

## DID I EVER SAY THANKS?

Did I ever say thanks for all the toys you mended, games we played, outings to the park, and the way you always tried to cheer me when I was down?



Did I ever say thanks for the sacrifices you made so I could be involved in so many enriching activities?

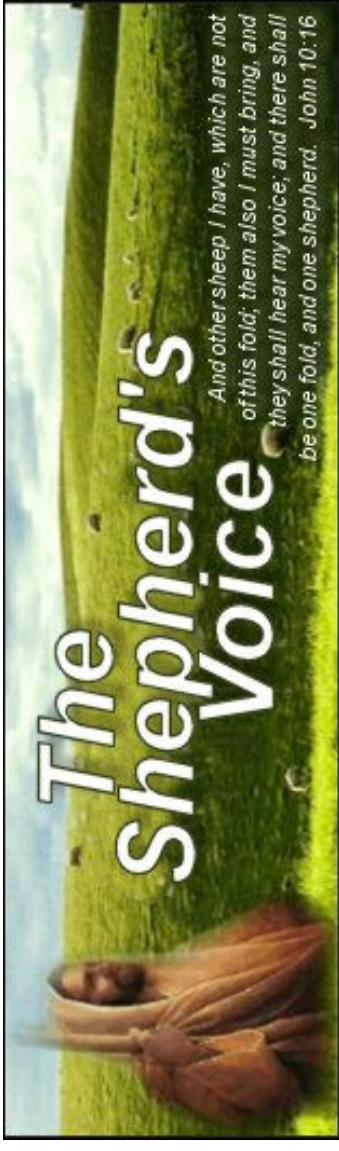
Did I ever say thanks for working so hard to provide for our family?

Did I ever say thanks for having such faith in me and always being there when I needed you?



Most of all,  
Did I ever say thanks for caring?

DAD, I LOVE YOU



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## “LET’S GIVE THE WORLD JESUS”

**Melvin Kramer—Regional Overseer**

**W**ell it is time for one more Regional Convention to take place. My how time flies from one Convention to the next! This should let us know that the coming of the Lord is fast approaching and we must spread the word like never before because time is running out.

This year’s theme is “Let’s Give the World Jesus”. Oh, how this old sinful world needs to hear the message that there is hope in Jesus Christ. We are living in a time when people are trying to find hope and security in everything from drugs and alcohol to false religions and cults. There is no limit in what people can get themselves mixed up in today trying to fill their heart’s void – a void that only the risen Savior can fill.

You see this is where you and I play a vital role of spreading of the gospel message of Jesus Christ every chance we get. Lately I have preached several sermons on what have we to give, taken from Acts the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter. In this passage of scripture we find a man that had been lame all of his life. People carried him daily and laid him at the gate of the temple to beg for the means to make it from day to day. No doubt everyday was probably the same as the last, as He would spend His time asking alms and would be carried back home at the end of the day. But this day was going to be a little bit different than the days before, as He would soon forget about his money troubles. As Peter and John were coming to the temple to pray, this man caught their attention. Peter said, “Look on us.” The Bible said he gave heed unto them expecting to receive something from them. Now his mind was probably already in full speed wondering how much this offering would be. Then those famous words came from Peter’s mouth, “Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.” These men were not

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 : 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.

## Message from the Assistant Editor

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

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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wealthy as the world sees wealth. But they possessed something so much more valuable than all the gold and riches that this world could hold; and that was Jesus Christ living on the inside.

We probably come into contact everyday with someone that seems to be at his or her rope's end. They are looking for someone to come by and spread a little hope their way, to strengthen and encourage them on to make it another day. There are all kinds of problems out there from broken hearts and homes to physical, spiritual, and financial troubles, troubles that seem to have no respect of their targets. But the good news is that out of all these problems there is just one solution, and that is as Peter stated "Jesus Christ of Nazareth". He is the answer. So we do have something to give to a lost and dying world, the hope of all eternity, Jesus Christ. See you at the Convention.

God Bless You.  
Bro. Melvin Kramer

## I Need You to Survive

*I need you you need me*

*We're all a part of God's family*

*Stand with me agree with me*

*We're all apart of God's family*

*It is His will that every need be supplied*

*You are important to me*

*I need you to survive*

*I'll pray for you you pray for me*

*I love you I need you to survive*

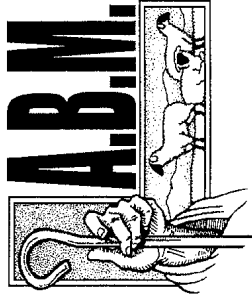
*I won't harm you*

*With words from my mouth*

*I love you I need you to survive*

*It is His will that every need be supplied*

*You are important to me I need you to survive*



These are words to a song we sang in the BTI choir. I was stirred not only by the words but the spirit felt among all that were singing. I can truly say I need you. Too often we don't realize what we've got until it has slipped through our hands. Not one of our precious people are disposable. I'm not willing to lose one more soul to the devil's lying tongue and deceptive ways. I hope we can grasp the spirit of this in the ABM department of this region and beyond.

As you read the words to this song again, let it's truth sink deep into your heart. Don't just say the words, let the Lord speak to your spirit through the anointing that

must have been on this writer and he/she penned these words that should be the anthem of each saint of God. Your brother or sister on the pew beside you may not treat you as they should, but they need you now more than ever. They may not be faithful or on the right track spiritually, but they need you. They need you to survive. To The Church of God members in Florida and Georgia: I need you.

May God richly bless you and your work for the ABM department of The Church of God.

Allene Cox  
ABM Coordinator



# Children's Ministries

This is an testimony given by Crystal D. Cox, a children's worker from Oklahoma who has worked with children for years and who is truly grateful for the opportunity to love and be with the precious little ones. When I asked her to write a testimony, I was instantly reminded of the times I saw her hold a child when she felt bad herself and was having trouble holding herself up. I saw her clean up a giant spill purposefully made by a very confused little one who did everything he could to escape his battered home life. She spoke quietly about the disciplinary actions that would be taken as she brushed back the hair from the face of a toddler who was so encumbered with anger after biting another innocent child. She was gentle even in the most trying circumstances. This support in bad circumstances and discipline in love is what all people who work with children should aspire to. Read her testimony and thank God for the people in your children's lives who love them with the love of the Lord.

Allene Cox  
FL/GA Children's ministries



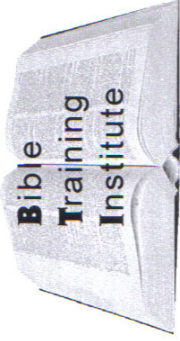
I thank God for children. Children are a wonderful blessing and a special gift from God. I love to be around children because of the joy they bring. All children need love and understanding. I do not have children of my own but the Lord has graciously blessed me with nephews and nieces. I remember that day they were born. I was so happy. The first time I got to hold them I looked at them and said a prayer of thanksgiving. I thanked God for them and then I asked God to keep His hand upon them always. God has touched my life through children.

When my day is not going right, all I have to do is look at a child. When I see them smile, hear their laughter or even get a hug from them my day gets better. Then I'm reminded of the responsibility that God has given to us all to teach children. We are to teach them about God and about right from wrong. We do this by giving them love, discipline, guidance, and being an example. We need to let them see God through us, by the way we talk, how we handle things, and how we treat each other. We all need to listen to and love children. Children have a very tender soul. How we treat them and speak to them has a great deal of impact on their lives. As adults we have the ability to help them grow strong or we can break their spirits. As Christians we need to remember all children in our prayers.

We need to give positive, not negative, encouragement to children. Let them know they are in God's hands, that He has a special plan for their lives. We have to let them know they can do or be anything they want in Christ. As Christians we need to give them the tools they need to become strong leaders for Christ because they are the leaders of the future.

God has given us all a responsibility to be a teacher to children. We, as adults and as God's children, have to take this responsibility to heart. We must not fail God, and we must not fail the children.

Crystal D. Cox  
Coweta, OK



# B.T.I. 2008

Look what the Lord has done! I cannot put into words all that I witnessed and experienced in this BTI school in Cleveland, Tennessee. I will tell you there were healings that were unmistakable, there were moves of the Spirit that were undeniable and there was a spirit of unity and love that was unshakable!

I was blessed to be a part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> term class this year and graduate. The classes were taught by seasoned ministers and teachers. We heard anointed teaching on many facets of the church. There were messages preached every morning in devotion and at every night service we had that were food for our souls. Even our fellowship and lunch-times were filled with a special feeling that I cannot express.

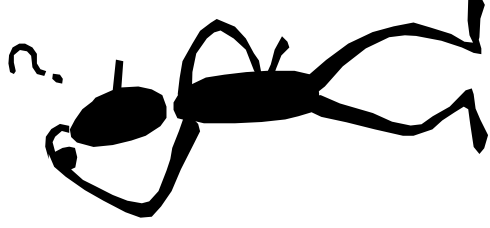


Our theme, That I May Know Him became real to us as the Lord demonstrated over and over that He desired to have us move closer to Him. We experienced a new step higher up the ladder to the Lord with each song, every lesson, every service and in our prayer time.

The classes overall included Auxiliaries, Church Business, Pastoral, Doctrine, Bible( Life of Christ and Pauline Epistles) and more. We had a prayer class at the end of each regular class session with Bishop Stephen Smith, General Overseer. There was a computer class offered for those who wanted to brush up or get acquainted with the generalities of a computer.

Every time a call came into headquarters for prayer, the secretary that took the call would ring her hand bell and everyone in the building no matter what they were busy doing, would stop and come to the center of headquarters to pray in unison for the need. God answered miraculously! There were several that testified of healing instantly and some that testified shortly after to easements of pain and symptoms. God really blessed us all! I can hardly wait to see you in person and give my account of this years BTI at Cleveland. Any investment of time or money put into this endeavor was well worth it and will be worth saving for next year! Come see what getting to know him really means!

James R. Cox  
BTI Representative FL/GA



# Who's Who?

Each 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 then call or send Sis. Allene Cox your guess with your personal testimony as well. Only one person can win per publication so, whoever contacts Sis. Allene Cox first will be 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 Sis. 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! You can contact Sis. Allene Cox by phone at 478-982-8209. READY????? Here are the hints.....

## Who among us ...

***I am a big fan of baked chicken and probably cooked it plenty of times for her two sons. She has lived in a citrus state almost all her life, but has only pastured for about 8 years. She is quiet and meek. She is a great example to all who know her.***

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

The Winner from our last series of questions was Louis Gaddis from Commerce, Georgia. He won a \$10.00 gift card for his correct answer of Bro. & Sis. Billy Gaddis! We appreciate Bro. Gaddis' participation. We also love the Gaddis Family. God bless you all 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.

Bethel, The Church of God at Cedar Crossing, GA, celebrated Easter 2008 with praises to our King! An Easter presentation coordinated by our Sunday School Superintendent Melodie Steptoe and Sunday School Teacher Sadia Ajohda included a Candle March with the Nursery and Junior Sunday School classes singing This Little Light of Mine, Poems and Readings by our Teens, a Jellybean Color Bookmark with the colors representing the salvation message by our Pastor's Wife, a video presentation by Derek Ajohda titled Sunday's Coming reminding us that after the hardship Jesus endured there was victory, and an egg hunt for the children. We truly appreciate Jesus laying down His life for us and rising again victoriously! Praise the Lord!

## Other news from Bethel....

Praise the Lord for a new PA system and keyboard for the church! Oh, what sound! It has been a blessing to us during song service, special singing and services. We look forward to using it for the glory of the Lord!



**Pictured: Aleah Ajohda, MiKaylah Steptoe, Kainan Smith, Sadie McCarty, Jodi & Jeremy Kramer, MacKenzie & Bryce DeLoach.**

# TESTIMONY

I would like to start by saying that God answers prayer!

I remember back to Family Camp 2007 at the end of camp when I was presented with a beautiful plaque that read, "All things are possible with God."

I can see now that God had a plan for those words and He knew that I would need them very much in the near future although I had read these words many times in the Bible and didn't have a clue that the need for them would be so great.

I went through a very hurtful faith trying time that a solution looked impossible. My dear pastor called me one day and told me to call for prayer. Well you may not know that I am a person that keeps things quiet to those outside my family and I have trouble asking for help sometimes, but God knew how to get me to drop that kind of pride and ask for help. So I began to call on a few prayer warriors. I first called on my local church to pray for me and the situation. The problem began to get bigger and bigger it seemed. I then turned to a few warriors outside my local church. I guess God wanted me to really get rid of the "I can handle it myself" attitude! I called on the ones I knew personally who I have seen in the past pray and get answers, a few that I knew would go down and not give up until the answer came. That's how dark this situation was.

I got a phone call one day and it was from Sis. Betsy and Bro. Jerry. They both wanted to come all the way to Perry just to pray with me. I agreed. We meet at the Church the next day along with others that were mighty prayer warriors as well. We went down in prayer and I don't know how long we prayed but I do know that God began to move right then. You know how you just know sometimes that God has truly heard your petition? Well after that I knew God had heard us. I heard the words of the prayers that were prayed that day and the thoughts that God gave Bro. Jerry to tell me. I knew then God was going to do something. And He did! It wasn't long that God took my broken heart and mended it. He took a hold on the heart of the other person involved and filled it up with love and compassion so that that person wanted to fix the problem.

He fixed the problem so perfectly that I can't even begin to fathom the miracle He performed. I thank my God for every prayer He answers! I know that there is nothing too hard for Him to do. No matter how impossible it may seem it doesn't matter. IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD!!!! All you have to do is serious with Him, and believe he is that person who can fix anything. Believe that He is the problem solver! Believe that He is all we need! Believe that He is the one we can take it to and it not be in vain!

Thank you to all that rose to call of prayer when you were called on. Thank you to the ones that obeyed God and done just what he moved on you to do. Thank you Sis. Melodie Steptoe for obeying God and sending those precious words to my home that I looked upon every morning when I awoke and every night when I went to bed. Every little thing we do for God has it's perfect place. Don't push off that thought of doing something that comes to your mind, because it could be vital in miracle that God has in store for another.

And to top it all off, my miracle started at Family camp, before I even knew I needed one. I tied a knot in the rope and held on tight! God did not fail me, He came through just like He said He would.

Sis. Rita Phillips



## TAKING THE SHIELD OF FAITH EPHESIANS 6:16

The Church of God Youth Camp  
Florida/Georgia 2008

***Eph 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.***

The world today, is an intense battle ground between good and evil. Satan is doing everything in his power to destroy any relationship between God and man; knowing that time is short; he is pulling all his forces together. But we have a promise that no harm shall come to us if we will keep our trust and Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. As we put on the armor of God we must remember to take up the **SHIELD OF FAITH** ***“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” (Eph 6:16)***

By taking the Shield of Faith we are able to withstand all temptations, and discouragement that Satan throws at us.

Camp will be at the Magnolia Springs Campground starting July 6th - July 11th.

Lawrence Munoz - Youth Camp Director

***For more information contact Lawrence Munoz at 423-284-5404 or e-mail— lamunoz265@msn.com***