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The Vanishing American Adult

Meet the Gen Zs

Continued from page 4.

Here are some practical ways in which we can engage the Gen Zs.

- Get them involved in Christian camp ministries.
- Consider mentoring a Gen Z. They need relationships.
- Instead of **trying to tell them what to do**, sometimes **try learning from them**. They have a lot they could teach us.
- Encourage them to reach their generation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They know how to make things "go viral"!!
- Pray, pray and pray that this generation will spark a revival that will impact the ends of the earth. ✨



Puzzle!

Solve this cryptogram puzzle, using the clues R=I and M=T, to complete Psalm 111:10, NIV.

M Y L C L O Q Z C M Y L

P Z Q N R V M Y L

H L D R F F R F D Z C G R V N Z U ;

O P P G Y Z C Z P P Z G

Y R V B Q L T L B M V

Y O K L D Z Z N

J F N L Q V M O F N R F D

M Z Y R U H L P Z F D V

L M L Q F O P B Q O R V L

PSALM 111:10, NIV

Answers to this puzzle will be in the next issue of GCA Reflections.


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GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly




The Vanishing American Adult

Meet the Gen Zs

By Velda Thomas

On Saturday, March 26, we gathered for an engaging presentation on "Generation Z" also called the "Gen Zs" given by Word of Life Youth Campus Director, Pastor Tommy Sewall.



Pastor Tommy Sewall
Guest Speaker at GCA on Sunday, March 27, 2022

For those of us who might not be familiar with the term, this is the name given to the generation that was born between 1995 and 2012. Other generations might be referred to as Millennials, Baby Boomers, Generation X, etc. The Gen Z generation is sometimes called the "Digital Natives" or "Screenagers" or the "Google it" generation.

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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.

The Vanishing American Adult

Meet the Gen Zs

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Bro. Tommy gave us some enlightening statistics about the Gen Zs. He mentioned that:

- They are the **largest generation to date**, with approximately 69-70 million children and teens.
- They are the most **racially and ethnically diverse** generation in American history; about half the number are from communities of color.
- They are motivated by **financial security**.
- One in every four have had **suicidal thoughts**.
- An estimated 34% of this generation consider themselves religious "Nones"; that is, they have **no interest or connection with religion**.
- Gen Z is one of the **loneliest** generations.



As we reflect on the facts presented about Gen Z, it might seem frightening or even depressing. However, it can also be an exciting time for the church as we contemplate reaching this generation for God. As Bro. Tommy reminds us, "the darker the night, the brighter the light."

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NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, April 24, Maya Lawson, Geanna Frasier and Leroy Williams were baptized and welcomed into the fellowship. In addition, the Right Hand of Fellowship was extended to Sandra Elam, Chet and Mariane Carter. We welcome them to the GCA family. ✧



L to R (Does not include the baptism photos.): Leroy Williams, Mariane and Chet Carter, Sandra Elam, Gianna Fraiser and Maya Lawson.

A Testimony of Obedience and Encouragement

Continued from page 5.

Since then, members of the CGA church family and I continued to communicate, pray and encourage her for the safe return of her granddaughter. After a period of time, unexpectedly, I received a call from Rosa that Genesis was found and returned safely home. Praise the Lord! The following Sunday, Rosa and Genesis attended church service and met Pastor Brian. Since then, both of them have been to services several times and attended the church picnic with her sons and other granddaughters, which they all enjoyed. Genesis has returned to working and school and is looking forward to graduation.

PTL. Rosa is a believer in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Although she attends another believing church, a Puerto Rican congregation, she enjoys this fellowship at GCA. I thank God for making me obedient to the urgency of the Holy Spirit to reach out to someone that needed help! ✧



For Your Health
By Margaret Aitcheson

CARE OF OUR EYES

Our eyes are very valuable to us, so we must take good care of them. These actions will benefit them greatly:

- Eat a balanced diet with a variety of fruits, different colored vegetables, and fish high in Omega-3 fatty acids; all of which will provide the required vitamins and minerals for good eye health.
- Protect the eyes using sunglasses that block the exposure to ultraviolet rays from the sunlight. Ultraviolet light poses the risk of causing the development of cataracts, macular degeneration and inflammation of the cornea.
- Do regular exercises to help prevent conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol which may lead to chronic eye problems that can damage the vision.
- Be careful with digital devices such as cell phones, tablets and computers which emit high energy blue light that can damage the eyes over time. Keep the screens about 20-24 inches from your eyes, take a break to look away from the screen every 20 minutes and blink often. If there is persistent eye strain, speak to the doctor about the use of computer glasses.
- Wash your hands before touching your eyes.
- Remove contacts before showering, swimming, or washing the face, as they can absorb water and introduce infection into the eyes.
- Wear eye protection during tasks that could damage the eyes.
- Quit smoking. Smoking can damage the blood vessels of the eyes.
- Get a thorough eye exam at least every two years to detect any disease process that may be developing.

The eyes are vital for our everyday tasks! Treat them well. ✧



By Mary Coleman

On Saturday, March 26, Sisters Ekua Budu, Shirley Laury and Helen Curbison and Pastor Brian Grant visited the Germantown Nursing Home in Philadelphia to celebrate Sister Virginia Blackshear's 95th birthday. They also paid a visit to see Sisters Estelle Johnson and Melba Russell at the same facility.

Sister Blackshear was greeted with gifts from the Golden Eagles and a lovely bouquet of flowers from GCA. ✧

Happy Birthday!



L to R: Pastor Brian Grant, Sis. Ekua Budu, **Sis. Virginia Blackshear**, Sis. Shirley Laury, Sis. Helen Curbison and a relative of Sis. Blackshear.



At the Sunday, February 20th business meeting, GCA confirmed 2 more leaders: Brother Kirk Wheeler as a deacon and Brother Raphael Thomas as an elder.

It was reported that the Mission House kitchen upgrade is looking great. Do take a look. The Mission House basement is being worked on too. Three bathrooms are yet to be renovated.

It was noted that the Lord provided more than sufficient funds for GCA through 2021 by the giving of the saints. They gave more compared to the previous years. Carlton Henry, the treasurer, also reported that 2021 was one of our best years regarding the Lord's provision. The saints have been faithful in their monthly giving. Due to the pandemic, the federal government had a plan to help small businesses and organizations. We applied and received \$36,000 as a loan, which was eventually forgiven and converted to a gift. This was not anticipated, but we readily accepted it. Based on the same government program, we were able to receive another \$22,500 gift (Payroll Protection Plan) for a total of \$58,500. Praise the Lord!!!

More projects for 2022 include repairing the driveway at the exit; HVAC upgrade (the old system is antiquated and has been in service since the building was built); and a new church van (our present one is 20 years old and a bit unsafe). The van is critical for the increased youth activity. ✧

The Vanishing American Adult Meet the Gen Zs

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We could be headed for revival! Let's re-examine the facts and see how they can be opportunities for ministry.

- With 34% being religious "Nones," this is a huge mission field. It was mentioned that one million of these youths are turning away from the church every year. How we engage this generation **will** make a difference.
- The Gen Zs are great **influencers**; they could reach an audience of millions through their digital expertise and their use of social media platforms. If we can impact a group of Gen Zs for God, this could be the start of revival as the Gen Z takes the gospel to their fellow Gen Z.
- This generation has shown that for the things they care deeply about, they can make a difference. They are a **global** generation.
- To them, right now the concept of "absolute truth" is offensive; but eventually they will have a **craving** for truth.

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Germantown Christian Assembly Invites you to ...

GCA's 49th
Anniversary Celebration
SUNDAY, JUNE 12TH

9:00 a.m. Breaking of Bread Service
10:00 a.m. 49th Anniversary Worship Service



Special Guest Speaker
Pastor Albert Morgan

CONSECRATION
of GCA's Recently
Confirmed Leaders

Mission House
Renaming Ceremony



Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall
following the Mission House renaming ceremony.

★ Praise Evening ★

The evening of Tuesday, March 1st was a service of Prayer and Praise. The following are testimonies shared by two saints:

A Testimony

By Eulalee Spence

In 2019, right after the pandemic started, I was on my usual morning walk when I noticed a gentleman sitting on a bench on Ogontz Avenue. After a few mornings, I noticed he was wearing the same clothes and he had a backpack. I figured he had fallen on hard times, so I started giving him a small monetary gift ever so often. One morning I placed one of those gifts into one of the tracts that I had gotten from the Evangelism Explosion seminar.

Just before Christmas of 2021, I noticed he was no longer there so I thought he might have moved to a new location. A few months later I was

on my usual walk, but that morning I decided to walk a little further past my usual turn off point. As I walked a couple of steps, I heard someone say "Hi!" I turned and saw this gentleman and he said "I am the homeless man that was sitting on the bench on Ogontz Avenue. I found a place to live and I am okay now and I want to say thank you and I still have the Bible that you gave me." He pulled out the tract that I had given to him more than six months ago from his pocket.

This experience reminds me of a quote from *Our Daily Bread* author Alyson Kieda, "We don't need a formula to lead others to Jesus. What matters most is love for God that compels and shines through us as we live and share His love." ✨

A Testimony of Obedience and Encouragement

By Norma Reid

Since I have been taking classes with Dr. Raphael Thomas, I am more encouraged and eager to reach the lost for Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the world." Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

I used to be shy, but the new me the Holy Spirit now boldly uses for His purposes. In 2020, I went on a neighborhood app that informs our community of daily needs. I noticed that one of the neighbors placed a picture of her missing granddaughter and shared the need for prayer for her safe return.

Immediately I sent a note of encouragement, but also sensed an urgency to contact the person directly. I got information about her granddaughter, named Genesis (which reminded me of the first book of the Bible). I began praying and added her name to the ZOOM prayer group. I also invited Rosa, the grandmother, to both our prayer groups and church services at GCA. I was very excited when Rosa attended. She responded that she wanted to be among our church family, that she enjoyed the fellowship immensely and was encouraged.

Continues on page 7.

FREE

REGISTER ONLINE AT
www.gcafamilychurch.org

MONUMENTAL
CELEBRATING GOD'S GREATNESS

2022 VBS DAY CAMP
Mon. to Fri., June 27-July 1

<p>VBS DAY CAMP Kids Entering 1st thru 7th Grade 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.</p>	<p>VBS PRESCHOOL PROGRAM Ages 4-5 years old 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon</p>
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CHOICE OF 2 ACTIVITIES:
★ Arts & Crafts
★ Baking Class
★ Chess Club
★ Flag Football

First come, first served!