brother Terry Vest. Brother Vest has been expending much time, energy, and love in the Lord's Work in Tampa Mission for several years. He has eagerly accepted the responsibility for Spring Hill Church in addition to Tampa Mission. Please make or renew acquaintance with Brother Vest at the Minister's Convention Nov 2-3, 2007 in Perry, FL.

3. Rain—The recent drought in most areas of our region has greatly affected crops, animal health, and human health to name a few. The Lord has blessed with much rain recently; not as much as we would like, but every drop for which we are so grateful. We have experienced and heard from others of Mercy Drops God has provided in many instances in these past difficult months. Also reported are some Showers of Blessings. The Spring Hill/Tampa church family has received some of these wonderful spiritual showers in several areas. Perhaps that is why Satan is working so hard against "the family". As the song says, "Count your many blessings, name them one by one. Count your many blessings, see what God has done". As we continue to request rain for our land, let's remember to request that God continues to "Let it Rain" mercy drops and showers of blessings in each local church, our hearts, and our families as we continue to reach towards perfection. Be encouraged - remember "...with God all things are possible..."

Betty Lisenby, Reporter - The Church of God of Spring Hill at Hudson, FL. & Tampa Mission
For God and His Church,



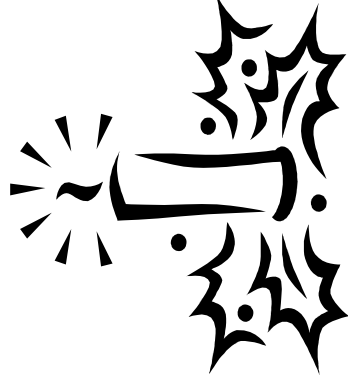
Knowing God

Prepared by: Grayson B. Kent

The foundation of our faith can be solidified on one verse of Scripture. The passage, “*For I am God, and there is none else...*” (Isaiah 45:22), resonates the profound message of all Christianity that God truly is the great and magnificent Being that transcends all things. As individual Christians and the corporate Body of Christ we cannot afford to lose sight of who we serve.

Understanding the revelation knowledge of God can be best described through Paul’s words to the church at Corinth. He stated “...*the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolish unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned...*” (1 Corinthians 2:14). Being infinite, God is unfathomable. Various scriptures such as Job 36:26, Psalm 77:19, and Isaiah 40:28 record the nature of the inability to grasp comprehension of the magnificent God of Heaven. Nevertheless, God is knowable through His Son, Jesus Christ. John wrote “...*we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even his Son Jesus Christ...this is the true God...*” (1 John 5:20).

Knowledge of God is revealed through self-revelation. This process incorporates the underlying principle that God takes the initiative in making Himself known. This self-revelation, or divine revelation, is the establishment of absolute truth by God Himself as He reveals that which He has once kept covered. The vision obtained by revelation has a two-fold concept. First, it is knowledge which is information obtained concerning the previously hidden mystery. Second, it is understanding, or learning, which requires application by the receiver. In his epistle, James wrote, “...*if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally...and it shall be given him...*” (James 1:5). Revealed truth is readily available to any who would purpose themselves to seeking God for knowledge and understanding. The book of Proverbs records, “...*through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established...*” (Proverbs 24:3). This Old Testament writer pointedly and appropriately confirms that



reception of divine wisdom, revelation, or understanding is the only method by which spiritual matters can be properly and completely understood. Thus, it is only by self-revelation that we, as children of God, can come to know Him.

God does not intend to be known in the conceptual or the positional; there is nothing less than a certainty to represent the fact that God desires to be solely addressed in a personal sense with whom humanity can encounter and correspond with a specific relationship initiated by love. One must go no further than the account in the book of Exodus in which Moses encountered God through God’s self-revelation to realize the intimacy associated with a relationship with Him.

In the encounter with God through the burning bush, God formally introduced Himself to Moses and recruits him to lead His people out of the bondage of Egypt. Moses, in unbelief, counters God’s request with a question. Moses questions God as to whom he should tell the people sent him. God responds with the answer “...*I AM THAT I AM...*” (Exodus 3:14). God’s reply is inappropriately deemed evasive; rather, it is necessary to realize that God’s intention was to qualify his answer in the following verse where he reveals his name – Yahweh. “*I AM THAT I AM*” literally means “I am indeed He who is”. In ancient history a person’s name was bound closely with that person’s essence; it was considered to be a manifestation of nature, character, and moral fiber. Moses’ question could easily be interpreted as “what is God’s relationship to the people in this current situation?”. God defines Himself as being present and ready to interact in a relationship with humanity. There can be no better definition of God than the definition which He provided Himself; truly, He is the God who is the Almighty Being.

Before the Church can reach perfection and worship God to the fullest potential, we must take the initiative to know Him. Knowing God cannot be accomplished on the corporate stage; it is a responsibility of each individual member. Worshipping God without knowing Him can easily be related to idol worship. John wrote, “...*we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols...*” (1 John 5:20-21). Let us take time to truly build our relationship with God and come to know Him in the personal way which He desires.



Spiritual Sheep



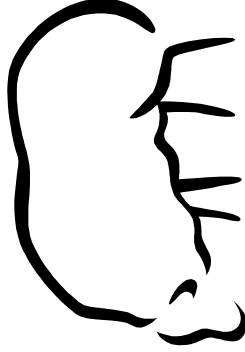
Never in the history of humanity has there been such a 'spiritual awareness' there is in the world society today. Does that sound strange? In such a perverse world in which wickedness and violence seems to run rampant, that statement sounds false. However, the truth is that percent of people the world over are very spiritual and some are religious.

The horrible news is that these people are spiritual in so many facets that include the occult and various cultic practices. Some of these include new age transcendental meditation, worship of nature and even worship of self image and humanism. Unfortunately for The Church of God, we are in a world full of these spiritual influences and people are buying into them all.

Be whatever. Just be devout to it. This is a statement I recently heard from a lady in a store when she learned her neighbor converted to Buddhism. This lady was convinced that it didn't matter as long as the person was sure of what they wanted to do.

Our sheep in The Church of God aren't living in bubbles either. They are facing the same society that you see on your television. We are charged to feed the sheep and care for the flock of God in First Peter 5:2. We must keep a watch over them and help them to flee from the temptations that they face in their families and more. They aren't immune from the influence, if they are battered, weak or always without support. Ministry, our job is not an easy one. However, if we have made our election sure, we will find his grace sufficient for the task at hand. Let us be a source of strength, a blanket of comfort and a constant reminder of the truth that our membership not fall into the traps laid by our adversary.

True spirituality is in having the soul nurtured and growing. That only comes through capable and caring ministry who spend time in prayer for anointing and gain wisdom from God's Word.



God bless you,
Sis Allene Cox
478-982-8209 — menmyrc5@yahoo.com



Thank You!!!

I want to thank The Church of God in Florida and Georgia for the great outpouring of offering given for the Kramer family. We were blessed to give them \$730 for the special offering. I know your sacrifices and God is very aware as well. He will not let any gift from the heart go without being acknowledged in Heaven. Thank you!



front of the pew than sitting on it sometimes, but we can still teach them to reverence the time of preaching by being as quiet as possible. And, you'll be amazed at what they bring home from the preaching – they really are listening. And, yes, once in a while they just won't be quiet and still during service and we do have to carry them to the Nursery. But don't stay home just because this happens. Remember, being faithful to attend the house of the Lord is so important and our children will believe it's important, too.)

Children believe. The world has its ideas about what is real and the world shouts aloud about what it believes is real. But we can teach our children the truth. Talk with them often and see what's on their minds. With love and wisdom, clear up any misunderstandings that they may have. They trust you.

Children need the truth. Always be truthful with your children. Don't ever lie to your children (remember what the Bible says about lying). You can be their greatest influence. You can be that "someone" that they can always turn to for the absolute honest truth. (Don't we all need someone like that no matter what age we are?)

Children like music. Sing worship choruses at home and in the car. Purchase CDs with children singing Bible songs and hymns. Play the CDs in the car as you go about; soon you'll hear your child ask for "Song, Mama" (which means will you please turn on the songs for me). Play the CDs in your child's bedroom, playroom or wherever he likes to spend playtime. What a wonderful backdrop!

Children can say, "I'm sorry." Teach them to repent and ask God to forgive them when they need to. Teach them to get things right with others by saying "I'm sorry" when they hurt someone. And, yes, there are times that we parents have to say, "I'm sorry" and ask for forgiveness, too. Teach them the Lord's way of handling real life situations, no matter what real life situation comes.

Children are talented. Whatever your child's God-given talent is, help him develop it. Unless God reveals it to us, we can't see what doors will open in his future. Let's help him be prepared. The more he knows, the more opportunity he will have.

Children can learn about divine healing. When they're sick, let's pray for them at home. After the prayer assure them that God is going to make them all better. Then, listen, because before long they'll be asking you to pray the next time their tummies hurt. And, guess what, before long they will lay their precious hands upon you and pray for you when you're sick. What a blessing!

Children like to help. Next time someone calls your home for prayer, if possible, take a minute to gather your children, hold hands and pray for that request. This teaches our children to pray for others when a request comes in and not to procrastinate. Look for age-appropriate jobs that they can help with in Sunday School, at home, at family gatherings, etc. Assure them that they're needed, too.

Children can be taught the whole Bible rightly divided. There are certain things of the world that we do not participate in "because the Bible speaks against them". This is the answer we can share lovingly with our children when life presents such subjects. One such subject in today's environment is tattoos. Our children need to know that Leviticus teaches us not to mark our bodies (no tattoos, even spiritual symbol tattoos, permanent or not).

Children need consistency. Be consistent, stable, unwavering and loving when it comes to life's lessons. Discuss what the Bible tells us that Jesus would do in certain situations. Pray together that the Lord will help us and our children be consistent in obeying the Word. Parents' steadfastness will make them feel safe, just as our Heavenly Father's steadfastness makes us feel safe. Remember, there are no "white lies", no occasions to be immodest, no reason to compromise the Word of God.

The Lord is Lord! His ways are higher than ours. He is THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE! We should be submitted unto Him and should teach our children to submit unto Him as well.

May we and our children be watching and praying for His blessed return! It won't be long!