

## GCDM Newsletter

## In This Edition

The second edition of *The Commissioner* contains articles that will encourage, focus, and direct you on the path of practical as well as elevated Christian living.

The Apostle Paul communicates to us that there is a contentment that evolves from trusting and knowing that God is both concerned about and is well able to resolve the issues of our lives.

This resulting contentment surpasses the whirlwinds of our current realities and stabilizes us during tough times and during times of seeming stagnation in spiritual growth—a period of potential frustration.

Know that the Lord, your God, is both your Author and your Finisher. He is committed to your Christ-like growth and you cannot be separated from His love.



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## Translated for Kingdom Living

by Franklin Gordon, Senior Pastor

Over the past couple of years, I have become increasingly aware of the reality and the significance of understanding that after translation, there must be transformation. Many who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation have not sufficiently progressed in their new walk toward mind-renewal because the connection has not been made that salvation brought us into a new kingdom and a new relationship with God (translation). Because of sluggish comprehension or lack of understanding altogether, we continue to live out portions of our lives under the principles of the previous kingdom, the Kingdom of Darkness.

In Colossians 1:13, the Apostle Paul states that God has delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son. Because we are in a new kingdom, we *must* learn to live our lives under the principles that govern that new kingdom.

We have been translated from all that characterizes darkness into that which characterizes light and into that which is consistent with Jesus Christ and His kingdom.

This means no longer living life according to old relationship principles—the world's debt principles and its way of thinking or any other principle of the old kingdom. Indeed, as we grow in maturity and wisdom from our present state, we should also move away from old principles to new ones which will bring with them a manifestation of the promised blessings of the kingdom of light (transformation).

Live God's kingdom life to the fullest and experience the abundant blessings that are yours by virtue of salvation and translation.



## Q&A With The Pastor edited by John M. Brown

Pastor Gordon's previous article (pg. 1, this issue), *Translated For Kingdom Living*, discusses positional growth and spiritual maturity in the scheme of God's overall plan for His children. The following Q&A with Pastor Gordon emphasizes the plan of growth for the local body and its affected communities.

[Q: represents the interviewer; A: represents Pastor Gordon.]

### **Q: Is there a Biblical difference between the concepts of stagnation and standing still in Christ?**

A: Yes. Stagnation is when you are stuck, motionless, not flowing or advancing. Standing still is a matter of choice. Stagnation is like water in a pond; whereas, standing takes effort. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having **done** all, to **stand**" (Ephesians 6:13). This kind of stance requires that you **do** something and that you make a decision to stand in God's provisions.

### **Q: Do we understand correctly, then, that standing still in order to ascertain God's direction can be an active part of God's process for growth?**

A: Certainly! There are times where we are not certain about God's direction or maybe we've come to a point where we can't discern what the next step should be. At times like these we need to learn to stand still and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit. II Chronicles 20 records the prayer of King Jehoshaphat as Judah faced the invasion of Moab and those who joined him in this effort. As Jehoshaphat prayed, he

*confessed that neither he nor Judah knew what to do in the face of the current threat, but their eyes were fixed on God for a solution to this crisis. In other words, he made a choice to stand still and look to God for the next move.*

### **Q: In making sure it is not a stagnant church, what vision of growth and expansion has God laid upon your heart for GCDM?**

A: Our theme this year is "Taking Territory" with the object of winning souls (for Christ) and (helping) those in Christ who may be stagnant. We are looking at becoming owners and not renters, the head and not the tail, above and not beneath, providers and not just consumers. Owning gives us the capacity to do more with the facility (that we're currently in) like expansion related to youth activities and community outreach. When it comes to renovation, even though the cosmetics of it would look good, we don't invest unnecessary money to renovate something that we don't own. For what we want to accomplish in ministry, costs over the long run would be greater renting than owning.

### **Q: Why are expansion and growth necessary for Great Commission Deliverance Ministries?**

A: *If you are not growing, you are stagnant. Something that is stagnant is dead. The church is a living organism—our vision and mission (here at Great Commission) dictate that we must grow. Our vision reaches beyond our immediate surroundings and touches the world. Currently, for example, we support missions in Zimbabwe, Ghana, and Panama. We can do that through sowing into foreign missions, but we want to establish intermediaries based right here at GCDM.*

*GCDM offers viable ministry. Too many people are going to church but not understanding, and without understanding, they won't ever be able to live the victorious Christian life.*

*Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where [there is] no vision, the people perish," and Hosea 4:6 says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because they have rejected knowledge..." The communities (surrounding GCDM) are full of people who are stagnant and without vision.*

*Finally, the more laborers we have the quicker we can harvest the field, and we are already at greater than 80% capacity in our current place of worship. GCDM needs more laborers to reap greater harvests—Jesus said, "the harvest truly [is] plenteous, but the laborers [are] few" (Matthew 9:37). We are endeavoring to own a place to house the bountiful harvest that God is showing us.*

### **Q: Regarding GCDM's ministry to the community surrounding it, what are two of the first short-term objectives once the ministry owns its current facility?**

A: *Objective #1 would be to make some cosmetic changes to specific areas in the facility, changes which would allow us to maximize usage of existing space by making it suitable for a variety of purposes and functions.*

*Objective #2 would be to offer services to the surrounding community that we are currently restricted from offering because we are not the owners of the building.*



# Use What You've Got

by Jacquetta Cardwell

*Even from the beginning, Adam was appointed as guardian and caregiver for the things God had placed in his care. Such responsibility required a careful eye, a steady hand at the plow, and a commitment to cultivate and to nourish what we're given even through a sometimes harrying process. Building trustworthiness in one situation has a direct correlation to bestowed trust in another.*

What has God entrusted to you? Since the question implies stewardship, let's first begin with a definition. It means *careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care*. Go to Luke 16:10 (go ahead I'll wait). Luke writes, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."

Basically, if you are a good steward over the little that God has blessed you with, then He knows that you will be a good steward when He blesses you with much. However, if you are not a good steward over the little He has given you, then there is no reason for Him to bless you with more.

Think about that for a quick minute and let it marinate for a few minutes more.

God has entrusted each of us with various things—whether they be talents, resources, etc. Christians always want God to give them more, but you can't ask for more when you aren't responsibly managing what you've got. Stewardship is about showing God how thankful you are that He has entrusted you with something that is just for you. He didn't design it for anyone else but you. Stewardship causes one to carefully, consistently, and responsibly manage what God has entrusted to one's care. Don't take this lightly.

You ask God for a better job, but yet you constantly come in late and barely do your work on your current job. How can you expect God to bless you with a new job if you aren't a good steward over what you've got currently?

When we are good stewards, God gives us more. He blesses us exceeding and abundantly, and sometimes we think it's just because He loves us. No, baby. It is also because you are showing Him that you are thankful for what He has already given. A lot of us allow what God has given us to sit dormant: please know that you are not being a good steward and you're not using *what you've got*. The awesome thing about God is that He equips us with everything that we need; however, we are too busy trying to use what someone else has instead of using what we got.

Stewardship, stewardship, stewardship—it's a lifestyle. Use what you got! Use what God has blessed you with. Don't try to bury somewhere what He has given you; use it.



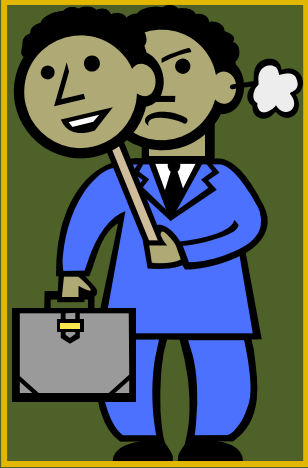
## Luke 16:10

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

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*Good stewardship is about showing God how thankful you are that He has entrusted you with something that is just for you.*





# Men, Take Off Your Masks

By Leonard Cardwell, Assistant Pastor

*Sometimes we get so used to playing church that we soon forget why we are there and why, in fact, we need the Great Physician. Too often, we feign a picture of health when in actuality we are wounded, confused, scarred, or just plain stuck in a cycle of disobedience. Transparency before God is truly the only antidote.*

Who can find a faithful man? Men have good intentions, but a faithful man is one who carries out those good intentions.

Be obedient to the word of God like Noah, who followed directions, or you could miss the boat. Make a decision to follow Christ without reservation; allow him to call the signals. See, Men of God, do you know—as Paul asks—that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

It's not what goes into the mouth that defiles a man but what comes out of the mouth that defiles him. Don't be like the Pharisees who honored God with their mouths but not their hearts. Be like David: Honor God from the heart. Don't just have faith *in* God but faith *of* God. Situations will come, and the storms of life will blow. You might get extremely uncomfortable and you might just fall, but it's not unforgivable. So confess your sins because our God is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Quit allowing what you remember to remind you of what you were.

Mighty Men of God, accept your season of release from setbacks, captivity, bondage, holdups, denials, and disappointments. You've been in the storm much too long; take off your masks.

I challenge the men of God to be strong and to prove themselves as just that—men of

God. Keep the charge of the Lord your God. Walk in His ways and keep His statutes, commandments, judgments, and His testimonies so that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn.

## WHAT DOES THE WORD SAY?

Psalm 69:17

And hide not they face from thy servant; for I am in trouble: hear me speedily

Psalm 102:2

Hide not they face from me in the day when I am in trouble; incline thine ear unto me: in the day when I call, answer me speedily

## Poetry Inspiration

**E**verything has its season  
In order for new growth  
One day the beauty will be seen  
From the seeds that God has sown

**F**or our lives are like a garden  
The planting of the Lord  
Sun and rain combine to bring  
A bountiful reward

**F**or seeds need God's nature  
In order to produce  
A beautiful, fragrant garden  
Ready for kingdom use

**A**t times God needs to weed out  
Ungodly things in us

So nothing will come to threaten  
The sowing within He does

**A**s we grow to our potential  
In what God's given us  
We will be more effective  
In the spreading of His love

**A**nd as we spread this seed  
Of His love to other lives  
We will reap a mighty harvest  
Of souls for Jesus Christ

**O**ur lives forever changed  
From what they were before  
The beauty produced in our lives  
Is the reflection of the Lord



# Safe Driving: Trusting God Through Transitions and Change

by Jacquisha Cardwell

*Transitions are a part of life, and resulting change is inevitable. But, we should be comforted to know that God never changes.*



Usually, when operating a motor vehicle, we prefer to drive in familiar territory. We know where we're going, what to expect on the journey, and where the short-cuts are. But, when we're driving somewhere new, it takes a little getting used to. If the journey has some especially rough roads and tight turns, our driving abilities may be brought into question. To top that, sometimes the directions aren't as crystal clear as we would hope.

And that's how our lives can be.

We get comfortable with living a certain way and feel like we've got it all together. Then, something changes: A child leaves the home, you lose someone or something very dear (family member or a job), or pressure arises from having to adjust to a new situation in a short amount of time. Many of us panic because we don't know what to expect in the near future, and we go straight to our own logic, exhausting our own minds and resources to try to make things work out. Those around us see our struggle and question us in every aspect of our lives (as children of God, as adults, as professionals).

You see, when traveling along the road of life, you've only got one vehicle. One.

Some of us try to drive ourselves, we get into an accident, and we take our broken selves to God so that He can smooth out our dents and get us back on the road under His sovereign control.

After we crash, fix, and repeat a few times, we find that no matter how efficient we think we are in the driver's seats of our own lives, we are not better than God, Who can certainly get us where we need to go without wrecking us.

That's lesson number one.

After we're in the back seat, sometimes we like to treat God like a rookie driver whenever the road gets a little rough, and we tend to ask Him if He's taking us the right way. God still knows what he's doing. When God is taking us through a change, it's usually to get us to a higher place, so we must be ready to go uphill. And even though sometimes you can't see through the fog, you're simply passing the clouds, going *upward* and not simply *through*.

Let God drive and don't question His abilities; I'm more than 100 percent sure that He's the safest driver there is.

## James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift comes down from above, from the Father of lights, with whom is no variation nor shadow of turning.

| Calendar of Upcoming Events |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 8/14-16                     | Church Anniversary Celebration             |
| 8/17                        | GCSM Early Registration Begins             |
| 9/3                         | School of Ministry Fall 2009 classes begin |
| 10/2-3                      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Diocese Conference, KACWM  |
| 11/13-15                    | Pastoral Anniversary                       |
| 11/20                       | Panama Mission Trip                        |
| TBA                         | Monthly Birthday Socials                   |



## Great Commission Deliverance Ministries

[www.gcdmonline.org](http://www.gcdmonline.org)

Renaissance Place  
248 W. Second Street  
Waynesboro, PA 17268

### Mailing

P.O. Box 344  
Waynesboro, PA 17268

### Phone Contact

(717) 762-5079

### 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.

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Tuesdays:   | Intercessory Prayer @ 10:00 AM   |
| Wednesdays: | Bible Study @ 6:45 PM<br>Youth Bible Study (4 <sup>th</sup> Wed)<br>Women's Bible Study (4 <sup>th</sup> Wed)<br>Choir Rehearsal @ 7:45 PM |
| Thursdays:  | School of Ministry classes @<br>6:30 PM and 7:40 PM  |
| Saturdays:  | Men's Fellowship @ 8:00 AM<br>(2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Saturdays)   |
| Sundays:    | Sunday School @ 9:00 AM<br>Sunday Worship @ 10: 15 AM  |

