

THINGS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HALLOWEEN

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- 8. **Did you know** that a male is called a wizard, and that both witches and wizards were ordered executed under Old Testament laws, and that both are abominations in the sight of God? (See Deut. 18:10-12 and Lev. 20:27.)
- 9. **Did you know** that in the public school system our children are not permitted to celebrate the birth or resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, but they are assigned parts in the celebration of HALLOWEEN, a celebration of witchcraft and demonism?
- 10. **Did you know** that in recent years Satan has influenced HALLOWEEN participants to attempt to harm or destroy our children? (Example: lacing candies with cyanide, and hiding razor blades and needles in cookies, etc.)
- 11. **Did you know** that when you participate in celebrating HALLOWEEN you are literally joining with many spiritually blind people in paying homage and honor to “his majesty” the Devil?
- 12. **Did you know** that Christians could make a difference in our society by:
 - 1. Having nothing to do with the preparation or celebration of this unchristian event called HALLOWEEN.
 - 2. Carefully explaining to our children the dangers of HALLOWEEN.
 - 3. Keeping our children from participating in any form of HALLOWEEN celebrations.
 - 4. Involving our children in a clean, Christian function, preferably held within the precincts of a church.
 - 5. Handing suitable Gospel tracts to people who knock at our doors and
 - 6. Explaining to our friends and neighbors why we do not believe in HALLOWEEN.

“We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore, take unto you the whole armor of God...” Ephesians 6:12, 13. ✧

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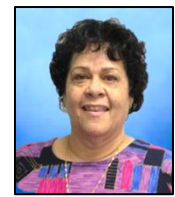
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GCA Reflections

Quarterly Newsletter of Grace Christian Assembly

RAYMOND ROSEN GOSPEL FAIR



By Christine Wigden



Raymond Rosen is a public housing project where about 3,000 people live. BCM missionaries have been ministering there for over 30 years to children, teens, and adults. On September 20th, volunteers from GCA, Malvern Gospel Chapel and others held a Gospel Fair to share the Gospel, show the love of Jesus and sign-up new children and women for Bible Clubs.

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By Velda Thomas



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

English as a Second Language (ESL) is an outreach ministry at Grace Christian Assembly. It is designed to help immigrants and natives of other countries learn English or improve their use of English, while presenting them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We give God thanks that to date, we have touched the lives of students from over twenty-four (24) countries through this ministry.

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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.



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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.

RAYMOND ROSEN GOSPEL FAIR

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About 50 people from GCA participated in every way possible from picking up trash, loading and unloading three trucks, moving tables and chairs, handing out tracts, serving food, giving testimonies, painting faces, running games for kids, monitoring the Bounce House, to the most important thing — smiling, greeting and communicating the Gospel person-to-person. There were at least four adults who received Christ, including the father of three children who attend Bible Club. Twenty-one new children signed up for Bible clubs and three ladies for Bible study. The blessings of God were evident. Praise the Lord for churches that are not only missions minded but missions active! ✨



THINGS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HALLOWEEN

Charles I. Hart, D. Min.

1. **Did you know** that the term "Halloween" represents an unholy alliance between the church and the devil?
 - a. **Did you know** that its name means "hallowed or holy evening" because it takes place the day before "All Saints Day?"
 - b. **Did you know** that HALLOWEEN is an old pagan festival that has its roots in Druidic beliefs? "The Druids, an order of priests in ancient Gaul and Britain, believed that on Halloween, ghosts, spirits, fairies, witches and elves came out to harm people. They thought the cat was sacred and believed that cats had once been human beings but were changed as a punishment for evil deeds." [Taken from the 50th Anniversary Edition of the World Book Encyclopedia.]
 - c. **Did you know** that the Druids celebrated their autumn festival on Oct. 31st?
 - d. **Did you know** that All Saints' Day was instituted by the Roman Catholic Church and was first celebrated on May 13th? According to the World Book Encyclopedia, the day was changed in the 700's by the Roman Catholic Church to November 1st?
 - e. **Did you know** that from that time, "the old pagan customs and the [so-called] Christian feast day were combined into the Halloween festival?"
2. **Did you know** that the way HALLOWEEN is celebrated in these modern times is still directly associated with witches, wizards, witchcraft, Satanism and other demonic practices which the Bible clearly denounces? (Deut. 18:10-12)
3. **Did you know** that there is a connection between witchcraft and sorcery (having to do with drugs), and that both of these evil practices are condemned in the Bible?
4. **Did you know** that our generation is witnessing a revival in the occult and that this revival is based in many colleges and universities across our land?
5. **Did you know** that through the year, witchcraft celebrated eight major festivals of which HALLOWEEN, October 31, is the chief?
6. **Did you know** that there was a time in history when people were burned at the stake for their involvement in witchcraft?
7. **Did you know** that the Bible clearly states, "Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft or casts spells, or who is a medium or spirits or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable ("an abomination"-KJV) to the Lord." Deut 18:10-12 (NIV) (Read also Lev. 19:31; 20:27; Exod. 22:18; Gal. 5:19-20.)

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On September 21st, Dr. Darryl Brown, the newly appointed Sunday school director, presented a strategic plan to revitalize and unify the GCA Sunday School program. The short-term focus will be on implementing a scripture-based curriculum for adult and teen classes, while the long-term vision includes a church-wide curriculum tailored by

age group, structured teacher training, and performance reviews to ensure quality and engagement. The plan seeks to align GCA's Bible-based instruction under a unified framework and to cultivate excellence among Sunday School teachers.

The next key steps include selecting a new curriculum; hosting a kickoff breakfast on October 5 to introduce the vision and teaching materials; commencing the Fall 2025 season of Adult and Teen Sunday School classes on October 12; and launching an anonymous attendee survey on Monday, December 15th. ✧

Our 26th President Theodore Roosevelt said, “A thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.”

Notes

LEGACY SUNDAY - 14th September

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On GCA Legacy Sunday, a special service was held to honor the living lineage of our members. We invited our living ancestors (parents, grandparents, great-grandparents), as well as our own generation, and our future generations (children and grandchildren). The day featured uplifting music, a timely message, good food, and opportunities for memorable photographs. The primary focus of this event was to honor the previous generations that have brought the gospel to us and to remind ourselves that we have the awesome responsibility to “tell the generation to come the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord” (Psalm 78:4 Amplified Bible).

The day was truly a blessing with a large attendance, including several families worshiping together across multiple generations, as well as a number of first-time visitors. Brother Gavin Lawson's testimony on the spiritual legacy of his grandparents and parents inspired us all to reflect on the faith we pass down. Brother Nicolas Grant's special message on the lessons from Paul's life further inspired us to live faithfully in our generation. The shared meal in the fellowship hall added opportunity for more fellowship. Truly, we give God all the praise for His goodness to GCA. A special thanks to the Legacy Sunday committee and all the saints who served so sacrificially to make the day a success. ✧



Continued from page 1.

Although in recent times, we have seen a decline in our registration as the immigration policies in our nation change, we are encouraged that students continue to register for the program.

Here are a few testimonials from students who are currently in the ESL program:

“All these years we have been together studying, English has been fundamental to our learning. Being away for the summer break period is difficult because we have become a big family. God has given us the opportunity to learn the language and His Word at the same time. I am grateful to God for having Sharon as a teacher and as a sister in Christ. We have spent several moments helping each other in prayer and it has been miraculous to be able to communicate in another language. Thank you very much to the ESL program for giving us this opportunity.”

Leandro, Brazil

“ESL classes helped me a lot in life. I started to speak and understand more, and I became more confident in speaking. I started to understand grammar much better. Writing and correct pronunciation too...”

Savar, Brooklyn N.Y.

A Story more than two years long!

“I am an immigrant from Russia. After living in America for several years, one day I realized that my English is terrible, I can't communicate and understand English. I thought that I need to learn and practice English to improve it. I hope you remember our first interview. At that moment I could barely speak English, but I remember everything as if it was yesterday. I had to introduce myself, do listening and writing tasks. We started learning English more than two years ago. We studied a lot and had fun. We also talked about God in every lesson. We prayed together in English. I feel how my English has improved, I'm proud of myself and I know for sure that I can't stop learning English. If you stop doing something, you will lose your skills.

In conclusion, I want to thank Ms. Velda and the whole team for this opportunity, I really appreciate it. It's really important to me.

Your happy student,
Irina

“I would like to say the classes we had were much more than just English class. We had an immersion in the language and a profound biblical lesson. My thanks to God for allowing us to take the classes. ...”

Jhony, Brazil

We also appreciate those who continue to faithfully serve in this ministry. These include Sister Lorraine Stirmeman, Sister Sharon Henry, Sister Gail-Morrison Longmore, Sister Evelyn Cartegena and me, Velda Thomas. We also invite other believers who would like to be a part of this ministry. You do not have to be a trained teacher. If you know English and love people, you are a good candidate. God can use you if you make yourself available to be used by Him. ✧

Notes

In case you did not see the following in the Pastor's Weekly Updates, here are a few interesting notes:



Our GCA teens returned safely after a spiritually enriching week at the Word of Life Camp in upstate New York. We praise God for the tremendous work He accomplished in their hearts—about 15 young people rededicated their lives to the Lord, and four teens received Christ as their personal Savior! To God be the glory! Let us continue to uplift these young hearts in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to nurture and sustain their spiritual growth in the days ahead.

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Notes

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The **2025 GCA Friends & Family Picnic** was held Saturday, July 26th, at Victory Valley Camp. What followed was an exciting day filled with games, delicious food, refreshing swimming, boating, a food contest, and great fellowship—a joyful time together!

People made meaningful connections, especially for those joining for the first time. The friendly competition of the games and the creativity of the food contest offered warm and engaging ways for newcomers to experience the love of Christ in a unique context. Thanks to all who thoughtfully planned, prepared, and especially the cooks and volunteers who served to make the day a success. **To God be the glory!**

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