

# The Messenger

## The Atlanta Church of Christ

*in Gwinnett*

### Elders

Steve Collier  
Steve Galbreath  
Alan Rouse

### Evangelist

Richard Alawaye

### Teacher

Gary Roberson

### Women's Ministry

Sarah Alawaye  
Barbara Collier  
Roxanne Galbreath  
Sherry Rouse

### Youth and Family Ministry

John and Marisabel  
Becker

### Deacons

Peter Berry  
Jim Dew  
Danny Doble  
Danny Emmett  
Audie Flowers  
Patrick Freeman  
Glenn Hayes  
Karl Lynn  
Harold McCurdy  
Alvin Modest  
Jeff Mueller  
Todd Reynolds  
Michael Rowell  
Dan Stehr



## Great News from the Campus Ministry (Richard Alawaye)

*“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours” (Mark 11:24)*

It has been very encouraging to see God move mightily in our Campus Ministry. When school opened in September 2010, we had two brothers (Fred Amon and Hilario Walker), on campus. Gwinnett College had just become Georgia Gwinnett College and the population of that campus swelled to about 7,000 in a relatively short period.

God has grown that mustard seed of only 2 disciples to 22 in twelve short months. The Alpha Omega Club is now registered officially at Georgia Gwinnett College. The students have their bible talk on Tuesdays at 2pm and they have been averaging about 58 people every week since school started this semester. The students are happy and having a great time reaching out to their classmates and friends. Two of the brothers (Hilario and Francisco Sanchez) have seen their mothers also baptized into Christ. Many of the students have also had other family members visit the church and some of them are coming to our services more consistently.

Several married couples have embraced our young men and women by hosting their Friday night devotionals in their homes. Peter and Nancy Berry and Russ and Sue McGarr have been very hospitable and welcoming in this area. Other couples have had the campus ministry in their home for Sunday lunch after church. A special word of thanks also to George and Tami Goodwin and Karl and Donna Lynn, for inviting the campus students for lunch and relaxation.

Fred Amon and Theresa George serve as the Family Group Leaders for the Campus Ministry and are doing a fantastic job serving in this ministry. Pray that God will continue to strengthen them and bless their work. It is our prayer that by the end of 2011, we will have 30 students in the campus ministry.

Below are testimonies from some of the campus disciples:

**(Robert French)** "What was your life like before becoming a disciple?" My life was empty and shallow.

**(Bianca Tripp)** "What do you enjoy the most as being part of the campus ministry?" It is great to always have many brothers and sisters around. I am able to seek advice from sisters.

**(John Gerard)** "Where do you see yourself 5 years from now?" I want to have helped many athletes become Christians.

**(Dena Eloshway)** "Who is your favorite character in the bible and why?" John the Baptist. I love the fact he was an eccentric fellow.

**(Malachi Groover)** "What is your favorite bible passage and why?" Php 3:7-16 This scripture reminds me of all God saved me from. Knowing Jesus surpasses everything else.

**(Kimberlia Pettway)** "What has life been like for you since you enrolled at GGC?" My life has changed completely, I am learning so much from other disciples on campus and from our leaders.

**(Ben Reynolds)** "What vision do you have for the Alpha Omega Club on campus?" I pray it continues to grow without us losing our grass roots connection and closeness.

**(Lynette Davenport)** "What was the turning point for you as your studied the bible?" I realized my old life was no longer for me and I had to change. I quit sin and repented.

**(Rody Fwamba)** "What aspect of your Christian life do you enjoy the most?" I love everything about being a Christian. I can't choose. Everything is great.

Let us all continue to pray that God will glorify Himself at GCC and let us continue to find ways to encourage our campus disciples.



**Family Group Leaders:**

Young Marrieds

Dave & Gina Bruce 678-522-4785

George & Tami Goodwin 770-414-9622

Middle School Parents

Harold & Cheryl McCurdy 770-317-8246

Teen Parents

Karl & Donna Lynn 770-979-4292

Singles

Jim & Chandra Dew 770-330-3479

Spanish Ministry

Danny & Cynthia Doble 770-931-0601

Prime Time

Glenn & Sheila Hayes 770-985-6921

Campus - Fred Amon 678-622-1222

## A View at the Cross by Russ McGarr

There were hundreds, perhaps thousands of people who witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus, and each of them came to their own conclusion on what they saw. As followers of Jesus, we need to keep a clear view on who Jesus is and what he did for us on the cross. At one time each of us was led to the foot of the cross during a study to see exactly what happened to Jesus using the Bible. Each of us that made Jesus the Lord of our lives saw the sacrifice and it deeply impacted our lives. As time passes, sometimes we can lose that clear view that we once had. It takes dedication and desire to help us keep it fresh in our minds and hearts.

We can view the crucifixion of Jesus like the two thieves that were being executed alongside of Him. In Matthew 27:44, they were insulting Jesus as they were being executed for their crimes. They deserved the punishment they received, but Jesus did not. He did not deserve to die. Our sins put Jesus up on the cross and He endured it for us. These criminals knew that they would not live to see the next day, that before the sun set, they would be dead. One of these condemned men was defiant and rebellious to the very end. People today can be defiant and rebellious against Jesus and his teachings. They live their lives without thinking of consequences or think about where their actions will one day lead them (like criminals).

As Christians, we live in this world but we should not live like it is our home. We can think that this example of the criminals does not apply to us because we made Jesus our Lord. Over time we can forget the impact that the cross once had in our lives and return to the things we used to do before we became Christians. We can get into a mode of just showing up to church and whenever someone asks how things are going, the answer is always "fine". We fail to get advice like we once did and then we wonder why our lives and marriages are in the state they are in, why our kids act the way they do, and why we fail to see God answering our prayers. (refer to Hebrews 10:26-27, this passage is addressing Christians)

We need to return to the things we did when we were first baptized (refer to Revelations 2:4-5). When was the last time you were excited about what you learned in your quiet time? When was the last time you opened the Bible with your family and discussed spiritual concerns? Are you talking about what God has done in your life with others? We forget that we have a hope and a future, a purpose in life, that we are NOT getting what we deserve.

We can view the crucifixion of Jesus like the chief priests, teachers, and elders of the law who said, "*Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.*" (Matthew 27:42). These are the same people who saw Jesus perform many miracles during his lifetime and were still not convinced that he is the Son of God. People today fail to see how much God has done in their lives and still want proof of His existence. They want God to do specific things for them and then they say, "God just do this one thing for me, and then I will know that you are real." They fail to see all the ways God has worked in their lives and are demanding some type of immediate response from God.

As Christians we can not put a condition on our level of commitment or devotion to God. Our lives get busy trying to balance jobs, a spouse, school, kids and their activities. We can make the same types of promises, by asking Him for that one thing that we believe will make us happy: that new job, a pay raise, etc. Things have a way of getting in the way of our view of the cross.

We need to have the same view of the cross as the apostle John. During the crucifixion, he wasn't concerned about what the other apostles were doing; John decided that he had to be at the cross, to serve, to take care of Jesus' mother. When it appeared that his world was crumbling down around him, John stood by his faith, and stood near his Lord, to help comfort a mother seeing her son die on a cross. And John did what he could to comfort Mary in her grief. John stood up at the cross not fearing that if they crucified Jesus, they could arrest and crucify him next. In total disregard for his own life, John stayed near the cross not hiding in the background. John did not look for an excuse.

We need to have the courage of John, but we also need the humility of the Roman centurion who was so impacted by what he saw exclaimed, "*Surely he was the Son of God*" (Matthew 27:54). The Bible does not comment further on this centurion, but I am sure his view at the cross changed him forever.

I know the first two views in this article will not apply to many of us, but at times each of us can get a little lazy and ungrateful in our walk with God. Remember the clear view of the cross we had when we were young Christians, how it filled us with gratitude and helped motivate us to do the right thing in all areas of our lives. As we remember Jesus' sacrifice, we need to clear away the worldly things that block our view of the cross and that will make a difference. It will make ALL the difference.

## BFF by Danie Cadet

*“Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”* Ruth 1:16-17

These words uttered by Ruth not only symbolize the transformation of her faith, but the mark of a true friendship. As disciples in the kingdom of God, we have an opportunity to truly develop inspiring relationships where God is glorified. Ruth and Naomi truly represent how the kingdom can bring two people together that would otherwise never become friends. Other than their love and loss of their husbands, Naomi and Ruth had nothing else in common. Naomi’s husband moved the family to Moab from Bethlehem where his sons married Moabite women, the very thing God forbade them to do.

Naomi’s God was no God of Ruth’s; Ruth and her people were polytheists. However, we find her, in the above-mentioned verse, pledging allegiance to both God and Naomi. How did they manage this? What did Ruth see in Naomi and her relationship with God that convinced her to walk away from everything she held dear to move and live completely at the mercy of God?

Ruth opted for a relationship with Naomi and her God, forsaking her family and their gods. One may ask, what prompted her to do such a thing? We don’t have to look too far; Naomi and her husband made a decision to move which hurt their family. However, Naomi’s relationship with her God had obviously made an indelible impression on her daughter-in-law. What are your relationships like ladies? Whom do you consider to be your “BFF” (best friend forever), as the teens would say? What’s the mission or purpose of your relationship?

Their relationship was not solely based on a student teacher relationship but also of mutual respect and admiration. The bible encourages us to *“instruct one another”* (Romans 15: 14). We witnessed this between the two when Ruth, knowing that Naomi was too weak physically to go on a search for food, volunteered. Naomi, knowing that Ruth was young and childless and would need a family, mentored her through a relationship with Boaz that fulfilled that dream.

*“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another”*. Proverb 17:7 This is God’s idea of a BFF. Is it yours? Your BFF should not be someone who agrees with everything you do. It should instead be someone who lovingly challenges you to be a better disciple and thus a better person. This scripture is able to bear fruit in our lives when we can be open to our friends and be willing to listen to their Godly perspectives and accept correction when we’re in sin. Does that define the relationship between you and your BFF?

Over the years, I have learned to use the word “friend” loosely. I have lost friends as a result of my Godly convictions. One of them hurts to this day. However, I do not consider someone my friend who withholds correction from me when I am in sin, or stand idly by when they notice my love and passion for God grow cold (thanks Dieury). Conversely, I can’t be a friend to someone if I can’t do likewise. Let’s repent sisters and work on deepening our relationships.

### Upcoming Events:

- October 8-9 Middle School Retreat (Swamp)
- October 14-16 Campus Retreat with North River (Swamp)
- October 23 Outdoor Service with Athens. (Fort Yargo State Park off Hwy 316)
- October 30 Guest Speaker: Tom Brown (North River Church of Christ)

