

Then There Was ZOOM (Present COVID)

Continued from page 6.

Pastor Brian's messages on Sunday, Sept 13 and 20 have been very timely: "God's Answers to the Racial Divide in the American Church," Parts 1 and 2. You can find their videos on GCA's YouTube channel. Pastor Brian also wrote in one of his recent weekly updates, "Our God is still in control. We can depend on Him; may you therefore rest in His grace and peace." ✨

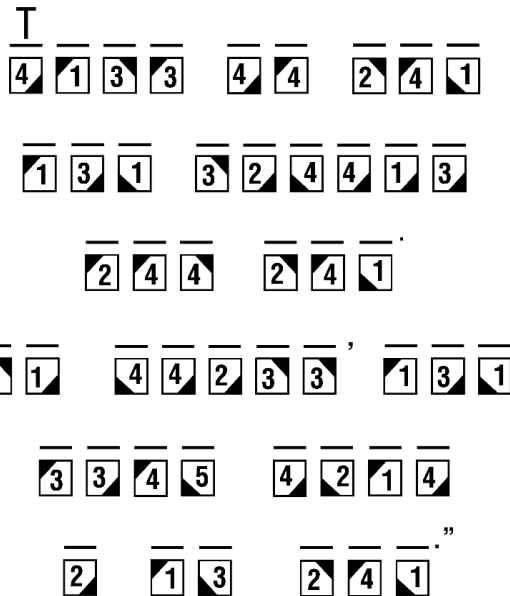


1. **What do we have that Adam never had?**
Ancestors.
2. **Who was the fastest runner in the race?**
Adam. He was first in the human race.
3. **Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?**
He only had two worms.
4. **Who was the smartest man in the Bible?**
Abraham. He knew a Lot.
5. **Who was the first tennis player in the Bible?**
Joseph because he served in Pharaoh's court.

Puzzle!

Using the code, fill in the blanks to discover what we should do each day.

CODE



GCA COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Tuesday Evenings – Sept. 29 to Dec. 1, 2020

 Pre-boxed Meals	 Cooking and Arts & Crafts	 ESL Classes	 Teen Bible Study	 Adult Bible Study
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September 2020
Volume 8, Issue 1

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GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly



The Passing of Dr. Charles I. Hart, Pastor Emeritus of Germantown Christian Assembly

In the December 2019 issue of GCA Reflections, with deep sadness, we announced the passing of our beloved Dr. Charles I. Hart, Pastor Emeritus. Brother Charles went to be with his Blessed Savior Wednesday, November 27, 2019. Services were held at GCA on December 8 and 9. At that time, family and friends shared copiously.

The caregiver who was assigned to him for the last nine months of his life shared the following testimony:

"It was February 2019 when I met Mr. Charles. Shortly after he was released from the hospital, I came to be his caregiver. The impression of that day is still lasting, him walking up and inquiring if I was the nurse. I told him I was just the Aide, and his response was, 'Do not underestimate yourself. You would make a great nurse.' This was followed by his broad infectious smile.

Continues on page 5.

WHAT A SEMINAR!

By Pat Clark

It was only three hours, but we were eventually urged to remember eight key words: Relevance, Novelty, Variety, Choices, Activity, Challenge, Encouragement and Relationship. This was the culmination of the teaching at the seminar titled "The ABC's of Bringing Out the Best in Children with ADHD" conducted by Handi*Vangelism Ministries International.

Continues on page 2.

The Purpose of this Newsletter

This ministry newsletter is intended to support the vision of the church—to be Christ-centered, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to build lives that glorify and worship God by emphasizing the Word, Evangelism, Discipleship and Caring for the whole man. We hope this newsletter will play an important role in encouraging the members of our assembly to fearlessly stand closer together, for the cause of the gospel of Christ.



GCA Reflections is published quarterly for the members and friends of GCA.

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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in each of the articles herein are those of each individual author or contributor and not necessarily those held by the GCA Reflections Staff or GCA leadership.

Each issue will be available on the GCA website under "News & Events".

A special thank you to all who contributed to this issue of GCA Reflections.



By Pat Clark

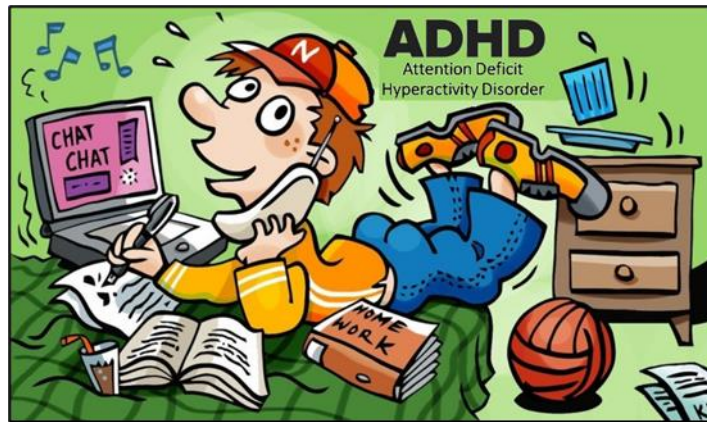


WHAT A SEMINAR!

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We were given new ways of thinking about children with ADHD, a packet full of ways and means, adaptations for Sunday school class and the classroom, scripture verses, definitions, methods and fidget toys.

Lorraine Stirneman, one of the attendees, was asked to give closing remarks. "I realized that over the years I was probably impatient, frustrated and irritated at times with the behavior of some children who, no doubt, had problems as a result of ADHD, and I didn't know it. It was surprising to learn that a number of very important people, including Einstein (Albert Einstein), had learned to cope with their ADHD and became great leaders.



Impressive was the fact that some who had overcome said that the thing that helped them the most was when someone believed in them. I trust that we will all be more understanding and loving when we encounter children, teens or adults who are born with ADHD and remember that God has a plan and purpose for their lives."

Thank you Cressia for scheduling the seminar. ✧

December 2017, he published his second book, *From Nominal to Phenomenal: 14 Steps to Maximize your Potential.*

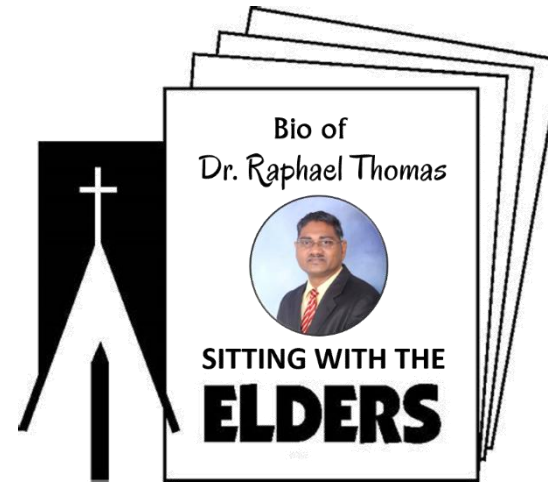
From an early age he put a priority on memorizing scripture, and in 1984, while he was still a teenager, he won the Jamaica Youth for Christ Year of the Bible Competition, by reciting from memory over 1,100 Bible verses (that's one-eighth of the entire New Testament). For that, he won a trip to Israel and Jordan.

16 years ago, Raphael and Velda started the Gospel Chapel Preparatory School, a private day school that the church oversees. It's a great outreach as most students do not attend the church. Velda served as principal. This school is highly regarded, and in June 2018 Raphael was awarded the Prime Minister's Medal of Appreciation for Service to Education in Jamaica.

Raphael has a burden for Global Evangelization, and in December 2017, he and Velda launched Blessing Basket International, a missions organization whose vision is to partner with churches and other organizations to fulfil the Great Commission globally.

We thank God for sending Raphael and Velda to us as we believe their training, experience and lifetime of dedication to the work of God will be a tremendous asset to us at GCA, as we seek to execute our vision – *To know Christ and make Him known.* We have therefore asked him to join our staff on a part-time basis, effective immediately, as the Director of Missions and Evangelism. Although he's on our staff, we expect that, two Sundays a month, he will be at other churches seeking to strengthen some of our sister assemblies, while also seeking to challenge and assist other churches to carry out the Great Commission.

We are also glad to welcome their two sons, Timothy and Nathanael, both seniors at the University of Valley Forge. Along with their parents, they are also being received into our fellowship. ✧



Dr. Raphael Thomas has been a minister of the gospel since he was 20 years of age and although he's still in his 50's, he has served as pastor/elder of the Annotto Bay Gospel Chapel in Jamaica for 32 years. Annotto Bay Gospel Chapel is a sister assembly started by Bro. Charles Hart. He is a man of prayer and a man of the Book, and God has opened numerous doors for him to preach and teach the Word of God internationally. He is highly regarded among our sister assemblies in Jamaica – serving as Chairman of the North-Eastern Missionary Conference, a fellowship of 33 assemblies; and Vice Chairman of the Christian Brethren Assemblies Jamaica, the fellowship of all 88 of our sister assemblies in Jamaica.

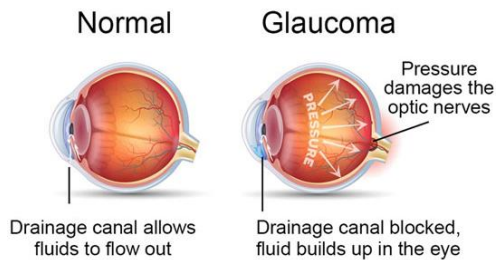
Raphael holds both a Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Clinical Christian Counselling degree from Central Christian University. He has been an adjunct lecturer at the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology for over 20 years and is a certified Behavioral Consultant and a Clinical Pastoral Member of the National Christian Counsellors Association. He is the author of two books. *The First Biblical Dynamics for Revival Today* shares his heavy burden for revival. In



To your *health*
By Margaret Aitcheson

GLAUCOMA

Glaucoma is a serious eye disease and is one of the leading causes of blindness for African Americans over the age of 40 and for others over the age of 60. Glaucoma damages the optic nerve that serves the vision center of the brain, due to high pressure (called high intraocular pressure or IOP) in the eye. If left undetected and untreated, glaucoma will cause loss of vision in the peripheral area of the whole field of vision, resulting in tunnel vision. In other words, you may not be able to see out of the corners of the eye, only straight ahead unless you turn your head. As the damage worsens total blindness may result.



Symptoms of increased eye pressure (IOP) may include blurred vision, halos around lights, eye pain, headache, nausea and vomiting. However, in the most common form of glaucoma in the United States, there is typically no pain; that's why IOP is called the "sneak thief of sight." There are no symptoms to alert someone that there is ongoing damage to the optic nerve. It is therefore extremely important to see an ophthalmologist regularly to have an overall check of your eyes.

There is no cure for glaucoma; but if it's caught early, it can be treated and the eyesight saved. Several modes of treatment are used to lower the eye pressure. These are prescription eye drops, oral medications, laser treatment, surgery or a combination of any of these.

Have your eyes checked at least yearly so abnormalities can be detected early. Also, according to the Glaucoma Research Foundation, good nutrition can protect your eyes. Yellow and orange vegetables such as squash and carrots, and dark green vegetables such as broccoli, kale and spinach, contain nutritious compounds that protect the eyes. Foods with high sugar and salt content may cause damage to the eyes.

You can discuss eye care and nutrition with your family physician or ophthalmologist. ✧

Then There Was ZOOM (Present COVID)

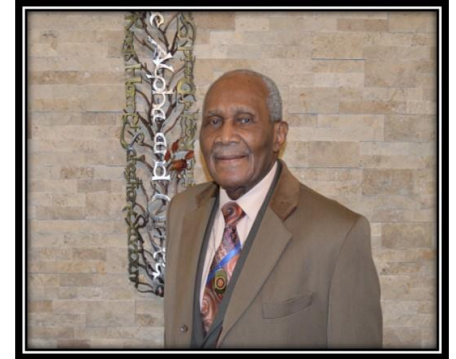
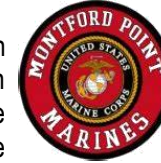
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On the elder and deacon front: Elder LeRoy Jackson stepped down to focus on a new area of ministry (stay tuned). Bro. Carlton Henry is to be confirmed as deacon and Dr. Elijah Korich as elder during the business meeting on Oct. 4. Bro. Kirk Wheeler has agreed to sit with the deacons. Dr. Raphael Thomas, his wife Velda and their children, Timothy and Nathanael, were accepted into membership by transfer from a sister assembly in Jamaica. Dr. Thomas was asked and has accepted the invitation to sit with the elders. He will also be working as a part-time GCA employee as Director of Missions and Evangelism. (See his bio on page 7.)

Continues on page 8.

GCA Guest, Mr. Roosevelt Farrow – Sunday, February 9th

Now age 92, Mr. Roosevelt Farrow was born in 1929 and is among one of the first African Americans to join the U.S. Marine Corp., where he served for twenty-one years. He is the sole Black marines (known today as the **Montford Marines**) who was trained in the snake-infested woods at Montford Point, North Carolina, while other recruits were sent to the traditional boot camp of Parris Island, South Carolina. This was during the time when racism and segregation were a part of everyday life. These soldiers had to "fight for the right to fight".



Mr. Farrow has received numerous awards and recognitions. His latest award was the November 2019 NAACP GAME CHANGER AWARD.

Today, the Montford Point Marines Museum is located in Jacksonville, North Carolina. ✧

Celebrating Black History Month

Black History Month

Nicolas White and Hannah Walton spoke about Harriet Tubman who was featured and honored on Sunday, February 23rd. Several of Harriet Tubman's descendants attended the service.

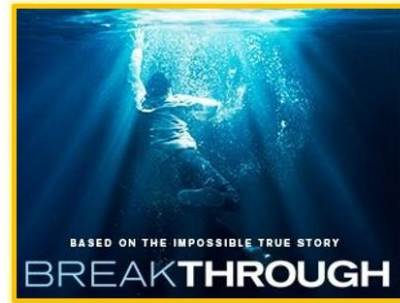


By Nora Brown



On Saturday, November 23, 2019, the movie "Breakthrough" was shown at GCA and was very well attended by both GCA members and visitors. Before the movie began, Pastor Brian opened with prayer. It was clear that the pastor's desire was that the movie would not just be a form of entertainment, but would touch the heart of someone who did not know Christ and minister to those who already knew Him. After prayer, refreshments were served by several GCA volunteers.

The movie was faith-based; it was a real-life story about a young boy who struggled to feel loved after he learned that he was adopted. But he saw how much he was loved by his adopted parents when, by the grace of God, he miraculously came back to life after a tragic accident. Many people prayed for him including those who risked their lives to save him. It was so touching and the audience was very attentive. As the different scenes unfold, some people were seen wiping tears



from their eyes. Kids sat on edge waiting to see the rescue of the boy. Loud cheers were heard from the audience when the adoptive mother of the young boy interceded with God to once again breathe life into her child, and signs of life were seen. Doctors were astonished.

Many young people from kids to teenagers attended. It was a beautiful event that brought the GCA family together and presented members an opportunity to interact with visitors. At the conclusion of the movie, Pastor Brian gave those who did not know the Lord an opportunity to accept Jesus Christ into their lives. It was great to see that some responded.

Thank God for this great opportunity for all of us to dwell together in love and unity as we look forward to what's next to come. ✦

Men's Breakfast

Mr. Will Longnecker

8:30 a.m. Saturday, February 22nd

Our Guest Speaker was **Bro. Will Longnecker**

WHAT WE MISSED DURING COVID-19

- APRIL**
Easter Egg Hunt & Bible Bowl at GCA
- MARCH**
GCA Missions Conference
- MAY**
Bus Trip to African-American Museum in D.C.

The Passing of Dr. Charles I. Hart, Pastor Emeritus of Germantown Christian Assembly

Continued from page 1.

As the days went on, caring for him was so easy. I can truly say I came in contact with Jesus daily because of his dedication to the Lord, the love he had for his wife and family, and the love and humility he showed to each person that would visit. Every morning when I arrived, he would inquire about the well-being of my family. He always wished me a safe journey home followed by a prayer. He even challenged me sometimes concerning my relationship with Jesus and treated me to a daily

dose of humor. But his real excitement was going to church to be with the people he loved and who loved him in return. He was so respectful and easy going, he never frowned or complained, and was always thankful for all that I did for him. He would constantly remind me how much he appreciated me. He loved going for his walks, and treated me to a daily dose of humor. But his real excitement was going to church to be with the people he loved and who loved him in return.

RIP, Sir. You are gone from our lives but will always be in our hearts."

By Lorna Farqueharson

Then There Was ZOOM (Present COVID)

Facebook and live streaming came to the rescue of our Sunday morning services. Then there was ZOOM. In April, the Lord made sure we got together during the week by ZOOM--Young Adult Bible Studies, Adult Bible Studies, Teen Bible Studies, Children's Church and Breaking of Bread service; in May, the Ladies Breakfast with our own Dr. Atasha Jordan; and in June, Middle School Bible Studies. During this time, new members were welcomed--Opera Tolbert, Larry and Cindy Watson. Isn't the Lord good!

Call to prayer was by ZOOM and phone and continues to be on Saturdays.

Finally, June 7 came with a soft opening for live church attendance at 30% capacity (meaning 20 in attendance). On June 28, GCA honored the class of 2020 graduates: Marcus Frasier from Hill-Freedman World Academy High School, Vedette Hamilton with a master's degree from Walden University and Ezra Walton from Abington Senior High School. "Dare to Be Different" VBS functioned on the Mission House lawn in July with 24 attending.

During this time, to our sorrow but to the Lord's delight, some precious people passed on: Bro. Ned Lawson, Sis. Dorothy Baxter, Sis. Beatrice Ruffin, Sis. Verna McKenzie, Sis. Estella McKie and Sis. Sadie's husband, Donald Freeman.

We're up to September with Marriage Night, Watoto Children's Concert and Community Connections making a comeback by various methods. Sunday services are up to 80 in attendance--6 feet apart; soon "overflow" will be downstairs.

Continues on page 6.