

Young Adult Ministry (YAM) Sponsored

TALENT SHOW

Come show us your talent!

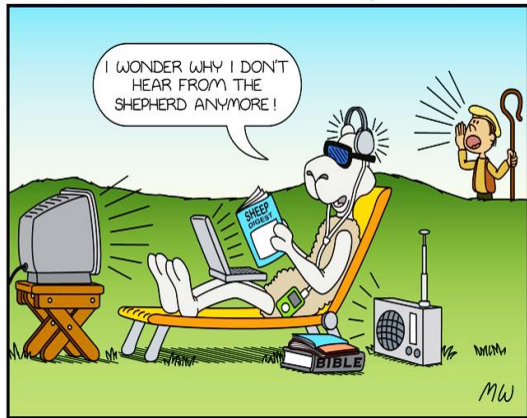
At
Germantown Christian Assembly

7 p.m. Friday, May 31st
in the Fellowship Hall

Sign up at the Information Desk!

SHEPHERD'S VOICE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
- JOHN 10:27 NIV

Puzzle!

Jesus instructs us to give and serve. What does Proverbs 3:27 (NIV) tell us *not* to do? To find out, cross out all the following letters. Then write the remaining letters in order on the spaces below.

B J K Q X Z

BWJITJHQHOB LZDGBOOK
DKFQROMTBHJOB SQEXZT
OKXWJHOBMIZTIJSDQKU
EWXBHEQNITKISIZNYOU
RPJZOWBEQRTOAXCZTXJ

DO NOT _____

PROVERBS 3:27, NIV

Answers to our last puzzle:

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow His precepts have good understanding. To Him belongs eternal praise."

Psalm 111:10 (NIV)

April 2024
Volume 11, Issue 1

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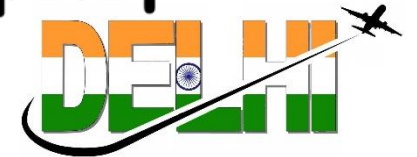
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GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Germantown Christian Assembly

INDIA Missions Trip 2024

By Sherryl Grant



Upon our arrival in Delhi by plane, we could not see anything through the windows of the aircraft due to the intense fog, and only when we felt the plane hit the runway did we know that we had arrived safely. We gave great credit to the pilot and thanked the Lord for His mercy.

Our host, Pastor Sampath, greeted us warmly and loaded our luggage into the hired vehicles. It was a quick turnaround, as we were scheduled to go to our first meeting that evening and our "body clocks" had not had a chance to catch up, but we made it, arriving at the YMCA where the event was to be held. Because of the persecution factor, we labeled our meeting as a "financial conference", which brought Christians from nearby areas as well, and carefully incorporated the gospel in the presentation. God was honored and blessed our efforts with a great response. One of the pastors that served as interpreter that night had previously been jailed, but he was undeterred, and did a wonderful job interpreting as passionately as our pastor was speaking.



The city of Delhi is home to more than 33 million people, and as a result is a very crowded place with an unending stream of people everywhere. India has now surpassed China with its population and is now the most populated country in the world.
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.

INDIA Missions Trip 2024

Arrival - Delhi

Continued from page 1.

It certainly was a cultural shock for the four of us. Because of the amount of people, cars, rickshaws, an unending river of motorcycles, and the lack of emission controls, as well as other factors, the air quality is extremely bad; there is a thick fog-like haze in the air at all times, even after it rains. It affects many people who live there, although they have gotten used to it, and there is an increasing number of cancer patients and lung related issues. We tried our best but were affected to some extent by it as well.

From there, we made our way to Mysore where we met our sister Helen Peters; her daughter Sonita, husband John and one of their sons, who is autistic and has special needs. They now run the orphanage and school, a ministry for children with special needs in Mysore, that Helen and her husband Ben started many years ago. She was in good health and is praising God for His goodness to her for her 80 years this March. We had an enjoyable afternoon with them all, and she was excited that we were now visiting her in her country. ✧



GCA couples from left to right:

Dr. Elijah & Truphena Korich

Pastor George & Ruth Peters

Pastor Brian & Sherryl Grant

The couple at the bottom of the photo is Sampath and Corrie who organized our stay and meeting in Delhi.

Cochin Ministry Report

By Ruth Peters



Left to Right: Rejoy and Mini, the couple who organized our conference in Cochin, Sherryl and Pastor Brian Grant, Dr. Elijah and Truphena Korich, Ruth and Pastor George Peters.



After the ministry at the Christian school in Bangalore, we flew to Cochin, a city in the state of Kerala in the southwest of India. Kerala is a coastal state by the Arabian sea. Kerala has had Christianity for a long time. According to Indian Church history, the Apostle Thomas, one of the twelve, visited Kerala in the first century. Kerala is known for its good coconuts, tea, spices, and coffee. It is rich in agriculture and has a higher percentage of literacy than any other state in India.

We were able to reconnect with Rejoy and Mini, our longtime friends and ministry associates from our years of ministry in India. Rejoy and Mini helped us organize a 2-day conference in their Bible school venue which is a beautiful property with lots of nutmeg trees and other fruit trees and of course the tall coconut trees! About 75 young men had come from different parts of south India. Several of them serve in various ministries in India. Many were pastors, Bible school students, and lay leaders. Our three elders had two sessions each for the 2-day conference in Cochin. It was a fruitful time of ministry of God's Word. All who attended the conference were blessed by the Lord. Most of them recommitted their

lives to serve the Lord passionately in the ministry.

Our stay was near the Arabian beach! It is a beautiful place as we all enjoyed the sea breeze. We visited old Jew town where the Jews lived in the past, and we did some shopping and visited the old synagogue which was rebuilt in the 15th century. We also enjoyed the Kerala cuisine very much! The special attraction was the 'dancing tea' that was served in a tall clear glass cup in a restaurant! When we shook the teacup, the dark tea concoction in the bottom of the cup danced while the milk froth stayed unmoved! This was fun to watch as we savored the great tasting Kerala tea! We had many laughs, and enjoyed a true spirit of unity as we enjoyed each other's company and served Jesus together.

We thank GCA for praying for us during our mission in India. Despite all the opposition and restrictions, we were able to share with people about Jesus in the subcontinent of India. We felt your prayers covering us as we went from place to place. The Lord kept us safe, protected, and provided and gave us health and strength to come back home well and safe. All praise to our Lord and God Jesus Christ! ✧



Effectively Managing Stress, Part 1

By Margaret Aitcheson

Stress is the body's response to a demand or pressure triggered by challenging situations. Many different circumstances and life events can cause stress, especially when you are experiencing something that threatens you or you feel you have no control over it. Stress is a natural human response and must be addressed. Common stressors include work pressures, financial concerns, relationship issues, health challenges and major life changes. Everyone at some time or another will face a stressful event.

Here are five strategies that can help you successfully manage stress in your life:

1. Ask God the Almighty to Help You

God has promised to be a present help in troubling times. He will help you; He will be your healer. A good scripture to keep in mind is Isaiah 41:10 [NKJV], "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." Maintain constant contact with the Lord and talk to Him daily about your struggles. He has promised to help when you keep a close relationship with Him (John 15:7).

2. Make Self-Care a Priority

Take action to maintain and improve your physical, mental and emotional well-being. Make sure you are getting sufficient sleep, exercise and a balanced, nutritious diet. Nurture your relationships with family and friends. Social support is vital to emotional health.

3. Manage Your Time Well

Organize your tasks, set realistic goals and break them into manageable steps. Schedule time for



spiritual growth, recreation and personal enjoyment as well. This will allow you to recharge, rest and set priorities.

4. Improve your Communication Skills

Effective communication is crucial for managing stress and building strong relationships. Be open and clear about what concerns you. This will help to prevent misunderstandings. Be transparent, honest and empathetic, even when the topics are difficult. Pick the appropriate time to discuss important matters. Address conflicts calmly and constructively. Focus on finding solutions, not placing blame.

5. Maintain Boundaries

Be clear about your expectations and set limits on your time, energy and commitments to avoid being exhausted. Identify what you are comfortable with and what you are willing to do. It is okay to refuse additional work when you feel as if you are stretched thin. When possible, delegate responsibilities to others. You don't have to do everything on your own. These 5 strategies will go a long way in helping you to overcome stress. ✧

Bangalore Ministry

By Ruth Peters

We as a team from GCA had a very wonderful experience of God's guidance and protection on our trip to India. Bangalore is my hometown where I was born and brought up!

We arrived in Bangalore from New Delhi late at night on the 31st of January. Our stay was arranged at Bangalore Club which had a beautiful environment for us to walk around in 25 acres of beautiful property! We stayed in Bangalore for 5 nights. George Joseph, one of the many whom George baptized and spiritually mentored, was responsible for the ministry itinerary in Bangalore.

1st Feb. We were out to visit some notable places in the city of Bangalore, and we did a little shopping to get some beautiful silk from India. Later that evening we were invited to George's sisters' place for dinner where we had a home-cooked delicious meal with some tropical fruit.

2nd Feb. We drove about 150 km to Mysore city. In addition to meeting with one of GCA's missionaries, Sis. Helen Peters, we also saw a beautiful old palace in Mysore.

3rd Feb. We had a conference in Bangalore with about 175 men and women. They were students, young adults, married couples, church leaders, and pastors from around Bangalore city. It was indeed a very blessed and fruitful time. The conference was from 10 am to 4 pm. The theme was "Walking Worthy of the Gospel." The three Elders taught in 3 sessions, and later after lunch, we separated into two groups of men and women for group discussions. We had about 50 ladies for the women's group. Sherryl and Truphena shared words of encouragement with the women. We had very good feedback from many and the conference was a blessing to all.

4th Feb. On Sunday, the three Elders along with their wives went to three different churches to speak. George and I went to the Bethesda Assembly. George calls this church his second home church, where we had served for over 12 years. It was good to see many of them again and connect with the leaders. Many responded to the Word and several men and women responded to rededicate themselves to serve God's purpose in their lives.

Continues on page 5.

2024 Vacation Bible School

Monday to Friday, July 22-26

Join Us

SCUBA

Diving into friendship with God

COMING SOON!

<p>PRESCHOOL PROGRAM</p> <p>Ages 4-5</p> <p>9 AM to 1 PM</p>	<p>DAY CAMP</p> <p>Ages 6-12</p> <p>9 AM to 3 PM</p>
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Activities Include

- ★ Music
- ★ Day Camp Activities
- ★ Science Experiments
- ★ Games
- ★ Snacks
- ★ Hot Lunch
- ★ A Fun Time Exploring God's Word

Germanatown Christian Assembly
610 E. Mt. Pleasant Ave • Philadelphia, PA 19119 • Phone: (215) 242-5550



Melvin Floyd

Missionary to the Streets

By Velda Thomas

On February 25, 2024, GCA had the honor of highlighting one of our own heroes of the faith, Pastor Melvin Floyd, known as Missionary to the Streets, as we celebrated Black History Month. It was also special to have one of Pastor Floyd's daughters, Esther, present in the service and also his granddaughter, Charity Sawyer, as one of the presenters alongside Marcus Longmore.

Pastor Floyd was born in Philadelphia on February 20, 1935. He grew up in a small neighborhood in North Philly nicknamed "The Jungle." It was home to the 12th and Oxford Street gang; one of the largest and fiercest black youth gangs in the history of Philadelphia. Melvin Floyd joined this gang when he was 11. However, God had greater plans for young Melvin. He met God one afternoon as he listened to a man who made him memorize and recite John 3:16:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Since that encounter, Melvin's life was never the same. He joined the church, began working and later got married to Miss Elizabeth Anderson. They had 3 daughters: Mary, Ruth and Esther.

God used Melvin, who had become a Police Officer and a Christian, to connect with past gang members. It is interesting how God uses our past experiences to help those who are going through similar situations. God knew, before time, that this gang member would become a minister to gangs.

A few years later, Pastor Floyd was obedient to the call to full-time ministry. His ministry was a unique one as his approach to bringing the gospel to the streets was his well-known van topped with a white coffin.



Pastor Melvin Floyd



It was the centerpiece of Pastor Floyd's over 400 street meetings resulting in more than 18,000 decisions for Christ. Under Neighborhood Crusades, he was also instrumental in founding the Mel Floyd School of Evangelism and offered Marriage and Family Seminars. Oh, what God can do through one person who is obedient to His call!

Pastor Floyd was later recognized locally, nationally, and internationally. He received over 100 awards and honors from honorary degrees to knighthood from the Queen of England. But one of his final awards was received right here at GCA when Dr. Tony Hart presented Melvin Floyd with the B. Sam Hart Pioneering Award.

We give God thanks for the life and work of this great man of God, and we pray that many more will answer the call to reach their neighborhood for Jesus Christ. ✨



GCA Membership: June 2021 approx.

In the winter of 1975, while attending Germantown High School, the Lord used Robin and Lisa, my schoolmates, to continuously invite me to their church. They both said something weird: "We have fun at church!" I did not see the church as a place to have fun. I thought quite the opposite. Every time they extended an invitation, I would try to appease them by saying, "I will come," but I would never commit.

When God drew me, my mother was a single parent of 3 teenagers, sometimes working two jobs to support the family. In my adolescent years, I was sickly. During the winter of 1975, I became very sick. All of a sudden, my body was seized by continuous pain. My mom was frightened and frustrated. Going back and forth to the emergency room was beginning to take its toll on her. While waiting for a bus in the evening to take me back to the emergency room, I remember she said, "Valerie, the boys and I may have to get along without you." After she said that, I remember looking up into the dark sky and saying, "God help me." One day, while at home in pain, I said to God, "If you will take away the pain, I will go to church." Going to church for me meant attending the Catholic Church two blocks from where I lived. When

I awoke the next day, my body was pain-free. I heard His voice say, "You said if I take away the pain, you will go to church." I immediately got dressed for church and, at the same time, answered all my mother's questions.

Things got strange as I was walking to church. I walked past the Catholic Church to the end of the next block. I crossed a street and went under a bridge; as I cleared the bridge, I saw a church at the top of a steep hill. I said to myself, "I'm going to that church." After entering the church, imagine my surprise when I saw Robin and Lisa sitting in the pews. God had guided me to the church they had been inviting me to. After hearing the Word of God, I wanted to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior, but a part of me was resisting. God had to help me yet again; He said gently, get up, put your head down, rush to the altar, and get on your knees. I did just that, and I gave my life to the Lord.

At the Mount Vernon Baptist Church, I learned that if you want to know God, you must pray, read His Word, and obey. When I went home and attempted to pray, I said, "God, I never knew my father, but if you would be my father, I would truly appreciate it." Oh, silly me, He was already my Father before I prayed that prayer. An awesome Father is He! As I write this testimony, I hear the song "He's Been Faithful" by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir. **He also saved my whole household; my brothers and my mother!** God is faithful. ✨



Brief Reflection

By Dr. Elijah Korich

“Did He or Did He Not?” Did Jesus promise to be with His disciples to the end of the age? We cannot pretend that there were no moments of scare, fear, doubt, and anxiety. We cannot act as if we are superhuman. Even before we embarked on the trip to India, there were times of anxiety and moments of doubt and fear. But the Lord overpowered our anxieties and helped us to **exchange fear for Faith and doubt for Trust**. Even family and friends were open about their feelings and some of us could see it on their faces. But all this worked to galvanize an army of prayer warriors, for which we are extremely thankful.

Chennai is about an hour's flight from Bangalore. Chennai's population is estimated to be 12 million in 2024, up from 11.78 million in 2023. We were in Chennai for three intensive days of ministry and were blessed and ministered to. We ministered to a group of wonderful saints who gathered several times each day during our time in Chennai. We met at the home of a young servant of God named Moses and his family who had planted the Church in their hometown in Chennai. We met downstairs for meetings and fellowship and upstairs for meals. Moses and his family lived on the second level. We remember the delicious meals on fresh green banana leaves. I personally experienced it as if he gave special attention to me as he made sure I enjoyed the rice on the banana leaves. This was the experience of their hospitality to each of us.



In the conference, we had three sessions each day. It was here, on Saturday, that God showed up with a "ram in the bush!" This is a miracle the two couples will not forget. We had an extremely busy day. After three sessions, we traveled a good distance to the Bay of Bengal and returned very tired. On our last night, we decided to take a break from the spicy food and our American appetite for pizza got the best of us! Time came to pay for our meal. Neither of the two elders had any Indian *rupees*. The place would not accept any of our credit cards. We made every effort to get in touch with our host couple, Brother George and Sister Ruth, but to no avail. We had even thought the unimaginable--that one of the elders would go to an ATM in the night with strangers whose language we could not understand. There was only one option: we would start cleaning the floors and wash the dishes. Out of nowhere, a young man walked in with his girlfriend. He overheard the trauma of distressed Americans who were ready to wash dishes. He said, "Let me pay for them and I will take dollars." We realized the Lord had sent an angel to rescue us. We would have been locked up abroad! The Lord never abandons His own. Praise the Lord! Lesson learned — when you go on a mission next time, stay with your host family. It was when we separated from Brother George and Sister Ruth that we got into trouble. ✧

Bangalore Ministry

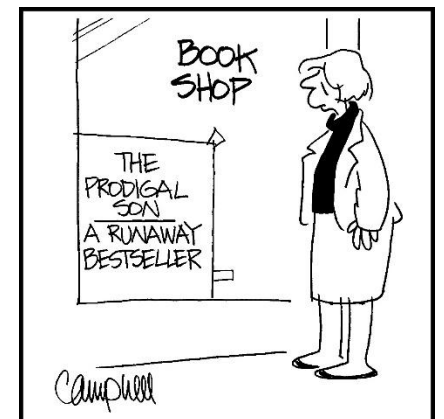
Continued from page 3.



This photo is taken in Bangalore with Pastor George Peter's sisters, Leela and Mavis, and also, the couple George Joseph and Shuba who organized our conference in Bangalore.

Bro. Brian and Sherryl went to Living Hope Community church and they had a very profitable ministry of the Word there. The church responded very positively to God's Word with extended time of questions and discussion after the service. Bro. Korich and Truphena went to minister at Abundant Life Brethren Assembly. They too had a very positive response to the Word and they were honored by the leaders of the church with garland and turban!

5th Feb. The Elders had a wonderful opportunity and privilege to visit and share the gospel at the Clarence High School in Bangalore. This very well respected private Christian school with over 2,500 students was started by the brethren missionaries about 110 years ago. The school is attended by many girls and boys from Hindu, Muslim and Christian backgrounds. Over 2,500 students gathered in the assembly hall and Brother Brian shared the gospel with them. It was one of the highlights of the ministries in Bangalore. It was a privilege to share Jesus in a school setting. The seed is sown, and our Lord Jesus is the one who brings about the fruit in the hearts of these children. After this, we left for the airport to go to Cochin, our next stop. ✧



Reflecting on CMHI's Growth and the Role of Faith in Mental Health

By Dr. Atasha Jordan, MD, MBA

The past two years have marked a significant period of growth for the Christian Mental Health Initiative (CMHI), a journey defined by our mission to spread mental health knowledge throughout the church. It is crucial to acknowledge the strides we've made, emphasize the vital role of mental health within the church, and express my gratitude for the support from Germantown Christian Assembly (GCA) toward our Mental Health First Aid research project.

CMHI was established with a vision to harmonize faith and mental health, creating a nurturing environment where these aspects coexist. Our efforts have concentrated on developing resources catering to faith communities' mental health needs and equipping church leaders with essential knowledge and tools. The Mental Health First Aid research project, aimed at equipping individuals to identify and respond to early signs of mental illness and substance use disorders, stands as a testament to our commitment.

Incorporating mental health awareness into the church's fabric ensures we cater to the holistic well-being of our community. Addressing mental health challenges from the pulpit and through church activities dismantles stigma, encourages open



dialogue and fosters a culture of support and understanding. It embodies Christ's teachings of compassion, emphasizing the church's role as a sanctuary for healing.

GCA's significant contribution to our Mental Health First Aid project has been pivotal, helping us move closer to our goal of fostering a knowledgeable and supportive community. I eagerly look forward to sharing the final publication with GCA members and further discussing mental health topics of importance to our members.

I recognize the breadth of mental health topics that touch our lives daily and am committed to exploring these areas further through this column in the GCA newsletter. I would like to invite you to contribute to this dialogue. If there are specific mental health issues you believe need addressing or are of particular interest, please reach out to me, Dr. Atasha Jordan, or our Editor, Pat Clark. Your input is crucial as we continue to tailor our content and programs to better serve you.

Thank you for being part of this vital journey. Let us continue to make strides in mental health awareness, united by our faith and dedication to our community's well-being. ✧



Scrapbooking Club

11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall at GCA
Every 4th Saturday
Beginning Saturday, April 27th

Missions Trip to India

By Truphena Korich

Our trip to India started at JFK. The flight was smooth. We arrived in Delhi early in the morning. We were met at the airport by a dear brother: Sampath, who had made all our transportation arrangements. We could not be more thankful for such a brother. We later met his lovely family Corrie and Tabitha. We fell in love with them. From there we went to the Hotel Bloom. I felt at home because of the people and the weather. It brought good memories. Going to the YMCA, later that evening, I rode a tuktuk, a three-wheeled hooded automobile. What an experience! I was slowly falling in love with India and its people! I even tried learning how to shake my head in agreement. It is a cultural thing.



A tuktuk rickshaw (taxi) in India.

From there we went to Bangalore, such a beautiful city and people. We were met again by more dear brothers and sisters. The highlight was the seminar at the hotel. The women had a session there too. They are a little quiet, but they participated. At the end of the seminar, we went shopping. Brother Peters' sisters welcomed us in their homes. What a fellowship!

We left there and went to Cochin, another beautiful place. By that time, I was fully in love with India and the people! The welcome was amazing. More brothers and sisters in Cochin, I felt like I had known them because of the love in Christ. Chennai was the next stop. St. Thomas Mount was our first stop. There my husband met a brother (Moses) with whom he had a bromance. They are still communicating. What a blessing to know such loving dear brothers and sisters and to see how they love the Lord even though the gospel is not openly accepted.

It was because of the prayers of the saints that we even felt safe in a country where the gospel is not openly accepted. ✧



Crocheting Club

3:00 PM in the Library at GCA
Every 4th Saturday
Beginning Saturday, April 27th