



Greetings WMB Georgia and Florida! God bless each and every one of you in a special way. Remember, we are born to serve the Lord and to help win souls for His soon coming. Thanks God for a zeal to work!!

Matthew 24: 6

And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all [these things] must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

Let us all be like the five wise virgins. Let's keep our lamps burning, so that others can see Jesus in us. We must be up and about our Father's business through all of the troubles and trials of this life. Remember, there is a blessed time that is coming soon. The return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Loving and Praying for you all,
 Sis. Vera Vaughn
 WMB Coordinator



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“LITTLE IS MUCH IF GOD IS IN IT”

Melvin Kramer—Regional Overseer

Sometimes we may feel that what we have to offer God to work with is not sufficient for the task. We may think, “How can my little offering, prayer, singing, or witnessing be effective for Jesus?” That’s when we must remember that the Lord can take what we do have and increase it, so that the impossible becomes very possible. Just like the little boy with five loaves and two small fishes. The disciples said, “What are they among so many?” But The Lord used a small meal to feed the multitude. I am reminded of the story of Henry Crowell, who had little to offer. But when God took what he had and blessed it, only heaven will tell what was accomplished by this man.

Henry Crowell—

When Henry Crowell was nine his father died from tuberculosis, and when he was 17 Henry himself contracted the disease. Though he appeared to be dying, he mustered his strength to attend D. L. Moody’s campaign in Cleveland, Ohio. He listened carefully as Moody thundered: “The world has yet to see what God can do through a man fully dedicated to him.”

Crowell determined to be God’s man. “To be sure, I would never preach like Moody. But I could make money and support the labors of men like Moody. I resolved, “Oh God, if you preserve my life and allow me to make money to be used in your service, I will keep my name out of it so you will have the glory.”

Shortly thereafter Henry found Job 5:19: “He shall deliver you in six troubles, yea, in seven no evil shall touch you.” The Lord seemed to assure him of healing through that verse.

..... **Happy New Year!** I am hoping that this year is as good as last year,
 : if not better. I really appreciate the great participation from our auxil-
 : iary/departement 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
 : subscribers 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.tcogflga.org> . Also check out the new Prison Ministry
 webpage located at <http://www.tcogsgpteam.org>.

Tony Conner—Assistant Editor

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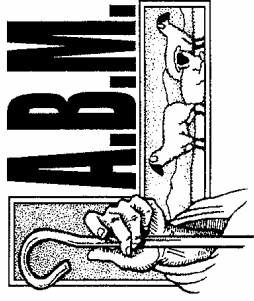
Henry grew stronger and began honing his business instincts, shrewdly investing his family's wealth. He started companies, purchased properties, and introduced innovations to the marketplace. When a mill owned by nearby Quakers became available, Henry purchased it and began dreaming of modern cereal products for American homes. Thus Quaker Oats Company was born.

The money rolled in – and it rolled out. Henry consistently gave 65% to 70% of his income to Christian causes. Millions of dollars flowed to churches, schools and missions. He worked tirelessly for the new, fledgling Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. Under his vision, MBI escaped financial ruin and became a powerful training center. He helped start Moody Press, Moody Magazine and Moody radio ministries.

And he was still dreaming at age 89. Shortly before his death, he spoke to the Board of Moody Bible Institute, complimenting them for their vision but telling them to “think in terms of still greater things for the glory of Christ”.

God Bless You.
Bro. Melvin Kramer

FANNING THE FLAMES OF THE BURNING BUSH



As I read Exodus chapter 3, I am imaging how Moses, already a shepherd must have been feeling. He was indeed minding his own business. He has taken his small flock to the back side of a desert and then to the mountain of God.

This was in itself rather profound to me. We know all about his later trek through a wilderness with the children of Israel. But, we forget that this little Nile sailor has already been given a job. He was doing that when the Lord used the burning bush. Now, I know some of you pastors may feel you are in a desert and if you do, it is likely your sheep feel it too. But, the interesting part is that he not only led them to the back of the desert, but also the mountain of God. Pastors and leadership, you may have to go through some droughty places and it may seem life is scarce in those places, but if you will lead and do so in the right spirit, you can lead that little flock to the

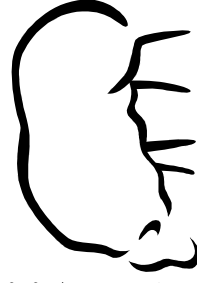
mountain of God!

Verse four tells is that when the Lord saw that Moses turned aside to see...God called out to him from the burning bush. I am eager for the day when we see men and women of God who will be willing to go the hard way through the hardships of the ministry, the long way around the mountain to then take time to turn aside from their own ideas and plans and get curious about where else God has for them. We have licensed ministry that sits on a pew in local churches and do not accept a local position because of the inconvenience and hardship it may impose on them. Has Moses been that kind of shepherd, he would have never been used of God to lead in the Israelites out of bondage.

We are a generation of people who want all we can get and faster than we can think about it. Unfortunately that spirit has crept into the ministry and we are failing the kingdom and church of God. We all will testify that we want to be closer the Lord and to be more obedient and if he will just tell us what his will is, we will get on board. We say that as we fail to fulfill the calling he already gave us. We proclaim this as we half way or slipshod take a pulpit or accept an appointment. We must not let this continue.

If we are to have a divine experience to go higher and deeper with the Lord, we must first be diligent in our current state and be fervent in our desire to please him. God took note of Moses' focus on the unconsumed bush. He was aware of Moses' interest in what his plans were. We will never be able to bask in the wonder of his holiness if we don't first fulfill the duties we are already entrusted to and second, get curious enough with the lord to take a second look at what he has for us.

Ministry our general ABM theme is Ministering With a Right Spirit. If we are to ever be ministering in a right spirit, we must first be sure we are fanning the flames of the burning bush for ourselves and the young ministers we may have charge over. To encourage and uplift will make all the difference for that young Moses who is coming through the desert or around the mountain. Help one another get that experience and then we can stand together in the presence of the holy one!



Allene Cox 478-982-8209
ABM Coordinator

Children's Ministries

Resolution #1....Giving My Children-He and Me

Frank A. Clark once said, “There’s nothing that can help you understand your beliefs more than trying to explain them to an inquisitive child.”

We are living in a time when the local daycares are opened at 6 am and closed at 8pm. Do these hours sound odd to you? Well, the reason may be that it is a horrible fact that so many have abandoned their children for the financial blessings of a job or the never ending search for a tranquil moment alone with no interruptions and no asking for something and no enquiring little minds who want to know everything. I once worked in a day care center. The same parents who were waiting on me to get that door open at six o'clock each morning were the ones who were swooping in a late huff at eight pm fussing that they didn't get their work done due to this inconvenient closing time.

Many times I watched these rushed mothers and fathers come in with supper in hand (McDonalds) and change their little one into their pajamas there to save them having to take the time at home. I have even heard the parents tell the little ones Monday through Friday to go ahead and go to sleep on the way home and they'd put them right to bed.

I was blessed never to have to make such hard decisions in my parenthood. I am not passing judgment on the working parents of this hectic generation. However, I would like to advise all to try to never fail to take time this year for that one who will bear your name after you are gone. Try to be sure you are giving your best to those that miss you most all day. Resolve to not only give them a warm meal, a gentle hug or a bedtime story, but spend some time talking about the Lord.

David the giant killer, Josiah the boy king, Miriam, her brother's keeper and so many more children of the bible were taught about the Lord very early. Obviously we can make this conclusion since they were just children when God used them. They knew what decisions to make and where they should stand because of their early training.

The children need us to help them with the basic necessities of life. The least of which for a godly family is the knowledge of God and the understanding of his word. Yes, you may have to change your schedule or get up earlier. You may have to miss a meeting or tell the boss that you will not be completing that project by the requested deadline, but this is an investment in your spiritual future. This is not only to benefit to your child, but you will grow too as you teach what you believe to this little one. You will reexamine your thoughts and ideas and will hopefully turn to the Word of God to be sure of your elections and convictions.

Make a resolution that will last for a lifetime. Give them Him and give them you in that order. That little one will appreciate your time and energy and love.

God bless you and your families!

Allene Cox 478-982-8209



Experiencing God

February 2008 – Shepherd's Voice Article

Prepared by: Grayson B. Kent

In the previous edition of *The Shepherd's Voice*, the CPMA article focused on the necessity of knowing who God is in order to properly and effectively worship Him. In our pursuit for spiritual formation, we must maintain an active drive toward experiencing God and understanding what it means to truly enter into His presence.

“And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.” (Exodus 25:21-22)

Space in this article does not provide for an in-depth review of the requirements and stipulations which God correlated for the ark in the Old Testament. An independent study of the twenty-fifth chapter of the book of Exodus is highly encouraged and can establish an understanding for individuals who desire to seek a greater knowledge of the Ark of the Covenant. However, certain core principles surrounding the ark's design are input in scope of experiencing God's presence. The builders of the Ark of the Covenant were given specific and strict instructions regarding the size, shape, and décor which was to become the ark. Furthermore, atop the ark was the mercy seat on which the priests sprinkled the blood of the atonement sacrifice. The ark was to be placed within the Holy of Holies – behind the veil which only the high priest could enter. Finally, Numbers 17:10 records the three items which were to be placed within the interior of the ark – the budding roe of Aaron, pot of manna, and the tablet of the Ten Commandments. These items represented the divine favor of God, the sustaining power and providence of God, and the full stipulations and benefits of the covenant. A careful study of Scripture will indicate that God's place of presence in Israel was upon the mercy seat located between the two cherubims.

In today's world, there remains a need for every Church member and member of the Kingdom to understand the necessity of having a personal relationship with God. God is a personal God who desires to interact with each one of His created beings. A lukewarm or apathetic relationship is displeasing to God; this type of relationship was demeaning as it revealed God to be a second-rate priority. It is our duty and responsibility to know God and experience Him for we lack true worship until we engage this type of relationship.

Upon knowing the God who we worship, we are able to enter into His presence. Today, we no longer encounter God strictly at a physical mercy seat. The grace dispensation has ushered in a time when He can be encountered by anyone at anytime simply through prayer and communication with Him. There are only two encounters with God. One either encounters Him under the condition of mercy or of judgment. Recall the requirements of the high priest. If the high priest entered into the presence of God unworthily or without sacrifice, he faced immediate judgment unto death. Likewise, today, we must enter with the desire for mercy and maintain a passion for a lifestyle of holiness. Paul, in the New Testament, reiterates this point by stating “... holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord...” (Hebrews 12:14).

In this generation of time, we need *moreso* than ever, to stay in the presence of God. We need to experience Him in a way in which we have not yet known Him. The Church is on the verge of a mighty sweeping of the Spirit; however, She will not obtain this rain of the Spirit until we, as members, re-establish our relationship with Him. Entering into God's presence gives us the same benefits of the Old Testament Ark of the Covenant. Atonement, divine favor, sustaining power and providence, and full benefits of the covenant are freely available to us if we could only experience God in the realm of worship which He desires from us.

Love Letter Resolution

As this new year has slipped upon us, we are always made aware of all that we should resolve to do. We make the lists that we know will never be honored and months later find them crumpled up in defeat. I would like to encourage you to consider making a resolution and actually plan to see it resolved. We, in the body of Christ should resolve ourselves to getting to know the Lord better.

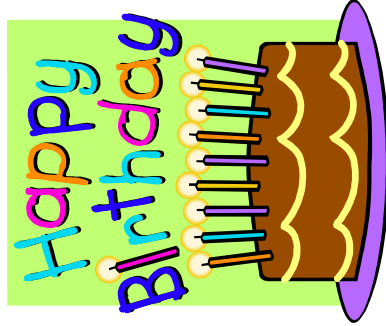
When Sister Cox and I were dating, we lived quite a distance from one another. The mail was something we both looked forward to everyday. When we weren't calling on the phone, we were waiting by the mailbox. I learned a lot about her because of what she penned to me in her letters. She later told me that she learned much about me from our dates and from the letters. There was no substitute for our time spent together and the written word. It is the same process in getting to know the Lord.

We cannot build lasting friendships unless we get to the know the one we wish to befriend. Jesus has been wooing his beloved for a long time and he has come to know her so very well. He knows her failures and faults, but he is also keenly aware of her qualities and her potential. Do we know his worth to us? Do we know his absolute plans for us personally and corporately? Do we know how to get his absolute approval on us?

We need to know him as well as he knows us. To learn of him and get the understanding we need to be ready for his return, we must read his love letter. Often when I would read my beloved's letters, I may get the wrong meaning to her point or have to ask her to explain what she meant in a particular passage. This happens often when reading God's word. This is why the bible has been the point of discussion with mankind for so long. We cannot lean to our own understanding. Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. We must find time with him so that he can communicate to us his will and help us understand his word.

One great way to get the study and communion time with him is the BTI school in Cleveland. We hope all can attend and make it a priority this new year. If you cannot go, please help send someone else. We also launched a new campaign for this region at the minister's convention. We want every church that is able to please take the Christology course as offered by general headquarters. I purchased one book per local church. If you need your books or failed to pick those up at the minister's convention, please let me know and I will get one to you. May God help you as you pursue him as determined as he has pursued us, his chosen one.

James R. Cox (478) 982-8209
BTI Representative FL/GA



We would like to take this opportunity to wish Brother and Sister Kramer a Happy Birthday!!!

Brother Kramer's birthday was on January 12th and Sister Kramer's birthday is on February 8th.

May God bless you both!

PRISON MINISTRY TEAM

I'm not interested, No Thanks.

I was listening to the Radio and my favorite station, Solid Gospel Music, and I heard, again, the commercial on home based business. One thing I'm getting tired of in this ole world is commercials on Home Based Businesses. Every where you turn another commercial on Home Based Businesses. The line on how much money you can make and how good it is working at home and on and on. I simply turn my attention toward the talking announcer and reply, "No Thanks, I'm not interested, and continue on my days activities. But if you'll think about it, there are several commercials on the air that I'm simply not interested in. But yet daily, my ears are bombarded with their voices and lines of encouragement and benefits. You see, I've been there, done that! I tried a home based business and it didn't fly, so to speak. After a substantial loss to my finances I cut it off and done some more praying. I found out all about home based business adventures, again, No Thank You, I'm not interested.

But then my mind went into Spiritual thoughts about Home Based Businesses.

I can be bombarded with their lines and offers and their suggestions and simply turn and say, No Thanks, I'm not interested because I've been there, done that, and I have made up my mind that I'm not going to get myself tied up in anymore Home based Business fiascoes. I don't want to get myself into a financial dilemma again and have to pay off another bill of bad choices. But if you'll think about it, That's Sanctification at work in the Spiritual realm. After we have lived a life of Sinful Desires and Bad Choices and we get saved and Sanctified by the precious Blood of Jesus Christ, we're tired of the sins debt we have paid and the anguish of sorrow that sinful practices bring. We are thankful of Gods grace and the forgiveness he has give to us and being set free from sin's bondage and the power of sin to make us do those unrighteous deeds that wrought sorrow and tears within our hearts. When we hear the voices of Satan telling us to come back and get into a home based sinful practice, come and get back into the drug life, come and smoke some of that pot, Hey! Come and get into some sexual practices and pornography like the rest of the world is doing and their all Christians, (LOL). We hear the calls of sin and the horns of tormenting thoughts, the idea of sin has pleasures, but not the remembrances of the sorrow they brought to the soul. We hear the commercials of the worlds pleasures and vices taunting us daily seeking to regain the control of our hearts desires and put us right back into the dilemma of sins bondage and power over us. **SANCTIFICATION:** Gives us the power to look at them and say, "NO THANKS, I'm NOT INTERESTED!

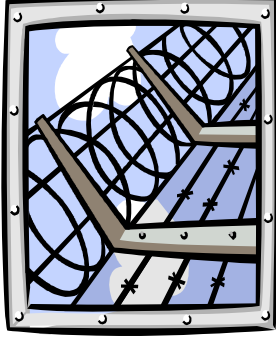
[Heb 10:14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.]

If you are Sanctified, you have the greatest Gift man can receive within his soul. It is the very power of the Blood of God applied to the reigns of the heart of man. He then has the ability and power to turn down sinful desires raised up against him. Lets see what Gods word says about it.... 1 Peter 1:1-9 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

[Our faith is on trial and Satan is trying to win his case against you. We might be in heaviness through manifold temptations, but the Blood of Christ has given us all the power to say no thanks that we need. But we must have our hearts sanctified of the desires of sin.[1 Cor 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.] The reason I don't get



into a home based business is that I have no desire for it. All the commercials don't have any sway with my mindset. I'm just not interested. We must be that same way with the desires for sin. We must allow Gods Sanctification not only take the desires from us, but we must keep ourselves from those things that war against the soul and try our faith and war with our hearts to indulge into those things again.

[2 Tim 2:21-22 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

22 Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.] Choose your friends wisely, they could take you back into the vices of sin again. When the world offers you sin, don't reminisce of the pleasures, just say No Thanks, I'm not interested anymore.]

1 Thess 4:3-7 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: 4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour: 5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God: 6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

God sent his Son to die on an ole rugged cross for one reason, and that is.....

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. God will except nothing short of Holiness and a Sanctified Life under the Blood of Christ. The world says SEX is normal and allowed by all ages, God says abstain from fornication and learn how to possess your vessel because God has not called us unto uncleanness, but unto Holiness. Without which no man shall see the Lord. [Heb 12:14] Don't listen to the waves of compromise and doubt "On Air" of Satan's lies, God will help you endure the fight of faith, but we must do something on our own too. Get away from those things that war against you. And hang out with the Brethren, not the old gang, and trust God all the way, and stand in your integrity and power of Jesus Christ because .[1Cori:9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.]

Jesus Christ Died that we could be made free from sin and live without it.

1 John 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Anyone who believes that you can live in sin and remain in Christ and commit willful sin against a Holy God is sinning against the Spirit of the Grace of God and shall be punished according to his works.

Eph 2:1-4 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved.)

The Church of God Prison Ministry
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