

Central Gwinnett News

THE CENTRAL GWINNETT CONGREGATION



Elders

Steve Galbreath
Alan Rouse

Evangelist

Richard Alawaye

**Women's Ministry
& Welfare**

Sarah Alawaye
Roxanne Galbreath
Sherry Rouse

Teens

Todd and Tracey
Reynolds

Deacons

Birt Anglin
Peter Berry
Steve Collier
Danny Emmett
Bill Francis
Patrick Freeman
Glenn Hayes
Kendall Knight
Karl Lynn
Russ McGarr
Jeff Mueller
Todd Reynolds
Todd Shultz
Dan Stehr
Ken Watson

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy new year. I hope for many of us, including the McGarr's, that 2008 will be much better than 2007. The end of 2007 was a difficult time for our family. Sue spent most of the summer caring for her father in Chicago. He then passed away in September. Sue's Stepmother passed away in December. Sue and I are grateful for all of your sympathy and prayers, and our hearts go out to all of you who have lost loved ones this past year.

Even though I understand the pain of losing your parents, since both of mine passed a few years earlier, I have come to the conclusion that not everyone handles grief the same way that I do. I understand that grieving takes time and this process will affect other areas of your day-to-day routine. As much as I want to try to "fix things", most of the time it is better to just listen with a sympathetic ear. This has helped me to remember that most things in life are beyond my control, and I need to constantly take them to God in prayer (1Thes 5:17).

Things that happen in our lives will either help us grow in our faith and trust in God or cause us to become bitter and lose faith. For me, it has helped my faith. I need to trust that God will bless me and cause me to be happy if I seek Him with all of my heart (Matt 22:37). Jesus even said to trust Him, and that He is preparing for us a room in Heaven (John 14:1). Knowing that God wants all of us to be happy and that He wants us to be with Him in Heaven should motivate us all to draw closer to Him.

(continued on page 4)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 14 – Guest Speaker: Chris Ogbonnaya, Lagos Nigeria
- Feb. 15-17 - 2008 Festival of Faith Columbia, SC
- Mar. 2 – International Sunday Guest Speaker: Mike Desouza, London, England

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A Journey

Part II

By Danny Emmett

(This article is the continuation of a series on adoption. Part I can be found in the Nov. 2007 edition of our newsletter at <http://www.centralwinnett.org/articles.html>.)

Hebrews 11: 1 "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

I believe that adoption is a leap of faith. Once we had prayed and decided in our hearts that Monu should be part of our family, faith took over. The adoption will cost over \$20,000. We have nowhere near that amount of money saved, but as we've learned from Hebrews, God had provided for our other adoptions, and we have the faith He will for this one also.

We met with people and discussed our finances and options to pay for the adoption. One of the couples we met with is very financially stable and gave lots of advice about finance. They hate debt, but they agreed that this type of debt could be acceptable because of its purpose – a debt due to the heart and not a new car.

Once word got around that we were adopting again (and before it was announced to the church), God provided encouragement and faith-building situations. One example is a couple very dear to our family passed us an envelope with instructions not to open it until we got home from Sunday service. Once home we opened the envelope to discover they had given us the exact amount of money we needed to complete the first step in the adoption process, the home study.

Less than a week later, a brother stopped me before midweek service and asked if we were adopting again as he had heard. I explained that we were just starting the process. He then asked if we had enough money set aside for all of our current children's college education. I laughed and explained that we had never really planned to pay fully for any of our children's college education, but would assist them as we could. This is not because we don't want them to attend college, but our belief is that they too should be responsible for the cost. We've seen so many children waste time and their parent's money and not appreciate the chance to go to college. We decided it was more important to have the children in the United States with a better opportunity to go to college than to stay in a third world country and have little chance for even a high school education. I understood the brother's concern and his heart to make sure we were counting the cost. I believe God moved in this brother's heart to speak to me to increase my faith in what we were doing.

Matthew 6:2-4 "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth; they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

A final example, so far, of God's encouragement came from a family who had just suffered a personal loss. They, in conjunction with other funds we had raised, donated enough money to almost complete the second part of the application process. This couple defines Matthew 6:2 because we are not the first people they have encouraged with not only money but also with love and time. They have the disciple's heart to give without being asked or expected, and they continued to follow their hearts even in their time of loss.

My plan for future articles will be more specific with the trails of paperwork, interviews, inspections, expectations, and waiting as we go through this journey. I will bore some, scare some, and discourage some, but I pray that some will pray, seek advice, step out on faith, become advocates of adoption, and adopt a child. Your life will never be the same.



Daughters of Sarah

By Elaine Francis

My Bible study over the past month has been on a "Quiet and Gentle Spirit", I Peter 3:1-6. As I studied deeper in these verses, my focus has always been on the quietness and gentleness women should have in order to please God and honor their husbands. This time I've focused more on verse 6, "Like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear."

Fear is very powerful if, as Peter warns, we "give way" or give in to it fear. Fear has the capacity to cause us to react hastily or do absolutely nothing. There are scriptures that teach us to fear of God. Fear of God teaches us to dread His displeasure, desire His favor, revere His holiness, and submit cheerfully to His will (Psalm 34:11-14, 111:10; Joshua 24:14; Luke 12:5). The Greek word for reverence for God is phobos [fob'os] (I Peter 3:2). The following verses contain the word phobos: 2 Corinthians 7:1; I Peter 1:17.

The word fear used in I Peter 3:6 is to be afraid, not trusting. We can do some crazy things out of fear. Out of the fear used in verse 6 comes impatience, anger, forcefulness of speech, and taking control of situations. Some sisters out of fear have made decisions directly against God's Word. For example, fear led them to believe God would not send them a husband. (I mention this only because just recently a dear sister and best friend was carried away by this particular fear).

There are married sisters as well who have marriages that do not bring Glory to God because of their behavior, attitudes or speech because of fear.

Whether you are married or single, do you have gracious speech? Do the younger women and teen girls see in us the kind of character they desire to imitate? Is our love and respect for our brothers in Christ and our husbands visible and sincere? Take a deeper look at the women in the world on television. Typically, they are rude, loud, always putting men down and treating them like they are children and stupid. The whole concept of being a helper is not part of their thought process. You don't have to be married to be a helper. I am married; however, my manager at work is a man. God has put me there to be his helper, and he's not my husband. It's to the Glory of God that I do this. Genesis 2:18 could be applied to husband and wife relationships; however, read I Corinthians 11:3. This is the scripture that women of this world do not know, and if they did, would not believe it applied to them.

Take a little self-analysis to find out of what you are afraid? Pray about it; ask God to help you identify your fears. He's faithful and will show you if you are sincere about changing and overcoming, letting go of your unrighteous responses.

In becoming Daughter's of Sarah, I Peter 3:6 says we must do what is right and not give way to fear. That is something we can control. While it's still early 2008, let us together make the decision to do what is right!

If there was ever a time when we need to see godly women, it is today. Titus 2:3-5 (Revised Standard) uses words like: reverent in behavior, sensible, chaste, domestic, love, kind, submissive, so that the Gospel of Christ will not be discredited. Let us begin 2008 by making the gospel attractive to those in the world that admire what is very precious in God's sight, maturing in Christ to have a Calm, Quiet, Gentle, Agreeable, Submissive Spirit (I Peter 3: 1-6).

Trust (continued)

As Christians, trusting God is not optional, but essential. Doubt sometimes clouds our faith because in the past people have let us down and broken our trust in them. God will NOT let us down; He always keeps His word. Even when loss and tragedy happen in our lives, God has a plan and a purpose for each of us. Also, God works for the GOOD of those who love Him (**Romans 8:28**). Consequently, there is absolutely no reason not to trust Him.

A passage of Scripture that I will be working on in 2008 is found in **Psalms 37:7** - "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him." It never ceases to amaze me the number of times I have been inspired, or a possible solution to a problem will come to me while meditating in prayer. But sometimes I pray to God for things like a child talking to Santa Claus, and I do not give God the time to respond to me. Trusting God means that I need to wait for God to answer my prayers and not worry. (Read **Proverbs chapter 3**).

As we all focus on our goals and dreams for the New Year, remember that in all things God is the answer.

Deacons Directory

Karl Lynn	Single Parents	770-978-4747
Ken Watson	Benevolence	678-376-2677
Peter Berry	Benevolence	678-376-1878
Patrick Freeman	Kingdom Kids	770-921-1811
Glenn Hayes	Kingdom Kids	770-985-6921
Dan Stehr	Visitation	770-925-2943
Bill Francis	Visitation	770-806-8645
Todd Reynolds	Middle School	770-682-0027
Russ McGarr	Middle School	770-381-5045
Steve Collier	Teens-Parents	770-717-5784
Danny Emmett	Hope, Events	770-985-4542
Todd Shultz	Communications	770-277-4276
Birt Anglin	Ushering	678-849-0180
Jeff Mueller	Order of Worship	770-492-0544
Kendall Knight	Music Service	770-972-6887

Family Group Leaders

Peter & Nancy Berry	Suwanee	678-376-1878
Steve & Barbara Collier	Lilburn	770-717-5784
Jim & Chandra Dew	Lilburn	770-330-3479
Danny & Cynthia Doble	Lilburn	770-931-0601
Audie & Jackie Flowers	Snellville	770-277-5749
James & Quiana Martinez	L'ville	678-985-5511
Alvin & Beatrice Modest	Snellville	678-344-0061
Jeff & Jessica Mueller	Tucker	770-492-0544
Ricky & Bridgett Roberson	Snellville	770-879-0868
Joseph & Lisa Washington	L'ville	678-407-0306
Ken & Kat Watson	Suwanee	678-376-2677

Let it snow

Contribution

1/6	\$10,716
1/13	\$10,416
1/20	\$ 7,060