



## INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

By Nicolas Grant

Within weeks of preaching my first message at GCA, I received a call from the principal of the high school I graduated from, International Christian High School (ICHS). Word had gotten back to him that I had spoken at GCA and he was now inviting me to give a word to the ICHS students during chapel service.

I won't deny it, my internal response was 100% "NO", because I was fearful and still felt inexperienced (after all I had only given 1 sermon ever). I didn't feel qualified to do what he was asking. So, I replied, *"Well I have only spoken in that capacity one time"* and then he replied, *"That's fine, one time is all you need to do it again."* I got a good laugh, but somehow that put me at ease. In those brief seconds God had reminded me that I don't need to worry so much and that He would be right there with me. As the principal, Mr. Brittin, and I continued to talk, I realized this random phone call wasn't just a coincidence; it was a response to some of the youth items my wife and I had been praying about. Mr. Brittin shared that a major desire of the school administration was that ICHS students without a "home church" be able to connect with a local church and youth group that could become their own. As an ICHS alumni, they hoped that I might be able to make a connection.

On December 16th I gave a message to 150 students titled, "Being A Superhero for God." Using superheroes like Spider-Man, Iron Man, and Batman, I discussed the available resources that

made each character special and how God has given us all access to resources to help us grow and live lives beyond our expectations. Because of the topic, the students were extremely vocal at times and very engaged. It was a lively environment.

After I shared the Word, I did a brief presentation on the GCA teen ministry and invited them to Bible study and future events. I must say, I was blown away by the response as several students expressed interest and made sure they gave Rita and me their contact information, while others joined our social media page. ICHS has been very excited over the response and even the parents association has gotten involved to make sure students are able to stay after school and safely get transported to Bible study at GCA. This is key as most student families do not have transportation.

Our teen Bible studies began on January 31st and included a shuttle from ICHS to GCA. We are also hosting a dodgeball tournament at ICHS at 6 p.m. on Friday, February 18th with teens from ICHS, GCA, and others we are inviting from the area who would like to join us.

ICHS has shared there are other needs such as mentors who could visit the school once a week to help disciple new Christians. They also need people available to do activities with students after school (such as chess, knitting, wood works, etc.). A significant portion of the students are unsaved and ICHS uses these relationships to share the Gospel and strengthen their faith in God. Many students are not eager to go home after school, so having other options keeps them in a positive environment during unsupervised hours.

Things have been moving at a fast pace so my wife and I, as well as our youth team covet your prayers as we look for wisdom in growing this ministry. If you are willing to get involved, please contact Rita Grant. ✧

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# GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

By Sharon Small and Juanita Washington

Germantown Christian Assembly has had another spiritually filled and successful Community Connections season. We started on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 with a barbeque fellowship on the lawn at the Mission House. The highlight of the evening was not just the grilled burgers and hotdogs but also a dessert truck that provided everyone with ice cream cones or sheared ice with five different fruit flavored syrups of your choice.

The program continued for twelve weeks. Each Tuesday at 5:15 p.m. a full dinner was ready to be served until 6:30 p.m. Thanks to our skillful and dedicated culinary volunteers who took the time off from work or other busy schedules to prepare such delicious meals for everyone to enjoy. We are blessed to have a church filled with culinary specialists.

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## Bringing the Gospel to Philly Youth

By Rita Grant

During the summer of 2021, we had the privilege of taking 21 children and teens to Word of Life Camp in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. While there, we were able to meet and network with other youth leaders and the Word of Life staff. As the week went on, we were excited to hear about what other groups were doing in their local areas to

spread the Gospel to their youth. Whenever we asked whether these events were available in the Philadelphia area, the answer was always no. My heart was burdened as I thought about all the pain that Philly youth are dealing with. It felt unfair that these resources and activities weren't available to them.

*Continues on page 3.*

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.



Another New Beginnings class started on January 19th. This class is designed for those desiring to become members of GCA, and for those interested in exploring what GCA believes in more detail.



The evening of Prayer and Praise was rescheduled from January 11 to March 1.

The Younger Generation Sunday was rescheduled from January 23 to March 6.

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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The Kid's Club began at 6:00 p.m. with activities including games, arts and crafts, cooking lessons and of course, a Bible lesson. These activities were led by Sis. Cressia Souza and a team of volunteers.

The ESL program continues to grow. There are seven teachers and two helpers. The classes are now reaching nationals from nine countries: Columbia, Peru, Brazil, Honduras, Japan, Haiti, Guatemala, Mozambique, and Uruguay.

Pastor George Peters led a class in the sanctuary at 6:45 p.m. for in-person and ZOOM participation. Pastor Brian Grant and Dr. Raphael Thomas held their classes at 7 p.m. by ZOOM. The women held their class at 8 p.m. by ZOOM on Wednesdays.

I believe all who participated looked forward to each week. We are looking forward to the spring session which will begin in mid-March. ✧



By Dave Dale

On the first Thursday in January of 2021, six men came together on ZOOM. The men were Terry, Nick, Mel, Floyd, Richard, and Dave.

Our mission statement is, "I am my brother's keeper", and our key verse is Proverbs 18:24, "A man who has friends must himself be friendly."

We formed a great friendship as the Word challenged us to live for Christ, and we challenged one another to be men of God. We also prayed and encouraged each other on the phone during the week. Because we enjoyed such a great fellowship, we would like all the men of the church to be a part of a small group ministry. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Dale. ✧

### Have You Memorized This Verse?

As part of the sermon, *Blessings of Our Anointing, Part 2*, on January 16, Pastor Brian challenged us about having the verse I Corinthians 10:13 memorized.

**"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."**

If we don't already have it memorized, he suggested we get it memorized. Have you? Just a reminder to take advantage of the divine resilience (I Sam. 30:1-6) God has provided! ✧



(Information gleaned from Pastor Grant's Weekly Updates)

### CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION (December 19):

The day started with Breaking of Bread at 9 AM and ended with a 12:30 PM brunch. The 10 AM service featured an 8-item mini concert, followed by a special Christmas message. About 100 attended the brunch. Excitement was high as many were attending their first cooked meal at GCA since COVID-19 began. Delicious food, speedy service, and delightful fellowship were the perfect capstone to a great day of worship and fellowship. Special thanks to the directors and members of the Voices of Praise, the Male Chorus, the Kids Club Ensemble, the praise team, as well as the director and team members of the Special Events committee and the kitchen staff.

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** This special musical celebration included the Kids Club singers, vocal and instrumental duets, and a special ensemble. Carols by Candlelight followed Pastor Brian's short Christmas story.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE:** GCA welcomed the new year with a very special New Year's Eve (Watchnight) Service planned by the young adults. It was a great night of music, testimonies, and ministry from the Word, and included a dramatic new year's countdown. We extend our appreciation to the young adults for the effort that was put into planning and executing this very special program. ✧





## For Your Health

By Margaret Aitcheson

MAKING HEALTHY CHOICES THIS YEAR

This year we can make healthy choices which can become lifelong habits that can impact our lives for good. Some of these are:

**Exercising at least 30 minutes a day** by running, walking, dancing or going to the gym. Spend some time outdoors. Incorporate weight or resistance training which will strengthen the muscles and increase bone density preventing osteoporosis.

**Eat healthy foods** with nutrients which contribute to good health such as a variety of vegetables and fruits, lean meats and fish, nuts, peas and beans and whole grains. Watch portion size and decrease fat, salt and sugar intake to minimize incidents of diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease and strokes.

**Drink about 2 liters of water daily** unless prevented by health issues. Sleep at least 7-8 hours daily.

**Get checkups** as directed by your doctor, dentist and eye doctor to discover any hidden health issues.

**Develop healthy relationships** which will improve mental and emotional health. Spend quality time with family and loved ones.

**Take care of excess stress and chronic stress** which can lead to difficulty sleeping, depression and life-threatening diseases. Find healthy ways to relax. Talk about your stress issues with trusted friends, counselors, or your doctor.

**Stimulate your mind** by reading books, doing puzzles and learning new things.

**Meditate daily on the Scriptures, pray, express gratitude to God and others. Listen to relaxing music.**

These are some surefire ways to take care of ourselves—our temples—to bring honor to God. ✧

## Book Launch and Signing

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The purpose of the book is to ignite a fresh passion in the hearts of believers to be actively engaged in making disciples. The book provides a detailed exposition of the Great Commission as well as practical insights to participate in its fulfillment. Already the book is in the hands of people in territories where we have not been, including Pakistan! Our prayer is that this book will

reach the ends of the earth and lives will be transformed for the glory of God.

To date, all sales from the book have gone directly to Missions. If you have not yet purchased your copy, it's not too late. Copies (paperback, hardcover or Kindle) are available on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, West Bow Press and the CLC Bookstore (PA). ✧

## Bringing the Gospel to Philly Youth

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Towards the end of camp, I had the opportunity to speak with the teen camp director of Word of Life Island and inquired about the camp's marketing efforts for Philly youth. Admittedly, he said because of their reputation they haven't needed to focus on marketing but agreed they could do better at reaching areas that were unaware of their ministry. At that moment, I felt like I could hear God speaking to me, *Rita, you can be a part of the solution. Let Me use you.* On the spot, I offered my help. In sharing this with Nick, he was instantly on board! We were overwhelmed because we felt the Lord giving us an expanded vision that could impact many Philadelphia youth. Even better, when we shared the vision with our team, they were also on board and as excited as we were!

The enemy has been trying to throw us off with Hurricane Ida and Omicron, but when God has a plan, nothing can get in the way. Several weeks later, I followed up with the camp director; he had much more in store than we ever imagined. The Word of Life staff along with 2 other Christian

organizations are coming to Philly to provide a full weekend of fun while bringing the Gospel to our Philly youth! They will sponsor and lead the events; we just need to help coordinate and bring the teens. The ultimate goal is to win souls for Christ. The Gospel will be presented at each event and all Philly teens are welcome! We're hoping for a big crowd. The first event will be an in-person video gaming tournament at GCA on Friday, March 25th. The gaming tournament will be in partnership with 7 Admirals. The second event will be a 3v3 (teams of 3) basketball tournament in partnership with 12th Rock (a New York-based Christian partner with Word of Life, who puts on these events) on Saturday, March 26th. Please keep us in prayer as our team finalizes the details. We could use some help with marketing, food service, van and bus drivers, and other administrative tasks to make these events a success. If you're willing to make yourself available, please contact Rita Grant.

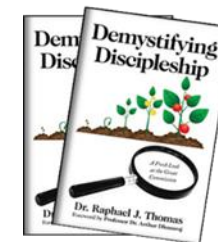
As the Lord continues to open more doors, we are stepping out on faith as we can tell this is only the beginning. ✧

## Book Launch and Signing

By Velda Thomas

We praise God for a successful launch of the book *Demystifying Discipleship*, by Dr. Raphael Thomas. Our special guest speaker, Dr. Samuel Vassel, a gifted and dynamic minister of God's word, joined us from New York for this special occasion. A big thank you to the leaders and members of GCA and all those who were present at the launch on December 11.

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# GOGF Unity Conference

By Jim McConnell

This past October, GCA was privileged to host the 60th Anniversary Grand Old Gospel Fellowship (GOGF) Unity Conference.

GOGF, under the leadership of its president, Dr. Tony Hart, is the parent organization of Brethren Assemblies that are the outgrowth of the evangelistic and church planting ministry of the late Dr. B. Sam Hart, founder of the Grand Old Gospel Fellowship of which GCA was an early part.

The conference was well attended: the sanctuary was filled as it had not been since the arrival of COVID-19. It was good to greet so many old friends.

The keynote speaker at this year's conference was the well-known pastor, author, radio and TV preacher, Dr. Tony Evans of Dallas, Texas. Dr. Evans opened the Word to give a stirring and encouraging message that added enthusiasm to the conference. The conferees also enjoyed a beautiful music program put on by our own GCA Praise Team and by the Corley Sisters, a group of gospel singers from different local churches.



At mid-day, we enjoyed a fabulous luncheon put together by our own Brother Dave Johnson and his kitchen team, and served by the willing hands of GCA, Montco Bible Fellowship and others.

Later in the program, we heard a timely and encouraging message from Dr. Tony Hart around the text, *"If the Son shall therefore make you free, you shall be free indeed."* (John 8:36)

It was good to have Dr. Tony Evans, a longtime friend of GCA and GOGF, with us again, in spite of his health challenges and recent bereavements. All-in-all, it was a great and rewarding conference. ✧

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, October 10, we gave the right hand of fellowship to those who became members in 2020 and 2021.

**2020 Members:** Opera Talbot, Cinderella (Cindy) Watson, Lawrence (Larry) Watson, Raphael Thomas, Velda Thomas, Timothy Thomas, Nathanael Thomas

**2021 Members:** Lyndel McKenies, Valeria McKenies, Debbie-Ann McKenies, Adriana Rauch, Valerie Mingo, and a special welcome back to Kathy Hart and Richard Orth. ✧

