

Central Gwinnett Gazette

C E N T R A L G W I N N E T T M I N I S T R Y

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

- Oct. 12-14th 2006 International Leadership Conference in Virginia Beach
- Oct. 15th Guest Speaker - Blaise Feumba (Abidjan, Cote Ivoire)
- Oct. 22nd Combined Service with North River at Cobb Galleria
- Nov. 12th Guest Speaker - Peti Szabad (Budapest, Hungary)

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Upcoming Events	1
<i>Full of the Holy Spirit</i>	1
Women's Corner	2
<i>Biblical Parenting</i>	3
Deacon Corner	3
Attendance	3

Full of the Holy Spirit

By Joe Hartline

We are all known for something. Some are known for their passionate support of their favorite team. Others are known as music or art connoisseurs. Some are known as people who love to party and dance. What are you known for? In Acts 6, to solve the food distribution problem, the apostles told the church to choose seven men who were known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. What a great thing to be known for being in tune with God and His Spirit to the degree that when people think of you they associate you with God's Spirit!

On the other hand, we can be full of bitterness, full of a critical spirit, full of doubt, full of fear, full of insecurity, full of apathy, full of worldliness, full of self, filled up by our family, our job, our hobby, etc. We know what we are full of by what our mind is focused on (Romans 8). If you had to choose one of the two, which would you say best describes you – full of the Spirit or

full of the world and self? Obviously many of us fall somewhere in between. But that should not be our goal. After the brothers and sisters prayed together in Acts 4, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly (Acts 4:23-31). We are told in Ephesians 5:18 not to get

person would be known for their love, their joy, their peace, their patience, their kindness, their goodness, their faithfulness, their gentleness and their self-control. These characteristics would be seen in the home as well as in public. This person would likely be full of wisdom and faith and God's grace (Acts 6:3, 5, 8), and as we noted earlier, would speak the word of God boldly.

How do we become a person full of the Holy Spirit? Romans 8 gives more in-

sight than I have time to discuss here. Certainly, it takes setting our mind on what the Spirit desires, not on what our sinful nature desires.

Getting into God's word every day helps. But we must decide to do something with what we read that day. If we just read for information, we will not change, except perhaps to become puffed up over our knowledge. One

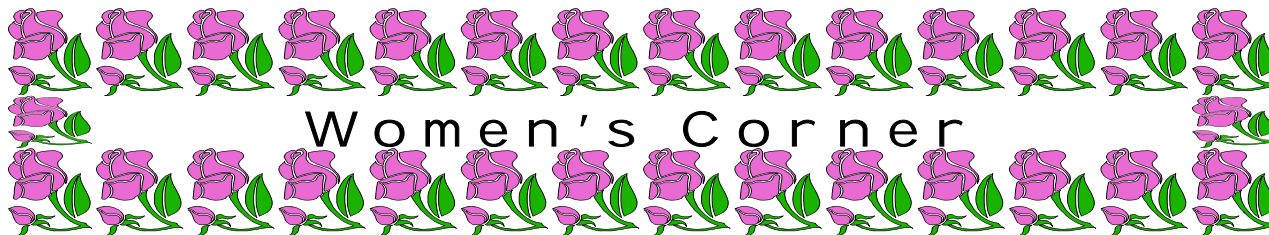
What are you known for? ...

What a great thing to be known for being in tune with God and His Spirit ...!

drunk on wine (be under the control of), but instead to be filled with the Spirit. There is no limit on how much we can give ourselves over to the control of the Spirit.

What does a Spirit-filled person look like? We should not turn to TV religion or even our own religious past for the answer. It stands for reason that a person full of the Holy Spirit would exhibit the fruits of the Spirit in abundant measure. This

(continued on p. 4)



Women's Corner

By Nancy Berry

When I was growing up, I struggled with identity issues, as most of us did -- "who am I, and why am I here?" As a teen, I asked a preacher at a church retreat, "Does God need me?" He gave me the textbook-correct answer, that God is self-sufficient and has never needed anyone -- leaving me feeling worthless and lost. Years later when I met disciples and studied the Bible, and as I gradually came to see the Cross clearly, I finally began to find the answer I'd looked for so long. I saw that God had counted me worth Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross, not as part of humanity in general, but as an individual, and my self-esteem began to stand steadily on that foundation.

Up to that point, I had served people and gone out of my way to be nice to others. I'd told myself I did it to obey God, but on closer examination my motives turned out to be much more selfish: I was trying to win people's approval, and I had a self-righteous streak a mile wide about "out serving" others. So how was I to come to a healthy attitude toward walking in Jesus' servant footsteps? Did my service earn me credit in God's eyes, or did I need to serve at all, since God didn't need anyone's help?

I found my balance in 1 Cor. 15:10: "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than

they all, yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me." This verse brought me a clearer vision than I'd ever had of my role in God's work. Rather than beating myself up over past or present failures, I could follow Paul's example in accepting myself as God accepted me, flaws and all. He doesn't ignore my inadequacies, but fills in all my cracks and gaps with His grace. When I first realized this, my focus was on me, that now I was okay, covered by His grace, but then realizing how all my inner needs were finally fully met left me with

***"...who am I, and
why am I here? ...
Does God need me?"***

the nagging feeling that this was too good to keep to myself. I had to pass it on, building others up and helping them feel as accepted and worthwhile as Jesus had made me feel.

Instead of serving to get something out of the situation, I wanted to give of my mental, physical, emotional, spiritual and financial resources, letting God's gifts to me benefit others' lives while hoping to give Him the credit I'd formerly craved for myself. But how to serve without letting my self-righteous "inner Pharisee" out, or without going back to doormat-hood? This verse pointed me to the way Jesus served. He certainly "labored more abundantly than they all," healing, teaching, feed-

ing thousands, raising the dead, but He never focused on Himself as the servant, but on God's grace reaching through Him to the people He touched (three examples in Mark 5:19, 34, 43). Separate the works from the source, and all you get is Isaiah 64:6. But let your works come from the overflow of God's grace in your life, and it becomes all about Him, not who serves who or how hard it might be at the moment.

I have no room to be self-righteous about it, since I can't out-serve Jesus in quality, quantity or in any way. And I have received too much security and stability from His grace to hold back on serving, thinking of what others may think of me or whether I'm being taken advantage of. I'm also saved from thinking I always have to say "yes," that I have to do it all; as part of God's Kingdom, I'm part of how He meets needs, but He chooses the best part to meet the need, and that's not always me. If I can serve, I will, and then I don't need to feel guilty when I can't because God is in charge of getting needs met, and He is more than able to work around people as needed. As I rely on Him daily to walk me through, showing me how I can pass on His grace in different ways -- teaching, babysitting, foster-parenting, driving, cooking, baking, listening, anything -- I learn to trust Him more and walk more in His steps as I go. (Col. 3:23-24, Matt. 5:16, 2 Cor. 9:10-15, Psalm 115:1) What could be sweeter than that?

Biblical Parenting

by Alan Rouse

Ask any Christian parent about their hopes and dreams. High on the list will be the salvation of their children. God has placed within all people the instinct to protect and preserve their children. When parents also have a faith in God and a hope of salvation, they naturally long to pass that on to their children. It is a Christian parent's greatest hope for their children, and also their greatest fear.

In our culture there are many obstacles and threats to be overcome if that longing is to be fulfilled. Evidence abounds that our society is not only failing to raise Christian children, but is even failing at passing on basic values of integrity and respect. At every turn, the world around us is fighting against the efforts of Christian parents. We need all the wisdom,

guidance, and help we can get.

Thank God that he has given us instructions in his Word for raising our children! Those instructions are not difficult to understand, but they are difficult to put into prac-



tice. Without constant attention to those instructions, we are destined to wander off the path, to the detriment of our children. Let's take a look at a couple of the key points about parents and children in the Scriptures.

Eph 6:1-4 Children, obey your par-

ents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

God ordained that parents are to be the primary authority figures in the life of the child. That is not the role of the public schools, or the government, or the church. God entrusted the parents with the incredible responsibility to raise the child. The parents are responsible and accountable, and cannot pass the buck.

Within the family, God made *fathers* responsible to bring up the children in the training and

(continued on p. 4)

Deacon Corner			Weekly Attendance and Contribution		
			<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Contribution</u>
Karl Lynn	Single Parents	770-978-4747	9/3	254	\$6,180
Ken Watson	Benevolence	678-376-2677			
Peter Berry	Benevolence	678-376-1878			
Patrick Freeman	Kingdom Kids	770-921-1811	9/10	329	\$6,118
Glenn Hayes	Kingdom Kids	770-985-6921			
Dan Stehr	Visitation	770-925-2943			
Bill Francis	Visitation	770-806-8645	9/17	360	\$7,158
Todd Reynolds	Middle School	770-682-0027			
Russ McGarr	Middle School	770-381-5045			
Steve Collier	Teens-Parents	770-717-5784	9/24	358	\$6,758
Joe Hartline	Teens-Parents	770-277-4765			
Danny Emmett	Hope, events	770-985-4542			
Todd Shultz	Communications	770-277-4276	10/1	326	\$8,131
Birt Anglin	Ushering	678-849-0180			
Jeff Mueller	Order of Worship	770-492-0544			
Kendall Knight	Music Service	770-972-6887			

(continued from p. 3)

instruction of the Lord (Eph 6:4). That bears repeating: **Fathers** are responsible for the spiritual training of their children. **Fathers!** When a father takes a back seat and leaves this work to the mother, that father is shirking a responsibility given to him by God.

The above passage refers back to the Ten Commandments, which we find in Deut. 5. Note that the first four of the Ten Commandments are the "vertical" commandments, addressing our relationship with God, while the remaining six are "horizontal" commands addressing our relationships with those around us. These two sections correspond to the two greatest commands according to Jesus: to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (vertical); and to love our neighbors as ourselves (horizontal). The command for children to obey their parents, found in Deut. 5:16, is the first of the horizontal commands. Being first makes it all the more significant, as does the associated promise.

Immediately after listing the Ten Commandments in Deut. 5, Moses proceeded in the next chapter to lay out the pattern for teaching God's commands through the generations. God had commanded Moses to teach them to the people (Deut. 6:1). The people then were to teach them to their children (Deut. 6:6). This was to continue on from

... it is the responsibility of the parents (particularly the fathers) to teach their children.

generation to generation, "*so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life.*" In Deut. 6:20, Moses specifically taught them that they were to explain to their sons the meaning of the laws God

had given. God gave the responsibility to **parents** for teaching the children God's commands and decrees.

Like Moses, the church today has a responsibility to teach the parents God's laws and decrees. And it is the responsibility of the parents (particularly the fathers) to teach their children.

At Central Gwinnett, we are currently seeking a teen minister to help us build a strong and spiritual teen ministry. Do not think that the teen minister will train your teen for you! God gave that responsibility to the parents, and we must not try to replace his plan with our own. Our goal is for the teen minister to support the parents so that the parents can fulfill their God-given role.

Please be praying for God to guide us in the selection process. And please do not neglect the instructions God has already given us in his Word on how to teach our children about Him!

(continued from p. 1)

practical way to see the fruits of the Spirit exhibited more in our life is to take one fruit per week and evaluate everything we do that week in light of that characteristic. In other words, let's say you are focusing on kindness. Right after a heated conversation or a delicate discussion, ask yourself, "Was I kind in how I spoke? What would have been a kinder way to say the same thing?"

Before an action, ask yourself, "How can I show kindness in this situation?"

Just think, if we all set our hearts and minds to be full of the Spirit, there will be such a convergence of love and power that the place just might be shaken. Let's be known for being full of the Holy Spirit.

FAMILY GROUPS

If you have not yet connected with a family group, we invite you to join any of our ten groups below:

- John Yang — Lilburn
- Glenn Hayes— Loganville
- Phil Dawson—Lawrenceville
- Audie Flowers—Lawrenceville
- Russ McGarr—Lilburn
- Karl Lynn—Snellville
- Ward Rutland—Lawrenceville
- Barry Jennings—Lilburn
- Joe Washington—Lawrenceville
- Gary Roberson—Lawrenceville