

The First Edition

Praise the Lord! We celebrate the very first edition of the Great Commission Newsletter, *The Commissioner*.

Our hope is that this quarterly newsletter will serve as a source of information and inspiration for those local as well as for those afar.

Communicating via a newsletter has long been a desire for our ministry, though we lacked dedicated resources to carry out the work.

We truly thank the Lord for sending Greta Jones, who's spearheading the effort, and Johnnie Brown and Jacquisha Cardwell for their editorial work. I also want to thank all of you who made contributions in any other capacity. I encourage all GCDM members to archive this copy so that you can compare the future progress of the letter.

--Pastor Gordon



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A Matter of Perspective: by Franklin Gordon, Senior Pastor

According to Webster's dictionary, *perspective* is the ability to see things in their true relationship when they are contrasted one against the other.

Where we see ourselves is intricately linked to how we feel about and how we respond to all of life's situations and circumstances.

Remember the twelve spies (Numbers 13) that Moses sent into the land of Canaan to spy out the land and bring a report back to the congregation? Well, of the twelve, only two had the proper perspective-- Joshua and Caleb. What was it that caused them to see and to respond differently than the other ten? I would suggest that Joshua and Caleb's perspective was shaped by God's promise to give them the Promised Land.

That faithful promise was enough to help them to believe and to see themselves, not as grasshoppers, but as giants in their own rights because of the God who had made the promise.

It is proper perspective that most

Christians need in order to see themselves as situated above the recurring issues and the daily concerns of life and to help them see themselves as above and not beneath, as the head and not the tail.

Ephesians tells us that, by God's grace, we have been quickened together, that we are raised together, and that we now sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Since we are *in* Christ, we are far above principalities, powers, might, and dominions of this world.

Wow! Do you feel the shift in perspective?

Begin to see yourself as God sees you, and I am certain that your walk and experience in Christ will grow and increase, ensuring your success in situations that you face in life.



What Do You Think? by Lisa Atkinson

Often we spend a great deal of time worrying about what others think of us. Do they think I'm cute? Do they think I measure up? Do they think I'm smart? Do they think I fit in? What do *you* think?

We sometimes allow what others think to distract us, to limit us, and to control us. What others think drives some to smoke, to binge drink, or to do drugs. What others think will cause young women to give themselves away never knowing how valuable they are and cause young men to take, from young women, something they have no right to take. What do you think?

What others think can cause feelings of inadequacy, low self-esteem, and self-hatred. This often leads to bingeing, cutting, promiscuity, and sometimes even suicide. What do you think?

It's time we realize that what others think of us isn't nearly as important as what we think of ourselves and, even more so, what our Heavenly Father thinks of us. What we think can bring us great success.

What we think can cause us not to even try. What we think can propel us higher and farther than the average, the mediocre, the norm. What we think can weigh us down, hold us hostage, make us prisoners. What we think can bring us great victory or cause our defeat. What do you think?

Our Heavenly Father is always thinking good thoughts toward us. He has a good plan of peace and well being for us and not bad things. He gives us hope in our final outcome (Jeremiah 29:11). So, we can no longer hinder ourselves with our thinking. We must confess the truth of God's Word daily to build our self-esteem.



We have to see ourselves as God sees us. Our Father says that we are new creatures predestined for greatness (2 Corinthians 5:17). We are the children of God, and we are fully accepted by Him (John 1:12). We are loved by God regardless of how we perform (Romans 5:8). We are forgiven and no longer have to be tormented by our pasts (1 John 1:9). We are set in the body of Christ, and we are important to the work of God (1 Corinthians 12:18).

The discipline to speak God's Word will change our self-image, but it will also change the way we think of others. So, what do you think?

POETRY by Gessiqua Pugh

Defeat, anguish, fear, and loss
Are the only things I see
On this long stretch of road
Called life

I've been trudging along
For a while now
And I'm tired—
Tired of being stepped on
Tired of being let down
Tired of being alone
Tired of crying
Tired of trying

So why do I continue on?
Why do I even care?

I continue on because I
know that joy cometh in
the morning.
I care because I know He
lives.

I continue on because I
know my enemies will fall
short.

I care because He has
shown me mercy.
I continue on because I
know He is my refuge in
the raging storm.

I care because He has yet
to forsake me.

I continue on because I
know He loves me.

So I will go on in love,
hope, joy, and faith.
With faith I know that my
defeat, anguish, fear and
loss
will turn into my miracle
And my testimony.

Does Your Credit Score Make The Grade? by Yvette Valentin

We all must know that whatever we have is provided by God. Therefore, we must be wise and make healthy, smart choices when we use money. Money management is a key component in establishing and maintaining a good credit score. Credit cards are the #1 detriment to a good credit score and a sure path to financial bondage. It is easier to pay with plastic than with cash. Not understanding the impact of the gross misuse of credit cards can significantly impact your credit score(s). This is also true with any type of Installment loans as well. There are three major national credit reporting agencies that utilize basic credit scoring formulas; those are **Trans Union, Equifax, and Experian.**

If your credit score is above 650 you will probably qualify for a standard loan. Under 650, you may have trouble receiving new credit.

Here are some key points to assist you in increasing your credit score:

- * pay your bills on time
- * reduce your debt
- * remove inaccuracies
- * avoid new inquiries

Here are some Biblical passages to help guide you towards a better credit score:

- I. Know who the money belongs to first – All belongs to GOD
 - A. Psalms 24:1
 - B. 1 Chronicles 29:11-14
- II. Learn to be good stewards of God's Money – Trustworthy.
 - A. Luke 16:11
- III. God's Plan for us is to be Debt-Free
 - A. Deuteronomy 28:12





Start Your Day Right and Never Look Back

by Mother Evelyn Bullock

One of the greatest modes of access we have to God is Prayer. I heard it said once that the breakfast of Christian champions is early-morning prayer. As a child, I was taught to spend time with God in prayer and in His Word. It has become part of my everyday life. I rise early—usually 5:30 AM—to meet God in the morning. Sure, it takes discipline and I don't always feel like getting up but it's more than worth it. It's become a habit, and I must say a good one. To take lightly a consistent and dedicated life is to live beneath your privilege.

Prayer is two-fold. First, it should be started with praise and thanksgiving to a loving God who, by His very nature, wants more for your life than you could possibly imagine. Jeremiah 33:3 says, "Call unto me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not." Starting the day with prayer sets the pace for the rest of the day. Second, prayer acknowledges total dependence on Him. In my youth, I learned that prayer is talking to God and then listening while He talked to me. James 4:8 says, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." One of the best ways to do this is through daily prayer. I learned that once I did this, I was in a position to petition him for whatever I needed or desired. Through the years, this has truly helped me in every phase and at every stage of my life. Consistently petitioning God through prayer on a daily basis has given me strength to face the trials we *all* have from time to time as Christians. It's exciting to experience God's miraculous working in my life. We all have access to this wonderful privilege called prayer.

Many years ago we sang songs like *Sweet Hour of Prayer* with lyrics that said, *Sweet Hour of prayer that calls me from a world of care, and bids me at my Father's throne, makes all my wants and wishes known. We sang songs with words like, Let us go back, let us go back to our Father's praying ground. God is not pleased, God is not pleased. Let us go back on bended knees. Too far away we have strayed. Just know and then a soul gets saved. Let us go back to our Father's praying ground.* True, prayer has been taken out of the public schools, but what about the home? There's no law (at least not yet) against praying at home. Teaching children the importance of prayer gives them a valuable tool that will make a difference in their lives from now and into eternity.

From The Heart: by Shirley Gordon, First Lady

I Samuel 16:7; Matthew 5:8

Many of us spend such excessive amounts of time focusing on our external appearance that we have little time for anything else. We have gym memberships, elaborate workout plans, and very trendy dress codes. While I am not against any of that because I feel that we should pamper and take care of these temples that the Lord has entrusted to us, none of that is really what God sees. I Samuel 16:7 states that God does not see as we do; we look on the external but God sees the heart.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to remember that you are fearfully and wonderfully made. Trust God in everything and truly draw from your experience in your relationship with Christ. You must love yourself and know who you are in Christ and know that He loves you unconditionally.

I TIMOTHY 4:8

For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.





Learning Never Grows Old

By John M. Brown

We've always considered that learning—especially formal learning—is for the youthful, but really it's for the young-at-heart. Moreover, it's for the God-at-heart!

WHAT DOES THE WORD SAY?

PSALM 119:104

Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way

PROVERBS 4:5

Get wisdom, get understanding: forget [it] not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

PROVERBS 4:7

Wisdom [is] the principle thing; [therefore] get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding

PROVERBS 16:16

How much better [is it] to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

The fact that very few of us can remember events earlier than the age of 4 doesn't really reflect the enormous growth and growth potential of our brains between the ages of 0 – 4. In fact, according to studies, we accumulate a much larger percentage of knowledge during the very years that we can't seem to recall than we do in the years that follow.

What a truly amazing thing God did when He created man, but what an utterly remarkable and magnificent thing He did when He crafted the mind of man. Why, it's in the very mind of man that he can imagine all sorts of things, significant and vain alike. Unique is this creative wonderment in which the mind engages on a fairly regular basis. God created man to be a very curious creature, apt to ponder why a gear turns, how a bird flies, what seasonal changes mean, when time will stop, and from where life derives. God planned that this same curiosity would lead to a magnificent mind wanting to know the magnificence of its Creator.

Curiosity and learning go hand-in-hand and never cease to coexist in the hearts and minds of man because God made it inherent to the nature of man. So, learning is a life-long process because we never stop being curious about life and the things we encounter as we live those lives.

The most worthwhile learning venture that men can undertake, though, is the process of getting to know their Creator, God the Father. God's plan is for man to grow in intimacy with Him; this means that the Creature is meant to get to know the Creator. Two underlying principles are laid out in the creation chapters of the book of Genesis: 1) God desires a relationship with man and 2) God desires man to work.



Great Commission School of Ministry [GCSM] underscores these two principles; in that, its first mission is to grow its learners in their relationships with their LORD and Savior, and its second mission is to train leaders to communicate the tenets of their all-important relationships with the Lord Jesus Christ to the world through the work of the ministries to which God has called them.

GCSM is committed to life-long learning and the ever-important mandates both to get to know God and to become effective witnesses for Him. Come and see what is going on right in your back yard. Visit the GCSM website through <http://gcdmonline.org> or arrange to sit in on a class or two by calling 717-762-5079. Get on with your most important learning endeavor today; learning never grows old because getting to know God never grows old.





Where Two or Three are Gathered: A Youth Explosion

by Jacquisha Cardwell

Every year, KACWM gathers its youth before the Annual Convocation for a Pre-Youth Conference. In the past, youth preachers from far and wide have been invited to encourage our youth at this event, but this year, the usual protocol was not followed. The youth were encouraged to *put on the whole armor of God* by young Deacons-in-Training from KACWM churches (including Great Commission's own Marla Gordon); the Spirit of God moved in an especially mighty way after we ushered in God's presence through praise and worship.

Bishop Wilbert L. Baltimore, senior bishop of KACWM, called the event *a true vision*. Prophecies went forth over the youth of the Church, calls were answered, and the time was declared for us to go forward in the power of the Lord. Seeing the youth praise God and push into His presence was quite an experience.

Throughout the service, there were small portions of the youth showcased, where the talented youth of King's Apostles did many things unto the Lord ranging from sharing inspirational words, to break-dancing, to singing songs. There was a movie night and a real-talk session scheduled after the service, but the highness of the Spirit kept many at the altar.

The second day was even more spiritually gratifying. Saturday morning began with age-specific classes, each with a different topic. Among those topics were, *Stuck in the Game*, *The Closer You Get*, *the Harder it Gets*, and a parenting session taught by our own Pastor Gordon. After being uplifted by the classes, the youth gathered for a midday worship service, preached by Sean Coley from West Virginia. Sean's laid-back style and great use of humor engaged everyone as he challenged each of us to be rebels against all that society teaches us to conform to.

Overall, the Pre-Youth Conference was an amazing experience. For those youth and adults who didn't get the opportunity to participate in the experience this year, don't miss out on the Youth Conference of 2010—it would be a great loss.



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Some dates/events are subject to change. Check the church website at www.gcdmonline.org for the most current calendar of events.

APRIL 2009	
4	Marriage & Singles Workshop (8:30 AM–2 PM)
6-10	Holy Week – CAMA
12	Resurrection Sunday (Youth Program)
18	Open Forums Panel, Women’s Ministry (10 AM)
25	Car Wash (<i>time and location TBA</i>)
26	Unification Service, New York
TBA	Monthly Birthday Social



MAY 2009	
10	Mother’s Day
16	Choir Workshop (9:00 AM)
14	School of Ministry FALL 2009 Registration begins
21	School of Ministry SPRING 2009 semester ends
23	Youth Car Wash (9:00 AM)
25	Memorial Day
TBA	Monthly Birthday Social

JUNE 2009	
15-19	Vacation Bible School/Community Outreach
21	Father’s Day
27	Youth Car Wash
27	Men’s Gathering
TBA	Monthly Birthday Social



And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, [thou that art] highly favored, the Lord [is] with thee: blessed art thou among women. –Luke 1:28

WORD FIND

ABIGAIL
RUTH
NAOMI
DEBORAH
ESTHER
HANNAH
DORCAS
LYDIA
SARAH
PHOEBE
MIRIAM
MARY
JOANNA
RAHAB
JOCHEBED
ANNA
LOIS
EUNICE

Women of the Bible

L	R	A	P	H	O	E	B	E	Y
A	I	B	N	B	T	I	L	S	J
N	Y	H	A	N	N	A	H	T	R
N	L	S	C	A	P	N	N	H	A
A	N	R	E	C	I	N	U	E	B
O	A	I	D	Y	L	A	P	R	I
J	O	C	H	E	B	E	D	A	G
D	M	S	A	R	A	H	Z	M	A
P	I	E	T	P	T	L	A	I	I
H	S	O	Y	U	O	I	B	U	L
A	I	G	R	M	R	U	E	R	J
R	I	B	A	I	B	H	U	A	B
O	G	A	M	L	C	G	N	C	M
B	A	H	D	O	R	C	A	S	R
E	I	A	J	I	D	E	J	G	U
D	L	R	N	S	H	E	B	E	D

As God has painted the heavens, color me so that I may shine like God's creation!



Tuesdays:	Intercessory Prayer @ 10:00 AM
Wednesdays:	Bible Study @ 6:45 PM Youth Pastoral Bible Study (4 th Wed) Choir Rehearsal @ 7:45 PM
Thursdays:	School of Ministry classes @ 6:30 PM and 7:40 PM
Sundays:	Sunday School @ 9:00 AM Sunday Worship @ 10: 15 AM

GCDM Church Vision

To bring the body of believers into a vibrant personal relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through diligent study of the Word of God, prayer, commitment to ministry, and obedience to scripture.

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