

News From the Fold



We at The Church of God in Palatka, FL, are praising God for what He is doing! In February, we had a youth revival and a march through Palatka. Our VLBs and Gleaners marched under the church banner for half a mile to church while singing praises to God! We want people to know that there is something different about the church! Our youth revival was great and the Lord blessed mightily! God filled His house and we had to get chairs for people to sit in the aisle and people were still standing up! We were blessed to have the youth from the Barberville church come and sing with their group "Poder en Cristo" which means "Power in Christ".

Our local church has also set Brother Tom Carver forth as a Lay Minister! We are excited to see what God has in store for him and his wife, Jerry. If you would like Brother Carver to come to your church and minister or have his group Zion's Voice come and sing for you, you can contact him at (386) 916-6548.

Jordyn Roberts, Reporter, Palatka, FL

To submit articles or subscribe to **The Regional Herald**, please send mail to the Assistant Editor Tony Conner at:

41 Greatwood Drive, White, GA 30184 or cas18844@bellsouth.net

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The Regional Herald

FLORIDA / GEORGIA

"AS COLD WATERS TO A THIRSTY SOUL, SO IS GOOD NEWS FROM A FAR COUNTRY." PROVERBS 25:25

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4 MARCH / APRIL 2011

FROM THE DESK OF THE REGIONAL OVERSEER

"LIFE MORE ABUNDANTLY"

EASTER ...is the annual holiday when the redeemed, blood-bought child of God reflects on the greatest of events that ever transpired for man-kind...the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! HALLELUJAH...up from the grave He arose, offering not only life...but life more abundantly! *"The thief cometh not, but for to kill, steal, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* (John 10:10)

The events our Lord experienced over two thousand years ago help paint the picture of the more abundant life on the canvas of our soul.

His death, burial and resurrection reveal the key to a complete life in Him, full of joy and peace, free from sin! His *burial* bridged death (meaning without life) and resurrection (meaning new life). In other words, He wasn't resurrected after His death until He was buried.

HIS DEATH: *"And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he*

said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost." (Luke 28:46) Christ's cruel, brutal death on the cross of Calvary, causing the shedding of His precious blood, resulted in sin being put to death in the heart of all who repent and accept Jesus as their personal Saviour. Sin in an unregenerate heart manifests bitterness, unforgiveness, hate, wrong motives, jealousy, haughtiness, pride, harmful and hurtful words, fear and the like. Christ's death brought salvation which destroys sin and its manifestations...it kills it...it no longer lives in the heart but is dead!

HIS BURIAL: *"And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulcher, and departed."* (Matthew 27: 59, 60) After death seizes a life, it is buried. Death will cause an undeniable stench if that which is dead is not buried! When the blood of

Jesus is applied and sin is no longer alive but dead, the manifestations of sin are buried...covered by His blood! *"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."* (Psalms 32:1) If we begin to "dig up" those things which were buried or covered by His blood when we got saved, it will become an undeniable stench to our testimony and in the nostrils of God!

this He paid a great price! His desire is for man to experience the *death* AND *burial* of sin so that one day we will experience His *resurrection* power in the rapture of the saints. No more than the grave could hold down the risen Savior on that first Easter morning, there'll be no grave to hold our bodies down!

Jerry W. Campbell
Regional Overseer

HIS RESURRECTION: *"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said."* (Matthew 28:6) Because of His resurrection...because He lives...because up from the grave He arose...we have life and not just life, but life more abundantly. And for

My wife and I want to wish every member and friend a wonderful Easter! May the resurrection power of our risen Saviour be experienced in every heart this special season!! HAPPY EASTER!!!



God's Purposes are not Always as They Seem!

"And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisons had fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:36-30).

At first glance, it would seem that God allowed this earthquake to take place in order that Paul and Silas would be set free. The earthquake came and their hands were loosed. There was nothing holding them back. They could have fled immediately – wouldn't you have?

But no, Paul and Silas waited. As a result, the jailer and his entire family were saved!

Many times in our lives we assume God's reasoning for doing the things He does. The Lord may have released us to walk through a door that He has clearly opened – but He may also have other purposes in mind. Let us not be so quick to assume and take matters into our own hands without first knowing the motives of the Lord. There's no hurry, and we must know the divine will of the Father. God will not shut a door if it is His divine will for it to be open! Let us be patient and be sure to be led by the Spirit of God. These are amazing times that we are living in, and we cannot afford to miss out on God's perfect will for our lives.

Grayson B. Kent
V.L.B. Coordinator

VLB Announcement:

Youth Convention

April 15-16, 2011

St. James United Methodist Church

400 Reid Street

Palatka, Florida 32177

Guest Speaker: Paul Horton



LEARNING...LIVING...LOVING

"...that he may learn ... (De. 17:19) ...that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary... (Is. 50:4) ...Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep." (Jn. 21:16)

How imperative and pressing it is for us to take what we have learned in our Sunday School classes and take it to those outside the local church's four walls! With the developments and fulfillments of prophecies that are taking place almost daily, there is a hurting, scared, and bewildered society out there looking for answers.

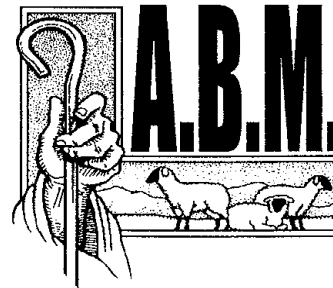
Mt 28:19, "**Go** ye therefore, and **teach** all nations", brings out two words that we need to heed to now more than ever. **GO** and **TEACH** are both **action** verbs that **requires us to work** for "behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35). We need to couple what we have learned with a burden for other souls to know the truth as well.



Let us get outside the four walls and into our communities. Just talking and witnessing to our friends, co-workers, and families is not enough. There are many in the community right around our churches that have truly never heard of the plan of salvation. How will

they hear and who will they hear from? They are looking for the light of truth. Are we hiding our light within our homes and walls of our churches? Let us love their souls enough to shine before them.

Annette Deitz
Sunday School Coordinator



ABM Helps and Ideas from Sister Jackie Zimmerman, General ABM Coordinator.

The following is a continuation of helps and ideas that may be used in the work of the ABM department.

Helps and Ideas for Band Leaders: The main focus of our band meetings is prayer and care for the needs of the membership. This may be accomplished in a number of different ways; however, every meeting should include a time of prayer. A short devotion and a song or two would be in order. Fellowshiping with others is also in order as long as it is edifying to those in attendance. We want to encourage proper fellowship (Ac 2:42) "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers". Fellowship may, but does not always have to include food. There may be times that the host of a band meeting may not have time or money to prepare food. We must use care and wisdom in these matters, keeping our focus on loving and caring for one another, and reaching the throne of Grace through prayer.

Ideas for Band Meetings:

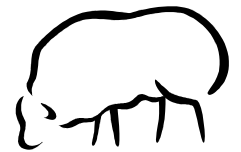
Choose a quarter, annual, or semi-annual theme for the devotion time in your meeting; or maybe the topic will dictate the number of meetings for a particular theme. You might follow the

Annual Theme from General Headquarters, or you might want to focus on The Fruit of the Spirit, the Gifts of the Spirit, The Beatitudes, Certain Parables of Christ or the Works of the Flesh. You might address godly attributes or you may do a quarter and address the topics of love, joy and peace. The possibilities are as endless as the topics addressed in the Word of God. Keep in mind, however, that our devotion should be just that...a devotion and not a sermon. Keep it short enough to give adequate time to take prayer requests and pray over the needs of the Church.

Our band, one year, studied the Beatitudes. When we began the study, the leader initially shared an introduction to the topic and then gave each family or band member a letter-sized poster of a garden path with circles in places throughout the garden. In each meeting afterwards everyone was given a paper stone with the beatitude that was being addressed (short devotion) that month. The members took them home and placed them on the circles on their garden poster (many of which had posted them on their refrigerators) until all the beatitudes had been studied. Believe it or not, the adults had just as much fun with that as the younger ones and it kept them interested in coming to the band meetings.

More Helps and Ideas will be included in our next issue.

Gail Johnson
A.B.M. Coordinator



**HEAVENLY MANNA IN THE WILDERNESS
DESERT PLACE NEWS**

“Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.”. (John 6:31-33)

The place we are in today is a spiritual wilderness, desert place as it was in Moses' Day. Here in John's writings, Jesus rebuked those who were seeking the LOAVES and FISHES as they had received at other times from His hands. *"Labor not for the meat that perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life."* (John 6:27-a)

The manna in the wilderness was provided when there was nothing else. Today there is every imaginable stuffings available that do not satisfy the soul of man. There is but little substance in some feasts, sound Bible Doctrine and Holy Ghost leading are not in these diets. The spiritual man is dying or already dead on arrival.

Those on a fleshly diet will faint by the way side. It cannot strengthen one to do HIS WORK that is necessary for us to finish His work.

Prior to verse 32 above they asked Jesus, (28) *“Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?”*

GET ALONE WITH GOD, FAST AND PRAY, SEEK THAT HEAVENLY MANNA IN THE FORM OF HIS HOLY WRITTEN WORD, GET FULL OF THE HOLY GHOST. TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION. THE STORM IS NOW UPON US, DON'T DELAY.

This same Jesus is found in the wilderness alone, away from the streets and ways of Sodom & Gomorrah.

Come let us proceed into the Desert Place and seek His POWER and WORDS that supply all our needs according to His riches in glory! As of this writing we are about to engage in our 13th Consecutive Desert Place which will be held this time at the Hazelhurst Church. Anyone feeling the urgency to commit to one in you local church, lest us know and we will schedule one in your local church or area. A TWO Day Fast and Praying Session will change your world.

Your's for Christ and His Church,
Louis Gaddis - (706) 367-8103

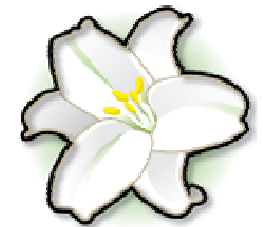
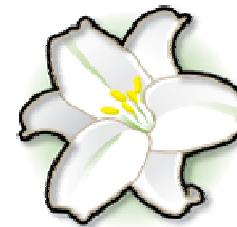
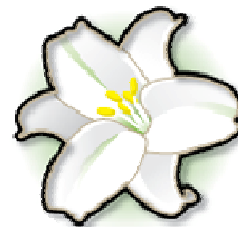
**JESUS IS RISEN
(MARK 16:1-11)**

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**AFRAID
AMAZED
ANOINT
CRUCIFIED
JESUS**

**MAN
MARY MAGDALENE
MORNING
MOTHER OF JAMES
RISEN**

**SABBATH
SALOME
SPICES
STONE
TOMB**



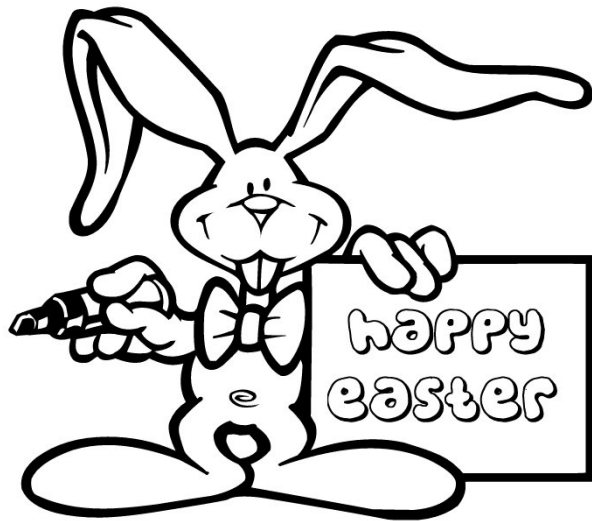
Children's Ministries

Happy Spring everyone!!! I don't know about you but I sure am glad to see some nice weather. We need to enjoy every minute because before you know it we'll have to crank up the old air conditioner. Oh wait! We had to do that already!

You can see flowers and trees blooming and everywhere you look cars are turning yellow with pollen. C'mon kids, we all know what this means...Easter is on its way. Many of our churches plan fun activities to celebrate but just like Christmas we need to remember the true reason for Easter. JESUS IS RISEN!!!!!!!! His message is simple... (John 3:16) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

We need to know, believe and understand this scripture then turn around and share this message with others. To help keep our minds on the sacrifice Jesus made for us and to test our Bible knowledge, I have provided a word find about the crucifixion.

Melodie Steptoe
Children's Ministries Coordinator



THE NECESSITY OF FASTING INTRODUCES ONE TO "DESERT PLACE"

"Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavyburdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?" Isaiah 58:6

Fasting is to be really serious. It is to loose the bands of wickedness; to free one's own soul from shackles of lust and selfishness; and to aid in liberating the souls of others.

(Joel 2:12-17) *"Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:*

And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.

Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?"

I feel that we all feel the need to touch God; not only for ourselves, but for those placed in our care and all our brothers and sisters. The Church, as one "New Man" Eph. 2:15, in unity, must have God's favor. The Church gathered together for one purpose, as in Acts 2:1 and also Acts 12:5 sets examples of the seriousness.

Our sole purpose in The Desert Place Meetings is to find the favor of God. We need to keep our hearts and minds focused on what we are gathering together each month for. Let me as an individual and a part of this body be centered on seeking His face, to pour my soul out to Him in supplication and prayer for myself and those here with me and those placed in my watch-care.

God is a God of order. So we keep order before God. Let us come before Him acceptably with reverence and Godly fear. We do not gather together for any other reason other than to be obedient to God. Not to be in favor or disfavor of anyone, but simply that God would make wrongs right and help us to see what God requires of us all that we find the favor of God.

Desert Place News, Coordinator,
Halton Jeffcoat - (912) 375-9493

THE CHURCH OF GOD
2011 FLORIDA / GEORGIA LADIES' RETREAT

May 20 – 22
Little Ocmulgee State Park, McRae, Georgia

GUEST MINISTERS

Betty Bishop, General WMB Coordinator, Janet Talley, Tennessee State Music Director
Darla Chance, Tennessee State WMB Coordinator



THEME: "Fill My Cup, Lord" Romans 15:13

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip Code _____ Phone # (including area code) _____ email _____

Prices are for 2 nights lodging, 3 buffet meals, a banquet meal, fellowship refreshments and parking pass.

4 in a room - \$90.00 per person / 3 in a room - \$105.00 per person / 2 in a room - \$120.00 per person

Each person in a room must complete an application and return to Vivian Campbell, 100 Edgewood Drive, Smyrna, TN 37167 with a \$10 non-refundable deposit. Please make checks payable to The Church of God. **Deadline for applications is APRIL 15th. NOTIFICATION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE FACILITY BY APRIL 20th.**

Number of ladies in room (including yourself) _____ Please advise the names of those who will be in your room.

1) _____ 2) _____

3) _____ 4) _____

A confirmation will be mailed to your attention upon receipt of completed application and deposit.

PRISON MINISTRY

"Have Faith in God" Mark 11:22-24

Faith is the foot of the soul by which it can march along the road of the commandments. Love can make the feet move more swiftly; but faith is the foot which carries the soul. Faith is the oil enabling the wheels of holy devotion and of earnest piety to move well; and without faith the wheels are taken from the chariot, and we drag heavily.

With faith I can do all things; (Phil 4:13) without faith I shall neither have the inclination nor the power to do anything in the service of God. If you would find the men who serve God the best, you must look for the men of the most faith. Little faith will save a man, but little faith cannot do great things for God. (Matt 8:26)

Poor Little-Faith could not have fought "Apollyon;" it needed Christian to do that. Poor Little-Faith could not have slain "Giant Despair;" it required "Great-Heart's" arm to knock the monster down. Little-Faith will go to heaven most certainly, but it often has to hide itself in a nut-shell, and it frequently loses all but it's jewels. Little-faith says, "It is a rough road, beset with sharp thorns, and full of dangers; I am afraid to go;" but Great-Faith remembers the promise, (Deut 33:25) "Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; as thy days, so shall thy strength be." and so she boldly ventures. Little-faith stands desponding, mingling her tears with the flood; but Great-Faith sings, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee." (Isa 43:2) and she fords the stream at once. Would you be comfortable and happy? Would you enjoy re-

ligion? Would you have the religion of cheerfulness and not that of gloom? Then, "have faith in God." If you love darkness, and are satisfied to dwell in gloom and misery, then be content with little-faith; but if you love the sunshine, and would sing songs of rejoicing, covet earnestly this best gift, "Great Faith."

(Heb 11:1) "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Heb 11:6) "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." The main theme of Chapter 11 of Hebrews is: "**By Faith**". "By faith Abel offered unto God"... "By faith Enoch was translated"... "By faith Noah"... "By faith Abraham"... "Through faith also Sara herself"... "These all died in faith, not having received the promises"... "By faith Abraham" ... "By faith Isaac"... "By faith Jacob"... "By faith Joseph"... "By faith Moses"... "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise" ... "God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect."

That better thing was Christ Jesus, God's only begotten Son. How much more should we, His born-again children have faith in His promises? For we have received the power of God and the gift of the Holy Ghost in the redemption of the cross. Take up your faith, and go ye into all the world and believe. He is right there with you, by Faith.

Rick Razsi
Prison Ministries Coordinator