

Announcement from the A.B.M. Department

In the absence of the Who's Who game, I have decided to try to make our ministry better known. I am asking that each local ABM band leader prepare a small biography, tribute or short story about their pastor and where possible spouse and submit it to me. I would like to feature a different minister in this new article until all our pastors have been 'properly introduced' to the region. Now, I am very aware that we almost all know one another, but as ABM coordinator, you can probably find something little interesting to share that the rest of us may not know about. This doesn't have to be my mail or computer. If you'd prefer to call me with the information you get, I will draft a biography to enter for you. Either way you wish is ok with me. But, please get on board with this new article. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Thanks, Sister Allene Cox

Message from the Assistant Editor

Here are the deadlines to submit articles for this year:

May 20th, July 20th, September 20th, and November 20th. All articles and announcements should be submitted by email or by mail by these dates to get the paper out on time. Please mark your calendars.

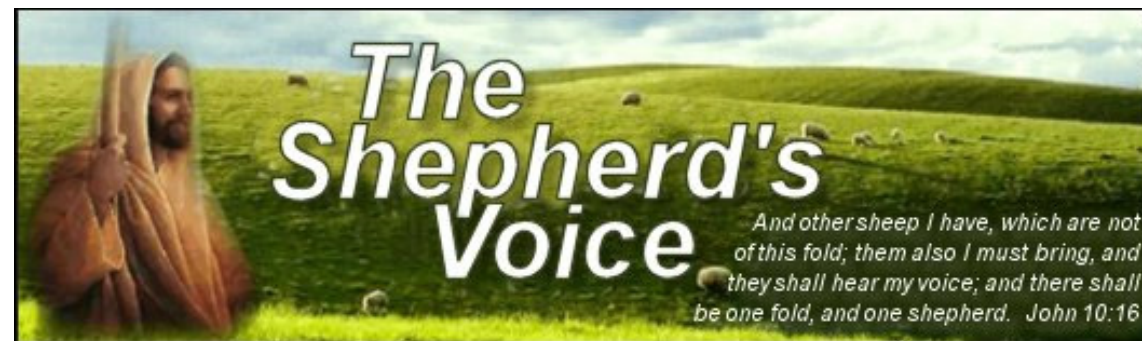
Please make a note of these dates and please submit articles.

The more we hear from our local churches, the more we can be informed on what is going on throughout our region. Pastors, please remember to appoint a local reporter to send articles in for your local church. You can email me the article, mail it to me, or even give me a call if you need to. Whatever is easier for you will work for me. 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.tcoggspteam.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

~~Two copies of **The Shepherd's Voice** are sent to each pastor. If you want to be sent extra copies,~~ there will be an annual charge of \$4.00 per extra copy. Of course you may make your own copies, print it from our web site or **The Shepherd's Voice** may be sent directly to a home for an annual subscription rate of \$8.00.



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"FORGETTING OR REMEMBERING?"

Jerry W. Campbell—Regional Overseer

Christianity as a whole has just celebrated a special season of "remembering." Easter brings into focus through remembrance the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord. How can we forget the greatest of all sacrifices to give life and life more abundantly? It is important to remember! Jesus addressed the subject of forgetting and remembering more than once in the scripture, such as in Matthew 16: 5-12:

*"And when his disciples were come together on the other side, they had **FORGOTTEN** to take bread. Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread. Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? Do ye not **REMEMBER** the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees? Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees."*

Jesus' ability to address more than one subject in any given discourse is noted throughout the scriptures...the one above being no exception. The focus here is that of forgetting and/or remembering. Christ brought to the attention of his disciples the fact that they had quickly forgotten the miracles He had performed in their very presence! Just as soon as another need arose and just as soon as they faced the winds of trouble...rather than remembering the power of the Lord and His care for them to meet their every need...they forgot! As the Body of Christ...The Church of God...let us each and every one REMEMBER the same Lord who manifests His mighty presence in revivals, conventions and special gatherings...the same Lord who divinely intervenes...who heals and delivers...the

same Lord who provides and protects...is the same Lord who is there to meet the need you are facing today!! As we experience the storms of life, with the winds of trials and tribulations blowing against our very soul, let us never FORGET...He has promised He will never leave us nor forsake us! REMEMBER?

On a personal note: It is hard to comprehend that the first quarter of the year 2009 has come and gone! But, oh, what a time in the Lord we have had as we gathered together as a Region! The District Conventions were outstanding! We are still rejoicing over the manifestations of God in each convention. As well, our Youth Convention was over-the-top as we were blessed to be "In the Presence of Jehovah!" The District Overseers and VLB Coordinator are to be commended for finding the will and favor of God for these called meetings! What does God have in store for the remainder of this convention year? Every member is encouraged to get involved in all that remains on the Regional calendar for this year! You won't want to miss what God has in store for YOU!!

I would like to take this opportunity to say "thank-you" for the wonderful birthday gifts received through the effort of our Regional ABM Coordinator. I am amazed at the gestures of love from each local church. As of today's date...April 11th...I have received a total of \$621. I have been wanting and needing a topper for my truck to be able to transport necessary items to the Region. Because of you...I will be able to do this!!! And, can you imagine the kind of garden I can have with all the seeds I've received!!!

Thanks, and God bless you!!! It was a wonderful 60th birthday!!

God Bless You and Keep You
Jerry W. Campbell
Regional Overseer

Greetings to The Church of God:

The Lord is so great to us! Oh how we love Jesus, Oh how we love Jesus, Oh how we love Jesus, because He first loved us!!!

John 15:13, Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends.

Truly Christ laid down his life for all mankind and includes you! Please children, let's get our house in order and be ready to go in a twinkling of an eye! He has gone away, but truly he will come and receive us to himself. What a wonderful promise! So let us work while it is day! Hope to see you all very soon!

Loving and Praying for you all,
Sis. Vera Vaughn



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THE MIGHTY ARMY

Have you heard the strong stamping and rhythmic marching? There is in our region a great army that is strong because of its mission and compassion. This army recruits all and no one is left out unless they chose to be. This army has a high standard which it requires from its enlisted. It is not requirements of a physical nature. There will be no logging of time spent running or doing push-ups.

This is the Army of Compassion. The requirements are the same as those set by our commander in chief. He requires nothing of us that He has not performed. The most important element that He requires is compassion. "Moved with compassion" describes Him many times in the Bible. The compassion was the propelling element. It was the fuel that moved the Lord to many of the miracles He performed for the people. He saw their need and compassion lead Him to action.

Are we truly a mighty army of compassion? Our commission was to "go ye". Are we fulfilling that? If we are attempting to do that without the compassion to urge us on, we are likely failing at our best attempts. We must enlist in this commission of compassion if we will ever see our work come to fruition.

The Army of compassion is a great help in our region. It costs \$10 and a spirit of compassion. The money for this goes to help various works in our region from helping locate and evangelize our region in the way of new churches and helping to pay for BTI books for students from our region to attend. Even if you are not able to go and reach our region in mission work or evangelize this southern territory, you can still be a real part of all those aspects of the 'go ye commission' with your army of compassion dollars and enlistment.

Be a part of this mighty army. It will help us all be living stones for the CPMA work too. Please let me know if you need anything for the CPMA work. I want to be available to our region and to this mighty army, The Church of God.

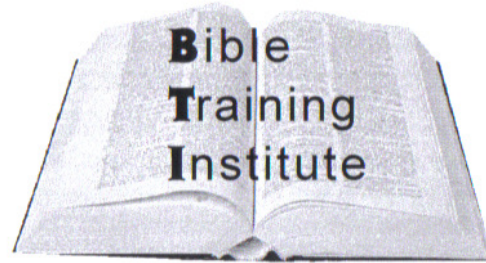
James R. Cox
FL/GA Regional CPMA Coordinator

***Please make every effort to help your local church be 100%
in CPMA membership this year.***

TREASURE HUNT

It is almost time to begin the treasure hunt. We are embarking on that time of year when people from all walks of life, with vast cultures and methods converge on one place to dig through the Word of God and past assembly rulings to find clues to the treasure we call wisdom and understanding. With this wonderful treasure comes a deeper and higher experience with the Lord and one another.

This place is Cleveland, Tennessee and the date of the hunt will begin May 31 and extend through June 13. Yes, it is the Cleveland school of the Bible Training Institute. Now, for those who may have missed the district convention boosts, we are honored to have our own regional overseer and his wife (Brother & Sister Campbell) as teachers in the school this year. We are certain God will anoint their studies and prepare them for this great task. We are also pleased to report that for the first time since the re-organization, there will be a very special graduation ceremony that will be on June 13 in conjunction with Heritage Day. This will include a cap and gown ceremony. This is quite a nice end for those who have completed their studies and are ready to put it to ministerial use.



I want to urge each of you to make plans to attend. If you need help finding a room or any other questions, please call me. I am hoping we will have some sponsors who would feel led to help send some of our budding ministry and those who simply would like to dig deeper to learn the how, what, when and such like of The Church of God. We are blessed to be a part of an entity that is commissioned to carry out the business that Jesus, himself set in order. It is good to know that if we search and take make the effort, we will all learn how that business is to be handled properly and in unity.

This truly is a treasure hunt. I cannot speak for those who may have in times past set out on a run from clue to clue with a hard-to-read map with a X to mark the spot where there may possibly lie some material possession that may or may not be worth something. But, I can tell you that this treasure is truly there and is more valuable than all the gold one could mine. I know that it has been a wealth of wisdom and understanding for me. I do not have the ability to pay for all of you to go, but I want to represent it well enough that I can give you the desire to meet me at the treasure hunt.

James R. Cox

FL/GA Regional BTI Representative



The Miami Church of God, would love to express their sincere gratitude to Overseer Jerry Cox and his talented family for their visitation on March 7, 2009. As most of us are aware that the Miami church travel distance to our state events is indeed great.

We are fully aware that it is somewhat of a burden to travel this distance to have fellowship for a few hours but our district overseer has made this trip twice. Each time he and his family visits, we are tremendously blessed.

It appears that his family is truly committed to supporting him in his work. Our cups are truly running over from the blessed and glorious worship time that we experienced. Without our overseer visits we would not be able to receive the most sacred sacrament. This example Jesus left with us, for he said "this do in remembrance of me".

With our overseer's zeal for the work and God's blessings, I am assured that the State is in good stead. Let us pray that our Savior will continue to pour out his blessings upon him and his family. Pray much for Miami!

We, at **Alma**, want to give God all the glory for a wonderful revival with Brother Melvin Kramer. We enjoyed having him and his family. We enjoyed the anointed singing and preaching. Many testified of prayers being answer during that week. To God be the glory!

Reporter, Gail Johnson

Saturday March 28th **The Church of God at Commerce, GA** held a 99th Birthday celebration party for their Assistant Pastor, Rev. L.P. Williamson. All were blessed as his friends, family and fellow Saints shared songs testimonies and stories of the past. All reflecting on Brother Williamson's long life of faithful service to the Lord church and community. Brother Williamson was born less than a mile from where he now lives and attends church where he is a Charter member. He serves as Sunday School usher and very seldom misses a Sunday. He also sang and preached for us as the Lord blessed us together one more time.

Reporter, Pastor Louis Gaddis

“The Truth Tree”



I was talking to one of our members recently about the people she talks to in the small town gas station she operates. A patron of her store came in and noticed her reading her Sunday School quarterly. The woman asked, “What are you reading there?” Sister Thompson told her about our Sunday School lesson. She took such an interest that she asked many other times could she look through the book. She recently asked where we obtained our literature since she really liked it. She was a pastor nearby who was looking for solid truth to teach in their Sunday School program. Sister Thompson gave her the quarterly she had been studying in and told her we would be glad to help her if she needed more.

Are you helping to evangelize your town and neighborhood with your lifestyle? It's not enough to talk about how much you study and pray. People are searching for absolutes in this shaky world. When they see you putting faith in action, it establishes all the truth you claim to live. Now, before we start to think I am asking you to be as the Pharisees and pray aloud to be heard of men, let me tell you that is not at all what I am referring to. Without the fruit, one cannot always tell what sort of tree we are. The Pharisees prayed great swelling prayers to impress and therefore were vain in the eyes of the Lord and in the eyes of even most who heard them. That is not the kind of fruit we are to bear. We should live holy and righteous in the sight of God, but also in the eyes of those who behold us.

There was a story of a man paid to clear a field for another gentleman. The gentleman inherited the land and had plans to make it pasture land. His directives were to clear every tree except a golden delicious apple tree that he had played in as a boy. It had not been very productive in recent years, but it was to stay. The other trees had no sentimental value, but he had fond memories of a childhood of joy in the apple tree and wanted to keep it for his grandchildren to enjoy. The land owner was in a hurry and had no time to point out the particular tree, but informed the man that he would surely be able to know which it was. The busy laborer listened intently and planned well not to destroy the special apple tree. After several hours of work, he came upon a great many trees and in the middle were two trees that indeed looked like fruit trees, but only of them had fruit. The fruit was a very small apple that looked like it struggled for water and was rather small. Not being familiar with apple trees nor their characteristics, he uprooted the other tree, leaving only one standing. When the job was complete and he went to collect his pay, the man was distraught. He had taken his grandchildren to the field to play in the early morning hours only to find the tree was no longer there. Instead a crabapple tree was all that was there.

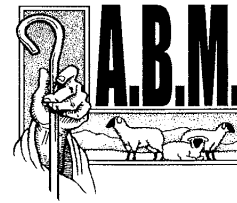
Why did this happen? Was the man truly that ignorant that he didn't know golden delicious apples do not look the same as crab apples? Why had he made such a terrible choice? Well, yes. He wasn't clear on what the golden delicious fruit should have looked like, but had it been producing, he could have possibly made a better choice. In fact, it would have been rather obvious.

This is how the world is looking for the truth. They can't always tell from the bare branches. They can't see inside all of us and know our heart's desires to be faithful, holy and such like. But, if we bear the fruit, they will take notice and it will be as obvious as the difference in crab apples and golden delicious. When they see this difference in action, they will so as the Bible tells us in Jeremiah 50:5 "They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten."

There are people on the outside searching for truth. They don't want the watered down versions that the world has to offer. They do not desire the flavored substitutes that the kingdom has to give. They are seeking truth that is absolute and will stand when all else has failed. They are looking for it in you and me. We aren't sure where this request for literature will lead us or this other church, but we know that the hunger this faithful member had to study and know more about the Lord demonstrated to this patron a truth that so many fail to bear. I believe it can start with truth in Sunday School and radiate to everyday and in every facet of The Church of God. Help us boost Sunday School attendance and participation in and outside the church walls.

Sister Allene Cox - FL/GA Regional Sunday School Coordinator

Review Your Portfolio



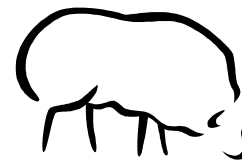
There are solicitations on television, radio and billboards urging us in these financially troubled times to review where our monies are and protect our assets. There has been such an urgency to move monies and try to secure what we feel has value in this chaotic world. With all the Wall Street underminding and misinterpretations of ethics, it is good that we, the Church of the living God know that our greatest wealth is not in the coins, paper monies, stocks, bonds or gold of this present world. Although we recognize this, we too have been alerted to review our portfolio.

If our greatest asset in the body of Christ, is our people, then the following passage of scripture certainly applies; Romans 12:10 “Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.” The district convention boosts was about a shepherd going to retrieve the lost sheep of the flock. We often put all the responsibility on the shepherd. In TCOG, we are blessed that we have a great system of checks and balances when it comes to restoring the lost or cast down sheep.

The ABM of The church is designed with brotherly love in mind. We must review our portfolio. We must take into account how much time we are investing on our brothers and sisters. Now, more than ever, we cannot afford to let one of these gold gems fall to the waste side. We are living in perilous times and the spiritual economy of the world is in rapid decay. Let us take stock of our flocks, whether we are the pastor or band leaders.

I recently heard two men talking in a feed store. One is a farmer and the other a rancher. They both have recently been faced with new laws and restrictions that are making it very difficult to financially keep their family businesses of many years running and profitable. They told the group of us standing there that it may come to him selling cattle for slaughter or otherwise for the finances to make it. Maybe we are struggling to keep up our churches. Maybe you aren't sure where the money will come from to pay the expenses in your local church or how long you can continue to worship without proper facilities. No one is dispensable and there is no situation too desperate financially that we should lead one to the slaughter. Let's be certain we are making every effort to watch for the souls of our people.

Our father owns the cattle of a thousand hills and he will provide for us. Review your portfolio and be sure it includes the saving and keeping of precious souls. May God bless you for the work you do for The Church of God.



Allene Cox
FL/GA Regional ABM Coordinator

Panning the Deep

Prepared by: Gail Johnson

He hovers above the water's edge, and stares at his reflection. A familiar feeling begins to wash over him. Like a fever, it consumes him. Carefully, he scans the shoreline, contemplating his choices. Not just any place will do. He requires no less than perfection. With his decision made, he reaches for his pan and wades through the cool water until he arrives at the determined location. He inhales deeply and whispers a prayer, as he turns the pan perpendicular and plunges it to the bottom. Slowly, as not to lose anything, he lifts his pan once again from the watery chest. Unhurriedly, he tips it to one side and then the other, swirling the contents. He smiles. The pan gleams golden. Elated, he begins collecting the precious nuggets, and drops them into a leather repository hanging about his neck. Suddenly, he spies what appears to be just another ordinary rock. Absentmindedly, he pushes it to the side, drawn to the more easily recognizable pebbles. Yet, his eyes are drawn again and again to the discarded stone. No longer able to ignore the lump lying next to the brim, he picks it up; rolls it between his thumb and index finger. A golden sliver twinkles back at him. He grins. It wouldn't be easy. Removing the outer surface would take hours of meticulous work. No matter. Neither weak nor lazy, he resolves himself to the long, hard task. Quickly, he gathers the remaining nuggets and heads for shore. Sitting on the sandy bank, he peers at his prize once again. Determined, he whips out his knife and begins to scrape the outer surface. The rock soon proves impenetrable. Undaunted, he sets out for his work shed. There he places it into a vice and reaches for his trusty hammer and chisel. With the precision of a master, he begins to chip away the outer shell. Several days and nights pass as the miner, engrossed in his labor, forgets all but the task set before him. Finally his patience and effort is rewarded when the hard earned treasure from beneath is exposed to his wondrous eye. With tears of joy and much rejoicing, he gives thanks to God above for this perfect gift. Wanting always to remember it, he places it on a prominent shelf to be enjoyed by all. © **Gail Johnson**

Studying the Word of God is hard work if done correctly. Panning the surface leaves only the obvious pebbles everyone has talked about for years. However, if you discipline yourself, young person, to search for the deeper things, God will faithfully open up his treasury to you. *“Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.”* Proverbs 24:3-4

Using Strong's Concordance we come up with this interpretation. Through wisdom (skillfulness, accomplished, 2 Timothy 2 :15) is an house builded (made prolific, fruitful, productive Colossians 1:10); and by understanding (discretion, discernment, able to separate Hebrews 5:14) it is established (able to stand 2 Thessalonians 3:3): And by knowledge (cunning, ascertain by seeing, recognition Colossians 2:3) shall the chambers (innermost part 2 Corinthians 4:16) be filled with all precious (valuable, fat—fatness is a sign of maturity 1 Samuel 3:1) and pleasant (delightful, sweet Song of Solomon 2:14) riches (wealth, enough Ephesians 3:20).

Wisdom doesn't come easy. It requires a price. First, knowledge (information) must be obtained. Hence, the reasons for intense Bible study. Secondly, understanding (learning to apply it in your everyday life) is a necessity. Finally, as we stand year by year, (knowing and applying) through trials and tribulations, we obtain Godly wisdom not easily forgotten.

“A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength. For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety.” Proverbs 24:5-6

Knowledge is strength and the more we understand the wiser and stronger we become. This is not a passive walk. It will take strategy and focus if we are to reach our goal. If we are in the “know” we will not be ignorant of Satan's devices.

“The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing. Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.” Proverbs 20:4-5

There are many reasons we tend to use to avoid time alone with the Lord. Not hearing from Him leaves us empty, having nothing fresh or anointed to offer others. As we study and hear from Him, we replenish the dry and barren places as we soak up the deep spiritual water..

“I have digged, and drunk water; and with the sole of my feet have I dried up all the rivers of the besieged places.” Isaiah 37:25

Digging takes time, sacrifice, and willingness. Nevertheless, it is well worth the effort and the blessing we receive from the time spent in His presence. As the miner in the story above the search for knowledge of the Word should consume us. Let us cry out to our Heavenly Father to place within us a passion for His Word that we may be fruitful in winning many souls. As I have often said before, I am praying for you. May God bless you, beloved, as you endeavor to search the deep things of His Word. So, my young friend, get busy, our loving God is waiting just for you.

Prison Ministry



A man from Norfolk , VA called a local radio station to share this on Sept 11th, 2003, TWO YEARS AFTER THE TRAGEDIES OF 9/11/2001. His name was Robert Matthews. These are his words:

A few weeks before Sept. 11th, my wife and I found out we were going to have our first child. She planned a trip out to California to visit her sister. On our way to the airport, we prayed that God would grant my wife a safe trip and be with her.. Shortly after I said 'amen,' we both heard a loud pop and the car shook violently. We had blown out a tire. I replaced the tire as quickly as I could, but we still missed her flight. both very upset, we drove home. I received a call from my father who was retired NYFD. He asked what my wife's flight number was, but I explained that we missed the flight.

My father informed me that her flight was the one that crashed into the southern tower. I was too shocked to speak. My father also had more news for me; he was going to help. 'This is not something I can't just sit for; I have to do something.' I was concerned for his safety, of course, but more because he had never given his life to Christ. After a brief debate, I knew his mind was made up. Before he got off of the phone, he said, 'take good care of my grandchild. Those were the last words I ever heard my father say; he died while helping in the rescue effort.

My joy that my prayer of safety for my wife had been answered quickly became anger. I was angry at God, at my father, and at myself. I had gone for nearly two years blaming God for taking my father away. My son would never know his grandfather, my father had never accepted Christ, and I never got to say good-bye. Then something happened. About two months ago, I was sitting at home with my wife and my son, when there was a knock on the door. I looked at my wife, but I could tell she wasn't expecting anyone. I opened the door to a couple with a small child.

The man looked at me and asked if my father's name was Jake Matthews. I told him it was. He quickly grabbed my hand and said, 'I never got the chance to meet your father, but it is an honor to meet his son.' He explained to me that his wife had worked in the World Trade Center and had been caught inside after the attack. She was pregnant and had been caught under debris. He then explained that my father had been the one to find his wife and free her. My eyes welled up with tears as I thought of my father giving his life for people like this. He then said, 'there is something else you need to know.'

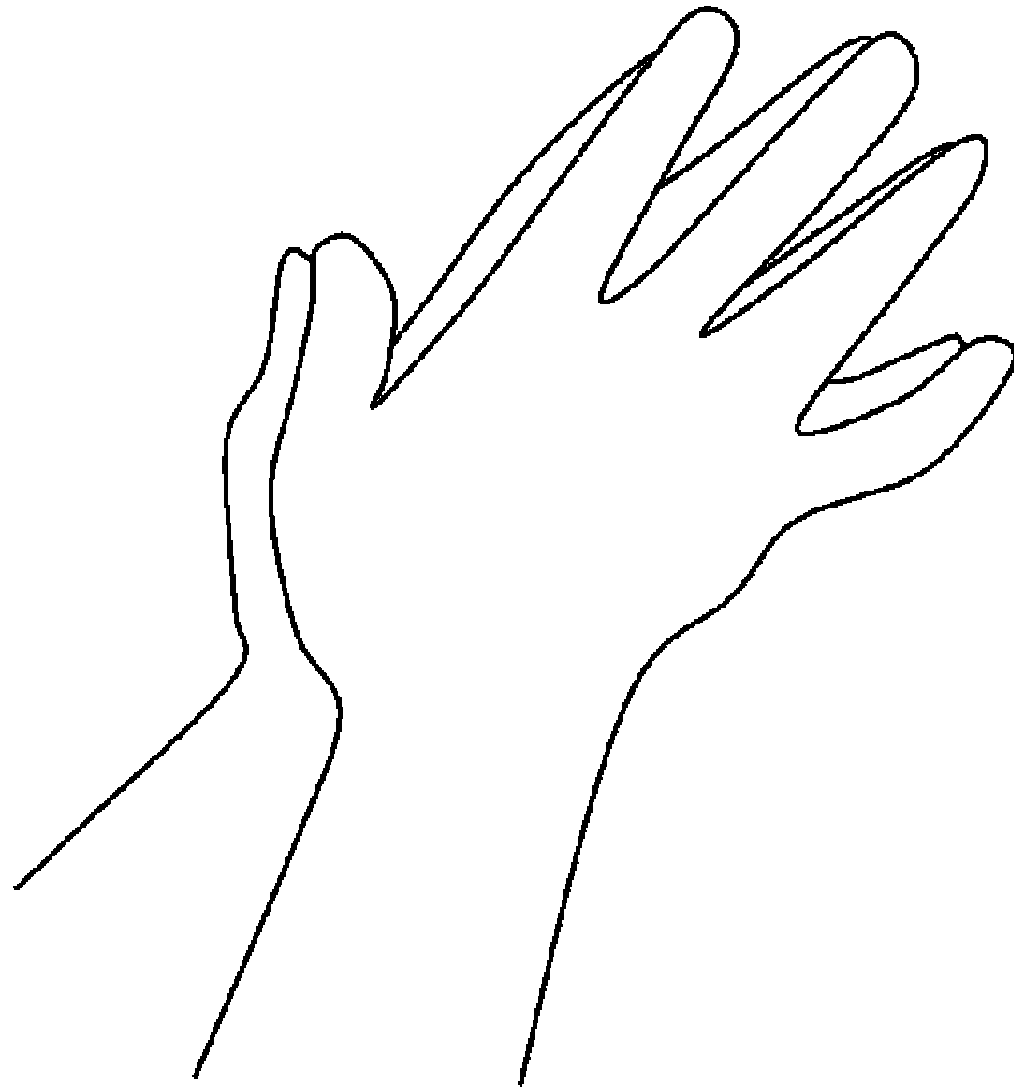
His wife then told me that as my father worked to free her, she talked to him and led him to Christ. I began sobbing at the news. Now I know that when I get to Heaven, my father will be standing beside Jesus to welcome me, and that this family would be able to thank him themselves . When their baby boy was born, they named him Jacob Matthew, in honor of the man who gave his life so that a mother and baby could live. This story should help us to realize this: God is always in control. We may not see the reason behind things, and we may never know this side of heaven, but God is ALWAYS in control. Please take time to share this amazing story. You may never know the impact it may have on someone. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures Forever. Psalm 136:1

When you've done all you can do to stand, JUST STAND and trust your life to the living word, He'll never leave you nor forsake you. He's always in control.

The Church of God Prison Ministry Team
Regional Director; Richard Razsi

LAMB'S CORNER



**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as It is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Bible Word Search: Books of the Bible

All the words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally.

Acts, Amos, Chronicles, Colossians, Corinthians, Daniel, Deuteronomy, Ecclesiastes, Ephesians, Ezekiel, Ezra, Galatians, Genesis, Habakkuk, Haggai, Hebrews, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Jonah, Jude, Lamentations, Leviticus, Mark, Matthew, Nehemiah, Obadiah, Philemon, Philippians, Proverbs, Revelation, Song of Songs, Zechariah, Zephaniah

