Great Things Are Happening Volume 2, Issue 11 GIL Control of the second secon

PRAISING THE LORD AT THE GROWVE









Senior Pastor David A. Clarke, Sr.



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O° Give Thanks, Unto the Lord, For He is Good

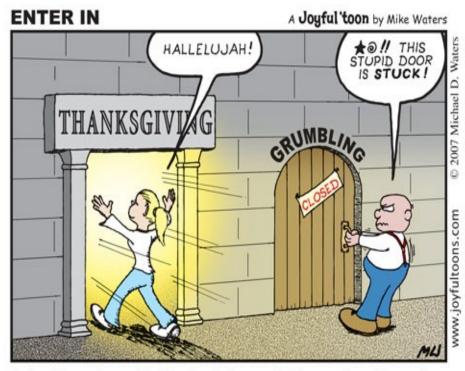
Mission Statement

To draw people to Christ, maximize our potential, and creatively meet the physical and emotional needs of the church and community.

All scriptures are referenced from the NKJV of the Holy Bible unless otherwise noted.

	November Happenings	
11/3	Vision Leaders, Conf. Room	6:30pm
11/5	PLACE Workshop, VC	8:00am
11/12	Married Couples Movie Night, VC	6:00pm
11/13	Veteran's Day Celebration, S	10:15am
11/13	Health Fair, VC	1:30pm
11/19-20	Youth Fun Day & Appreciation Day	
11/20	Ministry Worker's Training, S	6:00pm
11/30	Deadline for Strategic Plans	

The way into the presence of God is through thanksgiving and praise. Grumbling and complaining will get you no where.



Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. - PSALM 100:4 NIV

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CHURCH SERVICE HOURS

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER

8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 a.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:15 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Mid-day Manna Noon

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



U.G.M.B.C. OFFICE

HOURS

Tuesday—Friday 8:00 a.m.— 4:30

Monday Office Closed Additional Church Hours Tuesday — Friday 6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m. Janice Scott Administrative Assistant





Captain Henry Nixon Jr, CHC, USN (Retired)

Captain Henry Nixon, Jr., Chaplain Corps, United States Navy, is endorsed by the National Baptist Convention, USA to serve as a Navy Chaplain. He entered the Navy in 1968 in the enlisted ranks and in 1970 was commissioned a line officer at the rank of Ensign. In 1973, he was ordained to the Gospel ministry by New Hope Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Chaplain Nixon returned to civilian life in 1974 to become the pastor of Garrett Interdenominational Christian Community Church, Norfolk, VA,

On August 1, 2007 Chaplain Nixon retired after 32 years of Naval service. He served at a number of commands to include Force Chaplain, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan in support of East Timor Operation; Force Chaplain, Marine Forces Pacific and Marine Forces Central Command, Camp Smith, Hawaii in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom (the first African-American Navy chaplain to serve Marines as senior pastor in a major combat theater). Currently, he serves as North Shelby County District Association, Director of Christian Education, and President of the Ravencrest Homeowners Association.

His personal awards are: Legion of Merit (2nd award), Meritorious Service Medal (4th award), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2nd award), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2nd award), Fleet Marine Force Ribbon, Sea Service Ribbon with Silver Star, and the National Defense Service Medal with two Bronze Stars. Additionally, in 1992, Chaplain Nixon received the NAACP Roy Wilkens's Renown Service Award for his contributions to the Navy Equal Opportunity Program.

His educational credentials are Bachelor of Arts, Glassboro State University, Glassboro, NJ, Master of Divinity, Virginia Union University School of Theology, Richmond, VA, Master of Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ, and Doctor of Ministry, Wilbur H. Waters School of Theology, Washington, DC.

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Ministry Highlight: Serenity Ministry



The parable in Luke Chapter 15:11-24 speaks of the characteristics of a prodigal son. It starts out with sin. One son wants and gets what he is not ready for and wasted all he had on prodigal living. The action of this son causes him to find himself in ungodly places and in want. This son realizes that he has sinned terribly and this life is not evidence of what was intended for him. Humility kicks in and he says he is not worthy to be called his father's son. In this parable, the son knows that in order to get out of his mess, he must get up! He submits and understands repentance is required. His father does not say or remind him of what he did in his previous life. Instead he rejoices; his son that was once lost, is home again!

In reality, we all run into people like the father's other son in verses 25-32. They are quick to bring up your past and not have the heart to rejoice that you are back. They do not realize that their love and encouragement is needed now more than ever. The father in this story is a perfect picture of the Serenity Ministry at Union Grove. The members are quick to share their love with you and rejoice that you are home.

The mission of the Serenity Ministry comes from Psalm 133. It articulates the importance of unity among fellow sufferers/overcomers. It follows God's command and draws those who have addictions to Christ. It provides a supportive environment to come together and share issues, challenges, and/or struggles. The vision of the ministry is to educate family and church members on how to help someone who is battling addictions.

The ministry is heavily involved in visiting prisons, hospitals, and sometimes schools whenever the invitation is extended. They aim to educate the community on all facets of addictions. If called to work hand and hand, they face the challenge head on, by partnering with the Life Changers Center.

Serenity Ministry meets every Tuesday at 7:00 pm at Union Grove in the annex. The invitation is extended to all who are interested to attend the meetings. The goals for Serenity in 2012 are to invite leaders to the meetings and provide them education about people with addictions and encourage members to contact them for help and further the Gospel.

The point of contact for Serenity Ministry are overcomers Brother Robert Murphy and Minister James Ford. Brother Vincent Stewart also plays a huge role in Serenity Ministry as he secures the ministry meeting location.

Serenity Ministry awaits to be like verse 22 to bring out the best robe, and put a ring on your finger and sandals on your feet because they know the prodigal one that was once lost is now home again. Anyone who wants to be a part of this ministry, please don't hesitate to contact Brother Murphy, Minister Ford or a Deacon.



Bro. Robert Murphy Ministry Leader



Minister Jim Ford

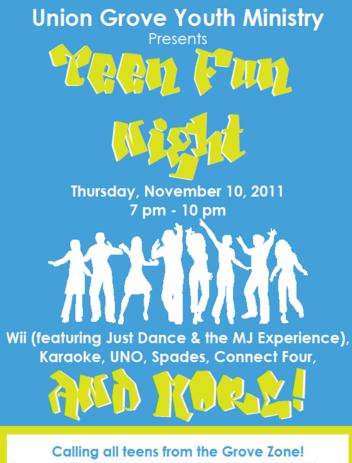
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Jerome Stephens' Annual Golf Tournament



Union Grove Leadership Conference





Come out & show your skills with fun competitions!



The Youth Ministry will have a "Kickball Game Fellowship" on Saturday, November 19 at 1pm. Coaches, referees, fathers to grill, and other volunteers are needed.

> Please contact Sis Cassundra Brown for more information, 478-788-6640. Thank you!

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Attention!

Proud parents, Grandparents, Mentors, and Youth Leaders...

It's time to boast and brag on our



Fill out a Youth Acknowledgment form to acknowledge your amazing young person.

> Forms must be turned back in by November 13 (2nd Sunday).



Jasmin Bynum Jessica Bynum **Charles Byrd** Larry Byrd **Tammy Carpenter Michael Davis Shirley Durden** Kymori Edwards **Patricia Falls** Leo Finkley, Jr. **Africa Fuller Frances Grant** Jonathan Green **Cevan Greene** Jakena Huggins Storm Husband **Quelle Jackson Shirley Jackson Patricia Johnson Eric Leggette Tiffany Lewis** Shirley Madison Shana Mathews **Renita Mathis Shavine Mathis** Izaria Mclean **Alphonso Medlock Bridgette Oglesby Ashley Orange** Larry Perry **Shafarrah Randolph** Kea'ya Reeves **Cameron Richardson Kiera Salone Catherine Solomon Hope Solomon Stephanie Solomon Cleophus Tate** Lois Thomas Jaheem Tillman **Ty-Teanna Tillman**

SEM MEETING

The next Spiritual Enrichment Ministry (SEM) Meeting will be held on November 17, 2011 at 7:00pm in the Children's Church. Please be present and on time.

Looking forward to discussing the accomplishment of your 2011 Strategic Plan and how God is leading your ministry into 2012. Please have your written reports ready to share at the meeting.

CHOIR TIMES



Choir	Practice	Sing
Men's Choir	Nov. 7 th	Nov. 13 th
Praise Team	Nov. 10 th Nov. 17 th	
Parent's Choir	Nov. 12 th (10:00am) Nov. 19 th (10:00am)	Nov. 20 th



We are currently scheduling volunteers to help build the Toval Family home. (Dominique and her 2 sons, Christian and Kenan.) It will be our 46th home built in the Houston County community! The location is 128 Orchard Way. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Hope Hicks at 328-3388 or <u>visit our website</u>

Baptism-October 9, 2011





Shofar Pelote









Blake Robinson





Min. and Mr. Justin and Latonya Phillips





What does the Bible Say About... Thanksgiving & Praise?

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing! Know that the Lord is God! It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him, bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

P Praise God because He is POWERFUL.

"Touching the Almighty, we cannot find him out: he is excellent in power, and in judgment, and in plenty of justice: he will not afflict."Job 27:23

R Praise God because of His RIGHTEOUSNESS.

"Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O LORD, thou preservest man and beast." Psalm 36:6

A Praise God because he is ABLE.

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." Ephesians 3:20

I Praise God because He is INFINITE.

Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen." Romans 11:33-36

S Praise God because of His STRENGTH.

"The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself: the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved." Psalm 93:1

E Praise God because He is EVERLASTING.

"...and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6





The Girl Power kickoff got off to a good start. The evening was full of expectation, jubilation and many words of encouragement were shared. The girls were taught who they are; who they belong to; ending with "Girl, you got power" in Christ! Below is a re-cap of what was shared:



Take Your Mask Off?

God's daughters are not to be fearful of revealing who they are in Christ. Whether at school or among friends, you are to let your light shine. As God's daughter, others may not appreciate your giftedness, in which you may be teased or ostracized. You must know who you are in Christ. As God's daughter, you must believe you are special even when "haters" try to discourage you. You must believe what God says about you and not what others think. Not knowing who you are will cause you to live like unbelievers. Daughters of God are not to look,

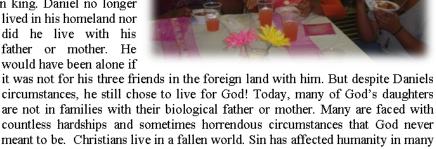
live, dress, or even talk like unbelievers. There is a difference and you are expected to live differently.

Secondly, knowing who you are and

who you belong to does not mean bad things will not happen. Good and bad things happen to Christians and non-Christians alike. In movies, many superheroes had to leave their homes or galaxies, to never return and many lost their loved ones. The tragic events helped shape them and gave them the fortitude to fight for what was right. In the Bible, Daniel was taken captive as a youth. He was a slave who served a foreign king. Daniel no longer



lived in his homeland nor did he live with his father or mother. He would have been alone if



meant to be. Christians live in a fallen world. Sin has affected humanity in many ways. Despite the consequences of sin, Christians have a supernatural power in Christ to overcome. God has promised to work everything out for good and He is sovereign over the affairs of men. Like Daniel, you can live for God no matter the challenges you face.

Lastly, one of my favorite movies is "The Incredibles." It's about a family of superheroes that possess many wonderful abilities but lived in hiding by blending in with rest of the world. They continued to live in secret until they were forced to save the world from the bad guys. In the family of God, all believers have power in Christ. We have power in our speech, power in our praise and the power of God is demonstrated when believers pray in agreement. God's power is only manifested when the believer lives a



life controlled by the Holy Spirit. Once a person comes to Christ, they are imbued with the power of the Holy Spirit and become empowered to be witnesses for Christ (Acts 1:8). What's more, believers can live godly and stand in faith when hard times and testing come. God's power makes the daughter of God and all believers more than a superhero; believers are supernatural! God's daughters should not hide their identity nor be ashamed to share their love for Christ. As a Christian, you must take off the mask and be used by God to share the message of the cross to the world.

Stop blending in and Take Your Mask Off!

~Minister Antonia Simmons



Youth Appreciation



My name is Jimya Ogelsby and I am 15 years old. I am currently a junior at Perry High School. I am a member of the Perry Chapter of Life National Honor Society and have been involved in Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), which is a program to promote personal growth and leadership development through Family and Consumer Sciences education.

My hobbies include writing, singing, dancing, and playing the piano. I have been a member of Union Grove for about three years. I currently serve in the Nursery Ministry, Genuine Praise (GP), and Lord's United Voices (LUV).

G³ By Jimya Ogelsby

Being a girl isn't as easy as it may seem. With every new day, it's a different thing. We behold qualities that may be ghost to some. But are always acknowledged at least by one. We are girly, which is our outward appearance and moves. To start our day off, we try to perfect every cranny and groove. With our heads high, we always consider ourselves the center of the world, not caring about judgment from any other girl. Parting and re-parting our hair, We search and search through all our shoes just to find the perfect pair. We weren't bred to be much of the down and dirty type but we don't mind the pink, prissy, and the exclusive ways of life. Shopping for the latest stuff, sharing secrets, and boys are our interests. But that's only when we go out because otherwise we could care less. Sometimes we're the type of girl that will burst out laughing in dead silence at something that happened yesterday while others stand back and start to stray away. Our friends are like our clothes...we can't get enough of them! But sometimes they get so old and have to let go in the end. But then of course, old gets replaced with new, and we're satisfied once again. We are as unique on the outside as we are on the inside. Being of noble birth is what makes us godly. Although created from the rib of a man, it was the handiwork of His magical hands that grants us the privilege to say "we are who we are". And when He completed the task He'd begun, he was pleased and proud of the job He'd done. For the world, when seen through a little girl's eyes, greatly resembles paradise. He's the one that holds us down when the devil gets to us and gives us the ability to stray away from ungodly lust. We are gifted because of the high standards we set for ourselves. We are gifted because of the marvelous purpose he sets for us. We are leaders. We are fighters. We are risk-takers. We hold these truths to be self evident that all of us are created equal because in his eyes we are of Him. 1 John 4:4 proves this to be true with its text that utters, "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

So if all else fails and mistakes aren't lifted, just continue to say I am...



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Deacon T.C. Caldwell

Deacon's Corner

This month's GTAH theme is Thanksgiving & Praise based on Psalms 100:4 "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name." What does this scripture mean to you?

The verse itself is self-explanatory. It merely means that you cannot enter His gates without giving Him praise and thanks for what He has done and for what He is going to do. I would be stupid on my part as a Christian to not want to give God thanks and praise. I give him thanks and praise every day and not just on Sundays. God is there every day with us, so we should do the same.

Why should everyday be Thanksgiving for a Christian?

Because every day should be a day we are thankful for.

When you hear the word Thanksgiving, what does it mean to you?

Thanksgiving can be viewed in two ways. One way is the actual holiday that is celebrated every year where families get together to eat and celebrate what they are thankful for. Another way it can be viewed is to just be thankful, thankful for life, a roof, clothes, and food. Most of all be thankful for living.

What do you personally thank God for?

What I thank Him for is that His son died for us. I'm still here and I thank Him for everything: my family, life, and most of all Jesus Christ!

Congratulations Minister Latonya Phillips!



The initial sermon of Sis. LaTonya Phillips was held on Wednesday October 5, 2011 in the Union Grove sanctuary. "Tonya" was born LaTonya Monique Logan on December 25, 1974 at Lawrence Memorial Hospital, in Lawrence, Kansas. She is the daughter of Cyrese Powell and Mark D. Logan. Sis. Phillips received her education in the Douglas County school district PSD 497, in Lawrence, Kansas. After graduating high school in 1993, she enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was stationed in North Carolina, Japan, Washington D.C., New Orleans and Marietta, GA. While stationed in Marietta, GA, she met her husband, Justin Phillips. They have three children, TiEboni (16), Irwanna (4), and Judah aka "baby Jesus" (2).

LaTonya accepted Christ at the age of six in her grandmother's living room. She was called to ministry in 2002 while serving as the Senior Drill Instructor for the New

Orleans Parrish Prison Women's boot camp, but did not answer until six years later in 2009. She currently serves on the board of the Union Grove Community Enhancement Group and is active in their Life Changers program. She is also the ministry leader for Genuine Praise, an active member of the UGMBC Music Ministry, and is an instructor for the Master Life Bible Study services.

Sis. Phillips' initial sermon challenged the congregation to ask themselves the question, "Where are You?" To guide her sermon, Sis. Phillips referenced Romans 12:1 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship." She says, "Before we, as Christians, answer this question, we need to study His word, recognize that our life is not our own, and follow His Will."



V PLACE Finding Your PLACE in Life and Ministry

A Sneak Preview of PLACE...

One of the questions that is presented to me on a constant basis is, "What is PLACE?" My response is, "PLACE is where you will find your PLACE in life and in ministry." I will then ask a question in return, "Do you ever ask yourself, why on earth am I here? Where do I go? What can I do?" PLACE can answer those questions for you.

God tells us in Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart" (NLV). PLACE tells us in a unique way what God has to say about who we are. The PLACE workshop is not an event, but part of the process God will use in helping individuals find their PLACE in life and in ministry.

The 'P' in PLACE stands for personality discovery. PLACE's definition of Personality is; the inward and outward expression of emotional traits and characteristics that shape who we are, how we act and what we do. The inward characteristics and traits of our personality are given to us at birth by God, while the outward characteristics and traits that shape our personality are often a reflection of our environment, circumstances, and expectations of others. Both of these influences shape who we are, how we act and what we do. Here is a sneak preview of a personality assessment question:

> *The phrase I might repeat the most is...* a) I'll do it myself b) Why can't everyone get involved c) If it's worth doing, it's worth doing right

d) The more the merrier

As the title says, this is a sneak preview. Exciting, huh? Do you feel like you want to know more? There is a lot more; more about your personality, more about your spiritual gifts, more about your abilities, more about connecting your passion with ministry, and more about your life experiences.

All you have to do is sign up to attend the next PLACE Workshop. 2012 Workshop dates are coming soon. 1 Timothy 4:14a (NKJV) warns us, do not neglect the gift that is in you.

~Minister Leo Finkley

Evangelism Corner

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19)

Hello Saints,

The Evangelism Ministry has engaged a new approach to soul-winning: **The Encounter Method**. The Lord is a living person whom the grave could not hold and, at this very moment, is alive and waiting to meet men in a personal encounter. For those of us who already know the Lord, become **introducers** of the **live person of Christ**. Please feel free to join us every 2nd Sunday in the Children's Church for training. Also, the Street Ministry meets every 4th Saturday at 9:45 until 12 noon.

Yours in Christ, Evangelism Ministry



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Information

~ Ministerial Staff ~ Senior Pastor David A. Clarke, Sr. Associate Pastor Lee McCants Minister Milo Bradley, Jr. Minister Connie Dinkins Minister John Dukes Minister Leo Finkley Minister James Ford Minister Arie Freeman Minister Charles Frye **Minister James Gaines** Minister Tommy Gray Minister Rushia Jackson Minister Keith Perkins Minister LaTonya Phillips Minister Rashee Ragin Minister Antonia Simmons Minister Mary Ann Swinney Minister Cornelius Thorpe Minister Everand Woodard

~ In Training ~

Sister Dannie Dukes Sister Linda Gray Sister Mary Lenoir

~ Deacons ~

A-C	Deacon Jerome Stephens	929-1476
D-F	Deacon Slater Thorpe	218-8736
G-I	Deacon Donald Woodard	987-9865
	Deacon Louis Laney	329-0957
J-K	Deacon Robert Simmons, Sr.	
	Deacon Robert Simmons, Jr.	953-4290
L-N	Deacon T.C. Caldwell	293-8428
O-R	Deacon Monroe Clark	953-2044
S	Deacon Alvin Myrick	788-5696
	In Training—Bro. William Jackson	
T-V	Deacon Edward Jarvis	923-5139
W-Z	Deacon Nathaniel Davis	923-7713

~ Where to Serve ~

Business Stewardship Ministry – Trustees, Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, Security, Wedding Coordinator— Contact Bro. Anthony Steedley/335-7838

Outreach Ministry – Evangelism, Missions, Prison Ministry, Recreation Ministry– Contact Min. Cornelius Thorpe

Worship Ministry – Ministerial Staff, Music Ministry, Ushers/Greeters Ministry, Surrendered Dance Ministry, In Door Reporter, Genuine Praise Step Team, 4-Him2, 4-Him—Contact Sis. Africa Porter/923-6770

Teaching Ministry – Sunday School, Bible Study, New Members Orientation, Training Ministry— Contact Sis. Wanda Verrett/328-1483

Spiritual Enrichment Ministry – Deacons Ministry, Deaconess Ministry, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, Single's Ministry, Married Couples Ministry, Golden Achievers Ministry, Glory Girls Book Club, Nurse's Guild Ministry, Grief Support, Serenity/Addiction—Contact Dea. Donald Woodard/987-9865

Operational Support Ministry – Media Ministry, Computer Support Ministry, Floral Ministry, Public Relations, Bus Ministry, Food Service, Funeral Coordinator, Newsletter Ministry— Contact Bro. Abraham Scott/213-2263

Youth Ministry – Children's Church, Nursery Ministry, Puppet Ministry, Scholarship Ministry, —Contact Min. Rashee Ragin/322-1208

All announcements can be submitted by fax to U.G.M.B.C. at 478-923-6551. Direct all emails to uniongrov1@aol.com or complete a bulletin request form, and place it in the Administrative Assistant box no later than Wednesday at 5pm.

To schedule funerals at the church, please contact Sis. Wanda Verrett at 478-328-1483



The G.T.A.H. Newsletter is published by the last day of the month. If you would like to see your ministry or event featured in the G.T.A.H., contact any member from the Newsletter Ministry or email us at GTAHNewsletter@gmail.com by the 3rd Friday of every month or place them in the Newsletter/G.T.A.H. box in the copy room.

Note:

Please limit all articles solely for the Great Things that Are Happening at Union Grove when emailing your submissions. Articles should be no more than 500 words in length, with Times New Roman Font, Size 12, single-spaced. While all submissions are welcome, the G.T.A.H. Staff has the right to make any necessary revisions and make the decision to exclude the article if it does not meet the above criteria or fit the theme of the newsletter.

The GTAH Staff would like to thank everyone who contributed to the November issue. Your support and assistance have truly been a blessing to the ministry.

G.T.A.H. Mission Statement

To aid others in spreading the knowledge of Christ and encouraging spiritual living through printed words