

News from the Fold



The Perry Church would like to report a wonderful revival with Bro. James Morgan. Two were saved, two were sanctified, and two were filled with the Holy Ghost. He preached on healing the last night; the Spirit of the Lord was really great in the house. We thank God for this revival.

I would also like to report about our school. In our Church we have about 24 children in attendance from the ages of 6 to 16. In December one morning in our devotion 14 of those children got saved! I thank God for all His blessings on our school. There has been many hours of hard work put into the school. I was locking the door to the church one day after school and I thought the church would be better off without the school but then I was talking to a parent of one of our students and she had a very bad headache and her grandson was rubbing her head. She said she began to hear something and it was her grandson praying for her. I can not tell you how many times during the day the students come to me for prayer and I pray for them and then tell them they will be alright now. They walk away believing they will be alright. They have faith in prayer.

I would also like to thank God for taking care of the finances at the church. We have lost some members lately and that means we lost tithes payers. The devil will make you think that you are in financial trouble but God has a way of working things out. I have always believed in God and I know He will take care of us. God will do what He's promised if He has to send it in a wheelbarrow in nickels! Couple of weeks later I came home one day and found two tithes checks stuck in my door from sinners! Later a man brought me \$350.00 in tithes and he attended another church. The one who gave the tithes had told another lady on her job about paying tithes she paid hers as well! Then 3 others brought theirs! Now a lady that lives in Greeneville sends her tithes through the mail to us! Now don't you know my God controls the wheelbarrow? Thank you Lord!

Syble Palmer—Perry, FL Pastor

Cartersville, Georgia had a great Easter with several visitors. We had 2 baby dedications and afterwards a picnic and an egg hunt.

Tony Conner—Cartersville, GA / Reporter

The Spirit was high on Sunday morning March 30 as the church met and had a great Sunday School lesson. We then celebrated Brother L. P. Williamson's 98th Birthday. Pastor Gaddis gave a brief review of Brother Williamson's family and local history of his walk with God before the community. His faithfulness inspires many as he maintains such a meek and gentle demeanor before the Lord and others. This June will mark his 20th year in the church. He is one of the Charter members here.

Brother Williamson was seated in a seat of honor before the congregation as the pastor related the heart-warming history of his faithfulness. Brother Williamson arose and sang a song or two in great fever and with an anointing as he has always had as he sings. One of the songs he sang was, "IF YOU MISS ME SINGING DOWN HERE". Tears of joy flowed throughout the congregation as his zeal penetrated every heart with praises being lifted to God. Then Brother Williamson preached some to us as the Holy Ghost led him to. The entire congregation filed by and shook hands with him and left an offering behind for him. A birthday dinner was served in the fellowship hall while once again there were moves of the Spirit as seasons of inspiration fell on our assistant Pastor, Brother Williamson.

Louis Gaddis—Commerce, GA Pastor / Reporter

Millen, Georgia had a big Easter. We had a "Passion Walk" on Good Friday and a resurrection service by the tomb on Easter.

Allene Cox—Millen, GA / Reporter



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"HE IS RISEN"

Melvin Kramer—Regional Overseer

Matthew 28: 1-7 tells us "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 the 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 woman, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which 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."

Some may argue the point, but I believe that this was the greatest event to ever take place in the history of time. As we look at it, the birth of Jesus could have happened, but it wouldn't have been enough. Fulfilling His ministry here on this earth could have happened, but it wouldn't have been enough. Even dying on the cross of Calvary could have happened, but still it would not have been enough. It took something empty to make salvation full and free, that old borrowed tomb that housed on that Friday the body of the blessed Son of God. It was now empty on that first day of the week. This is what now separates Christianity from any other religion in the world, to know that He is risen, victorious over death, hell, and the grave. But the story does not end here. For one day that risen Savior will step out on a cloud and in one moment of time will call to all the blood washed saints (as the old West wanted posters would say "dead or alive") to come on home and rest a little while. What a glad day it will be when our feet begin to lose gravitation and we ascend to our heavenly home leaving all our troubles and trials behind.

And just think - it was all made possible because "HE IS RISEN".

God Bless You.

Bro. Melvin Kramer

CAN YOU HEAR HIM NOW?!



I know most people have seen or heard of the man on the cell phone trying to see if he can still hear the person on the other end no matter where he was at. It is a catchphrase that seems to be pretty popular, so you shouldn't have a hard time remembering. What I would like for you to think about is can you hear God? Is there a clear signal or do you have a bad network on your side and you keep losing that connection?

“...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us...” Heb 12:1

If you want a clear signal from God to be able to hear Him and talk with Him, then you need to make sure you are not trying to listen to everything around you at the same time. Just think, how often have you been trying to hear someone on a cell phone in the middle of a big group of people, busy restaurant, or church gatherings? You end up getting aggravated and either leave the group or area or hang up the phone. Don't let this happen to you. Don't hang up on God!

To hear God you have to have a clean heart, and have clean ears. In the scripture it mentions weight. “lay aside every weight, which doth so easily beset us...” what does that mean you may ask? It means you must lay down things that aren't always sinful in and of themselves, but you know are hindrances to your walk. All you have to ask yourself is, “will this edify me?” If not, then you should seriously consider letting go of whatever it may be such as certain TV shows, music, friends, and/or possessions that you may think too much of. If you aren't willing to let go of those hindrances (which can be different for each person, that is why the bible says to “work out your own salvation...” Phi 2:12) then you don't have your heart set completely on God, and you don't have the mind of Christ in you. The mindset of “what can I still do and be saved” will cause you to push the limits and fall back into sin.

Let us go on for God in a mighty way with our hearts and minds tuned into HIM! Bro. Michael Steptoe—V.L.B. Coordinator

THE GAP



A story is told of a heathen man in Africa who was on his death bed. He had heard of a the missionary who told of Jesus, the savior of the world, and he begged his friends to go and get the missionary to tell him again. It was a long way to go and a perilous journey and they did not go for several days. The man became worse and begged so much that finally the missionary was sent for. The man grew weaker and weaker and would lapse into unconsciousness at times. When he would rouse up from his unconscious sleep, he would smite himself on the breast and cry, “ Oh, haven't they come yet? Haven't they come yet?”

Upon reading this, my heart went straight away to the lost within our ranks. There are many who are discouraged, divided and defeated in their hearts and souls. We must rescue them before they are counted among the lost. This is the purpose of the ABM. This man in the story had hope as long as he had breath. Once that breath was taken, missionary or not, he would be into eternity and out of our grasp. The ABM leaders and ministry of The Church of God must make rescuing the sheep who are straying or looking at seemingly greener pastures our priority. We cannot afford to lose one more soul to the luring ways and temptations of the devil.

Ezekial 22:30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

What if this is the case of those in our local churches who are in need of encouragement and prayer. Just one visit, one call, one act of genuine concern could make all the difference. The next time that stray sheep misses church, picture them at home in despair as this African man, beating on themselves asking for help. The next time that one who has fallen away fails to respond to a call or visit, picture them in their darkness searching as Ezekial for just one who will go the extra mile and stand in the gap that separates them and God and them and the rest of the Body of Christ.

We must take the slaughter of our brothers and sisters seriously. Sheep are being led to the butcher's blades by the evil hand of Satan as he walks about roaring and seeking who among us is the most disconnected and isolated. He desires to rip apart every local church in our region. Let's fight for one another. Let us run to that sick man/woman on their spiritual death bed. Let us stand and stretch the extra measure in the gap between a blood bought life and a backslidden condition.

God bless you and your ABM efforts!
Allene Cox — ABM Coordinator
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One Hand in the Cookie Jar and a Lie Fresh on Her Little Tongue

I use to love to watch the comedian Bill Cosby when he would describe one of his little girls as they were climbing up a chair stacked with grant phone books just to reach the cookie jar that was strategically placed atop the refrigerator to keep the little muncher from getting one without permission and assistance. He said he would enter the room and find her with a crumbly upper lip and her hand in the cookie jar. When she was asked what she was doing, she sweetly replied, “I was getting it for you daddy.” Of course, he was very aware of this untruth. It was funny to watch him as he demonstrated the entire scene. I imagine most of you parents have encountered similar situations that made you chuckle or found it's way into your memory bank. I have three boys and I know what those moments are like too.

Innocence is lost way too early in this world. Children are forced to grow up at such early ages. They are taught that academics, name brand toys and designer, expensive clothes are the most essential needs if they plan to be strong, healthy and well rounded adults. You and I may not try to teach them this, but you can believe someone is. They are taught early that little “white lies” or “fibs” are cute and will keep you from trouble. If we are going to combat the influences that the world WILL shovel into their little minds, we must be ready to enforce the truths we know.

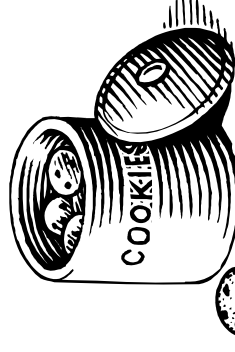
It begins the moment they are brought into this world. With their first breath they are dependant on you. With that, from the beginning, there is no influence stronger than what you have in your child's life. Even as they enter adult hood, all you have said, done and /or failed to say and do will influence them for the rest of their natural lives and will influence the way they rear their children.

Honesty is only one of the virtues you can begin to instill early on. When you say to your two year old, “ Mommy, will play in just a minute.” Be certain that you play in just a few minutes. Otherwise, whether or not that two year old remembers, you have lied to your child. That is important. Lying is not contingent upon how old the person is that is lied to or how serious the untruth may or may not be. Be honest in all things. In the following scriptures we see that God does not place any lies in a lower sin bracket than murder, adultery, stealing or witchcraft. Proverbs 6:17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

Revelation 22:15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

How does one teach a little one so early? First, lead by example. Always be honest with your child. Even if it may seem they'd be hurt by your honest answer. They will appreciate you for your honesty later as a pre-teen and older when the whole world will attempt to sell them a bill of goods laced with lies and deceit. They will know that when they approach you, you will give them pure honesty and truth. If you know you have promised something that just cannot be, you should approach your child as if you were approaching any brother or sister in the Lord. Be forthright and open when dealing with your children.

Secondly, when they have their hand in the cookie jar and crumbs on their faces, don't set them up to lie. Explain before they answer that telling a lie (even to get themselves from trouble) would only make them be in worse trouble. If they indeed lie, explain again and punish according to your parental code. To be inconsistent because a child is little or cute, will lead to much heartache later in their lives. Try to instill in them that they are your little prince/ princess and they've been given to you by the most sovereign God and he would not be pleased with lies and untruths of any kind. Proverbs 17:7 Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince. I hope I can give back to God a better gift than he gave me in my boys.



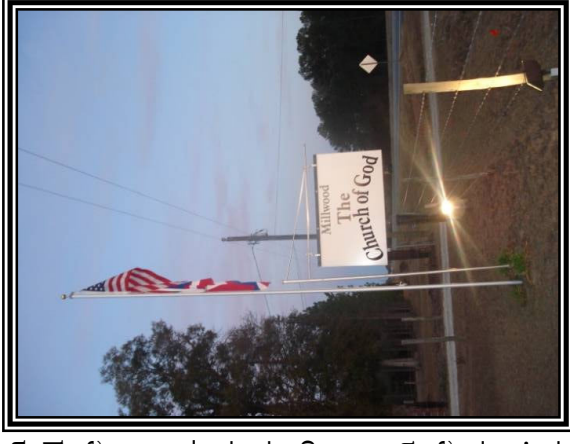
In His Service,
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C.P.M.A. at Work in Millwood, Georgia

Prepared by: Grayson B. Kent



“To build, beautify, and maintain Church markers: local churches...buildings and properties...” - CPMA Handbook of The Church of God



The regional CPMA ministry salutes The Church of God at Millwood, Georgia for their operation of the CPMA ministry. Under the direction of local vision for future growth and expansion, the Church at Millwood has undertaken an endeavor to build and beautify their local church property.

The placement of a new sign on the church lawn serves as a permanent marker which daily proclaims the presence of The Church of God. Travelers along Highway 82 are constantly reminded of the ministry which is established on these grounds. Alongside the sign, the Church flag waves symbolically representing Christ's doctrine, government, practice, and discipline within His Church.

FLORIDA & GEORGIA REGIONAL CONVENTION

PLEASE REMEMBER - Our Regional Convention will be at the local church in Perry, Florida this year. The dates for the convention are June 27-29. Please be in much prayer for our Convention and start making plans to attend. Here is a listing of hotels that may be of help to you. We look forward to seeing you there!

Best Budget Inn -----850-584-6231

Days Inn-----850-584-5311

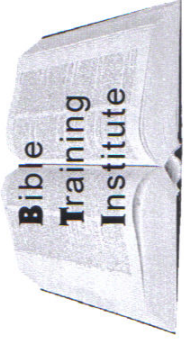
Executive Inn-----850-584-4221

Hampton Inn-----850-223-3000

Chaparral Inn-----850-584-2441

Gandy Motor Lodge-----850-584-4947

I Want to Know More About My Lord



The Theme for BTI in the Cleveland, Tennessee school this year is: That I May Know Him. Maybe you've been serving the Lord long enough that you are sure you know him well enough to know his thoughts in all matters. Maybe you feel you know enough about the Lord that you consider yourself an authority on the Word of God and his perfect will. I would imagine that none of us can say that. However, if we are to reach perfection, we must have a relationship with him that reaches beyond what we all have now. Don't you agree?

Hebrews 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

This reference clearly tells us that just understanding and experiencing the principles of salvation is not all there is to having a relationship that would allow us to KNOW him in the sense that we are certain at all times of his perfect will in our lives. We must build on what we begged for on that floor in that altar.

A building project that stops at the foundation will quickly become the laughing stock of all onlookers. The contractor must pursue in his plans to build further to make the structure complete. This is true of our relationship with the Lord. Will the church reach perfection? Absolutely. Will you and I be a part of that perfected state? We will if we continue to work on the building and the relationship with the groom who is waiting for the command to come and take us away. BTI in Cleveland is just one way to build on that much needed relationship.

Come and let us learn together and grow together. I really want to know more about my Lord. BTI will be May 10-23, 2008. Please make plans to attend of help someone else go.

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 BTI Representative FL/GA

In addition to these projects, God has blessed the Church at Millwood with the ability to embark on a journey toward building a new facility for worship. Pastor Charlene Cox and the membership of the Church are excited to report the recent purchase of a 30 foot by 48 foot metal building. The new facility will house a new, enlarged sanctuary as well as two restrooms. At the present time, the Church has installed the septic system and is currently engaged in fund raising endeavors to collect funds to pour the concrete for the building's foundation. The photograph shown was taken on the day in which the congregation's new building was delivered to the grounds.



Let us continue to pray for the saints at Millwood as they endeavor to operate the CPMA ministry. May we also be encouraged to fulfill our responsibility in our own local churches "to build, beautiful, and maintain".

PRISON MNISTRY TEAM

CONVENIENTLY BETRAYED

In Mark 14:10 - 21 We read about Judas was one of Gods chosen disciples. He saw and done miracles and heard the word of God spoken by the Lord. He saw his miracles and the works he performed upon the people and sat with them in the place where the sermon on the mount was given and knew the teachings of Christ. But something within him would not change and he sought how he might betray him unto the Chief priests. When they heard about it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And Judas sought how he might conveniently betray him. Scriptures say in Matt 16:24-26 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

If we will not surrender and allow God to fashion us into the image of his Son and be willing to lose our lives and submit unto him and his will for us, then the flesh will rise up and try to find a way to conveniently betray the Lord. We don't want to hurt our Lord, or do anything to him like Crucify him on a cross or something that drastic, but just conveniently betray him. That way we don't feel so guilty about hurting him as those who crucified him. It is very difficult to lose our lives and deny our fleshly desires and lusts of the flesh. The Spirits of this world will feed us and tempt us and offer us the world and it's riches if we so desire them, if we will only betray the Lord.

But some will gladly obey his voice and walk in his will. Take the Passover meal. The disciples asked the Lord where will they go to have the Passover meal that they might prepare it.

We know by scriptures that he sent them into town to find a man carrying a water pot. Vs.13.

They asked him Where is the Guest Chambers? The man showed them a large upper room "furnished and prepared". This man was not one of the disciples, or walked with Christ, but he had furnished and prepared an upper room for twelve guests that he didn't know, haven't met, nor been paid for, but he obeyed the voice of God and done Gods will out of a good heart. He baked bread and had the wine ready for the one whom will break bread in his guest room.

Some people will obey and serve God at his bidding and do things out of the realm of the ordinary. And there are those who have been Saved, Sanctified, and have been given the vision of the Church of God and joined her by covenant and know the truth of the Scriptures, will try to find a way to conveniently betray him as Judas.

If you are conveniently giving into the desires of the flesh and partaking again of that that you have been delivered from and set apart for Gods use and work, then you are betraying him just as those who drove the nails and crucified him upon the cross.

Heb 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, 5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, 6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

2 Peter 2:19-22 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the

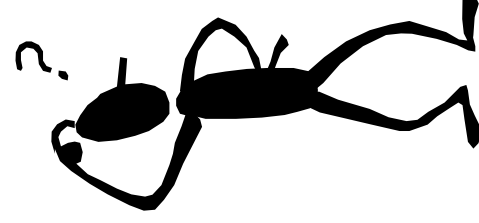
mire. Vs.21 says it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. Jesus said the same thing about Judas ... Mark 14:21 ...but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! GOOD were it for that man if he had never been born. Gal 4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? How can we sit and partake of the Lords Supper, and then go and entangle ourselves again unto the weak and beggarly elements and desire to be brought into bondage again and put the Lord back upon the cross once more is beyond my comprehension. Gal 6:7-9 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. 9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

How sad it will be when we stand before God and he says, Depart from me, Ye that worked iniquity, and conveniently betrayed my Son.

I can see the undermining of the Christian faith on TV, Movies, and the Radio talk shows. Soon it will be a challenge to say we are the Children of God, if you can't fight against your flesh, how will you fight against the World striving unto blood? Think about it! Sow to the Spirit and live. And pray for me when you pray.

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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 I will see that it gets published. Only one person can win per publication so, whoever contacts Allene Cox 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 Allene Cox 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 ...

Was married April 8th, just eight years ago. With 6 kids, 20 grands and 1 great, the blessings did grow. They count each year as five together so soon they'll have an anniversary siber. Their hobby has been filling hungry bellies and hearts. They've been doing this from their marriage start. He loves the mountains. She loves the ocean. But being apart has never been a notion. From middle Georgia they say hello. Remember they were married only 8 years ago.

Ask around and you'll soon discover you know this person like no other! The Winner from our last series of questions was Beau Cox from Palatka, Florida. He won a \$10 gift card with his correct answer of Sister Kramer!

We appreciate Bro. Cox's participation. We also love Sister Kramer. 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.