



Pre-Mother’s Day  
Breakfast

The Pre-Mother’s Day Breakfast on Saturday, May 10 included all GCA mothers, grandmothers, foster mothers, and those we regard as “mothers in Israel”—faithful women who may not have children of their own, but who have lovingly invested in the lives of the children of GCA.

The men and young men of GCA prepared a delicious multicultural menu. What a joyful time of fellowship and an opportunity to show how much we love and appreciate you, Mothers!

What a tremendous success! Over sixty mothers attended, and the ladies were truly delighted by the delicious meal and the thoughtful program. From the engaging table games to the prizes given, the morning was filled with joy and appreciation.

We thank all the brothers who contributed to the planning, cooking, serving, and overall execution of this meaningful event. We give thanks to the Lord for our mothers, whose sacrificial lives are a cornerstone of our church families ✧

### GCA SUMMER POWER-UP BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAYS FROM 7 PM TO 8:30 PM  
Series: “The Victorious Christian Life”

**In God’s Word**  
Tuesdays @ 7 p.m.  
(Live and on ZOOM)

**In Prayer**  
Tuesdays 8-8:30 p.m.  
(Live at GCA)

PLEASE USE THE  
BREAKING OF BREAD  
ZOOM LINK

TELL a  
FRIEND

July 08 – “Sanctification”  
Pastor Brian Grant

July 15 – “Consecration”  
Pastor Brian Grant

July 22 – “Finding God’s Will”  
Bro. Dwight Neilson

July 29 – “Separation”  
Pastor George Peters

Aug. 05 – “Worship”  
Dr. Raphael Thomas

Aug. 12 – “The Victorious Christian Life”  
Pastor George Peters

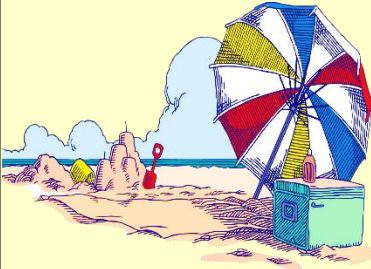
Aug. 19 – “Christian Suffering”  
Dr. Elijah Korich

Aug. 26 – “The Dynamics of Christian Fellowship”  
Dr. Raphael Thomas

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In This Issue

- 1,3 Jamaica Mission Trip Continued
- 1,2 Watoto Children’s Choir
- 2 Baptism And New Members
- 3 Use It Or Lose It! Summer Camp
- 4 Graduation Charge
- 5, 7 Testimony - Diane Davis
- 5 Cartoon
- 6 Dental Infection
- 7 GCA’s 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary
- 8 Pre-Mother’s Day Breakfast
- 8 GCA Summer Power-Up Bible Study



# GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Grace Christian Assembly

## JAMAICA Mission Trip CONTINUED

By Alyssa Lawson

In March, I had the privilege to go to St. Mary’s, Jamaica with GCA. With it being my first ever missions’ trip, I did not know what to expect because leading up to this, all my trips to Jamaica consisted of either visiting family or staying at a nice resort. I wanted to go on this trip to encourage young people to give their lives to Christ, the most important commitment they could make.

Continues on page 3.

### Watoto Children’s Choir



GCA once again hosted the Watoto Children’s Choir from Kampala, Uganda on April 12, 2025. This incredible choir, part of the Watoto Church ministry, has been sharing the message of hope and healing through music since 1994. Their ministry began in response to the devastating impact of a civil war in Uganda in the eighties, where many women and children were left broken and in need of restoration. Singing in a choir helps the children to develop confidence and boldness.

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.

# Watoto

CHILDREN’S CHOIR

Continued from page 1.

**Sister Venice Jackson shared her experience at the concert:**

*What a wonderful evening of praise and service to the glory of God. A two-fold blessing? Yes, a two-fold blessing!*

*The GCA family and friends were poised for a joyous time in the Lord, and the Watoto Children’s Choir certainly did not disappoint. They came prepared to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through music, singing, dancing and testimonies. The choir’s set was well-staged, and the children sang beautiful songs of praise and thanksgiving. I was especially moved by the young people who gave their personal testimonies demonstrating God’s grace and love in their lives.*

*If I had to voice just one take away from the service, it would be “whether in prosperity or adversity the Lord God must be praised.” ✧*



We have more reasons to rejoice. Sunday, April 27th, during our 10:00 a.m. service, we witnessed the baptism of three young people:

- Ms. Bianca Lewis
- Mr. Keyshawn Ancrum
- Mr. Jaden George

Immediately following the service, we welcomed these and several other new members through our “Right Hand of Fellowship” ceremony. Truly, there is never a dull moment at GCA. ✧



Continued from page 5.

I also remembered the words that I heard that He would show me the way I should go. I knew that when I left the convent in Kentucky that I would never try again and although I was sad, I had peace about it. I trusted the Lord and doors opened for me.

I trained with another dog, got an apartment, got a job, and even found a Catholic church and a protestant church right across the street from each other. Every Sunday I would go to the ten o’clock Mass and then run over to the eleven o’clock service in the Evangelical Free Church.

I knew I could not do that forever, but I knew that if I trusted the Lord I would know when the time was right to do what I had to do. Finally, I went to the protestant church. No wonder the Lord gave me peace when I left Kentucky. He already knew I would be coming up against another major decision that I never would have made under my own steam. I stayed in that church for many years hearing about salvation and studying the Bible and growing with the preaching of the Word.

I moved to Philadelphia in the late seventies and again the hand of God was leading me to where I should be. I ran into an old friend I had not seen for many years. Well, we were married April 11, 1987. Now, we both share the Word of God together here in Grace Christian Assembly and I thank God for it all, every bit of it.

I leave you with Proverbs 3:5, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and He shall direct thy paths.” ✧



On Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, we marked fifty-two years of God’s faithfulness! Our theme was, “Equipping Next-Gen Giants for God.” We honored fifteen 2025 graduates:

- Gabrielle Alexandre
- Ardynne Cunningham-Whitt
- Areigna Dales
- Mark Dolores
- McKai Holett
- Alex Jordan
- Daquan Picart
- Cherylesa Sloan
- Hannah Walton
- Jaden George
- Helaine Da Cruz Heggs
- McKayla Holett
- Alyssa Lawson
- Charity Sawyer
- Timothy Thomas

Some are GCA members and others are involved with GCA ministries and/or from the International Christian High School.

Our guest speaker was Dr. James G. Murray, Jr., pastor of Philadelphia Bible Fellowship. In his message he referred to the graduates as “gems,” and “the apple of His eye,” and asked that we would continue to pray for them. ✧

**Please consider contributing toward our \$25,000 anniversary goal to support:**

- Audio-Visual System Upgrade
- GCA Electronic Sign Replacement





By Margaret Aitcheson

## Dental Infection



A dental infection, also called a tooth abscess, is a build-up of pus in the teeth or gums caused by a bacterial infection. This infection begins in the innermost part of the tooth called the tooth pulp. It can spread to the surrounding tissues such as the jaw, neck, and the bloodstream in severe cases.

There are several causes such as poor oral hygiene; cavities; gum disease; cracked or damaged teeth; failed dental work; leaky fillings; or a failed root canal. Infection can start small then progress rapidly.



You may experience severe toothache; swelling of the face, cheek, or jaw; fever; bad breath; and sensitivity to heat or cold. There are several ways to prevent or reduce your risk of dental infection:

- ❖ Brush and floss your teeth twice daily.
- ❖ Visit the dentist at least every six months.
- ❖ Limit acidic and sweet foods which can cause tooth decay.
- ❖ Don't ignore dental pain, sensitivity, or decay. Prompt treatment will prevent infection.

A dental infection will not go away on its own. It must be treated in the following ways:

- Antibiotics will control the infection.
- The abscess may need to be drained to relieve the pain.
- Root canal where the infected pulp is cleaned and sealed.
- Tooth extraction if the tooth is severely damaged.
- If ignored, dental infection can become a BIG problem. Be wise and seek prompt attention. ✧

## JAMAICA Mission Trip CONTINUED

*Continued from page 1.*

When we first arrived at Highgate Gospel Chapel and introduced ourselves to the kids, the connection was instant. I quickly formed a relationship with a lot of kids and loved being around them. I loved getting to see their happy faces when they were playing Mario Kart during our gaming tournament and giving them hugs when they would run up to us and call me "Miss." Everything went smoothly throughout our day, but what is a mission trip without some setbacks?

Most of our day was spent trying to occupy the kids while the adults were holding a training session with the youth group leaders of the church. Trying to occupy around fifty kids for hours on end is not the easiest thing in the world, especially when some of them did not take us seriously at first. We were constantly on our feet, even on our break!

Not only did these challenges push me out of my comfort zone but they also brought us closer to the kids. Nevertheless, the highlight of my trip was being able to lead a girl to Christ at the end of the tournament and sharing my testimony. I was nervous at first to share my testimony as I am not the most comfortable with public speaking, but God gifted me the courage I needed to share my testimony and later, I was able to lead a girl to Christ after the sermon. I am so overjoyed that I was able to encourage her and teach her more about the Lord and how special that relationship with Him is. Since my trip, I have grown more spiritually, becoming more confident in sharing my walk with the Lord and speaking out to share the gospel. I am so grateful for the experience that I have been given and thankful to the Lord for bringing me to Jamaica. I have seen God work within me for these kids and I enjoyed every minute of it. This truly will be a trip I will never forget! ✧

USE IT  
OR  
LOSE IT! **Summer**  
Camp

**Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> to  
Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>**  
8:00 AM - 4 PM  
Ages 7-12

A 7-week academic and enrichment camp is available for kids ages 7 to 12 this summer. The camp include reading, math, life skills, and fun weekly trips. Children will maintain their previous year's academic success to stay current for the next school year. Emphasis will be on reading comprehension, math computation, self-affirmation techniques, drills and skills coupled with weekly trips and more right here at GCA. Have your kids been able to take advantage of this? Call the church office for more information. ✧



**Presented by Hannah Walton**

Good morning, church family and guests,

I want to begin by thanking the Anniversary Committee for selecting me to give this charge to the graduates. Congratulations to my fellow graduates, and whether you have completed high school, college, or an advanced degree, you have put in many years of hard work to arrive at this moment. Graduation is a time to celebrate our accomplishments, but it also comes with the question “So, what’s next?” You are feeling tired, not just from finals, but from the weight of expectations. If you are feeling pressure to have the next steps figured out, I want to encourage you with scripture. Isaiah 40:29-31 states, “He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength” (NIV). I would like to share three truths with you all that we as graduates can carry into the next chapter of our lives. With our diplomas and degrees in hand, it’s easy to feel like we should be motivated and ready to move onto the next chapter in life.

However, as students, we are often tired after years of reading, taking exams, and studying. This verse reminds us that we do not need to have endless strength because God gives us strength. Verse 29 states, “He gives strength to the weary

and increases the power of the weak”. To give an example from scripture, in 1st Kings chapter 19, Jezebel threatens Elijah’s life. Elijah was exhausted, alone, and ready to quit his ministry. God did not abandon Elijah but instead revealed Himself to His weary prophet and restored his strength. How many of us graduates have been told, “You’re too young to be tired.” The Bible says, “Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall.” This verse speaks directly to the youth and explains that even those who are young and physically strong can eventually become exhausted.

Graduation can make it seem like we are supposed to be full of direction now that we have earned our degrees. Despite this fact, the Bible tells us that even the strongest people get tired, and it is not a sign of failure to feel overwhelmed. God does not shame those who are weary, instead He strengthens them. The final verse ends with a promise, “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.” To hope in the Lord means to trust God with your education, your career, and your future. Those who trust in God will not stay stuck in exhaustion or discouragement but find a renewed strength. We can turn to God by spending time in prayer and reading His word. My fellow graduates, as we progress to the next steps of our lives, whether it be a career, furthering our education, or pursuing full time ministry, it is important to depend on God alone, not our own strength. Isaiah 40:31 promises, “They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint”. Graduates, as we move on towards our future with God’s help we can soar with confidence. Not because of our resumes or our GPAs, but with strength only God can provide. Congratulations, graduates. Thank you. ✧



I give all the praise and glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Jersey City, New Jersey was my home. My dad was a truck driver, and mom took care of a family of four. At the age of four I went to a Catholic school. My parents would pick me up from school on Friday and bring me back on Sunday. Looking back, I know that was hard for them to do but it was all in God’s plan for my life. I met some wonderful people and am still friends with them.

Through the years I learned braille, mobility, table etiquette and all the subjects I needed to know before entering high school. That was a whole new adventure because a few of us went to an all-girls academy which was not a school for the blind. We were in large classes where everybody could see except us. Our brailing and typing skills came in handy because when we went back to the boarding school at night, volunteers would read what we had to do for homework and we would type out the answers to hand them in to the teachers, since none of them knew braille. I graduated high school, went home to my family where there were now also foster children and I ended up helping them and my younger siblings with their homework.

During these years, I realized there was something about praying that made me feel close to

God, so I took every opportunity to take part in the prayer services in the chapel at the academy. One of the teachers told me she was happy teaching, but she was happier serving God. I was impressed with that and hoped I could feel the same way.

After graduation I got my first job. I volunteered in the church and eventually went for training and got my first guide dog, Josey. I still wanted to serve God better and I felt the calling to become a nun. I did some research, sought counsel from the priest, and eventually joined a semi-cloistered community in Devon, Pa. I loved it.

Three years later, my health declined so they sent me home. I was devastated, confused, and even asked God what I could do for Him to make it better. A voice said, “It’s not what you can do for Me, it’s what I can do for you.” I did not know what to do with all that so I found another convent, an active order in Kentucky and stayed for about two years but began to see that this might not be the life for me.

*Continues on page 7.*



But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.  
- 1 JOHN 3:2-3 NIV