

# The Messenger

## The Atlanta Church of Christ

*in Gwinnett*



### The Harvest Is Plentiful

By Richard Alawaye

*Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*

*(Matthew 9:35-38)*

The Bible teaches in no uncertain terms that Jesus came into the world to reconcile us to God. As sinners in a lost world, Jesus came down from heaven to show us the way back to God. Each of us can remember the people that reached to us, prayed for us, and helped us to know God through the scriptures.

Our "purpose" as children of God is to love God with heart, soul, mind and strength; and to love our neighbor as ourselves ([Matthew 22:37-39](#)). Our "mission" on the other hand, is to make disciples of all peoples ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)). Our purpose and mission should be very clear in our minds. Both our purpose and mission are always on-going. We continually need to be growing in love for God from week to week and also must constantly seek to make God known to others.

Last Sunday God glorified Himself by bringing many of our friends and family to our "International Service". Now the real work begins in making disciples out of those who came and could not come. In the last few weeks, Alex, Scott, Theresa and Kim made decisions to repent and get baptized and, praise God, they are now our brother and sisters in Christ today.

Our new name is now "The Atlanta Church of Christ in Gwinnett". The question then becomes: "what are we going to do in bringing the good news about God's Kingdom to the fastest growing county in Georgia?" We already have all peoples and races represented in Gwinnett County. We don't have to get on a plane to go on a foreign mission trip. God has brought all peoples to us! We are already on the mission field!

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**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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Mar. 23 – Easter Service  
May. 11 – Mother's Day

**UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKERS**

Ron Drabot, Charlotte, NC

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# The Harvest is Plentiful

(continued)

We must imitate Jesus in the way He reached out to people.

***We must go through ALL the towns and villages.*** In our case, that means going through all the sub-divisions and streets in Gwinnett. My prayer and goal for us as a church has not changed. I want there to be disciples of Jesus in every single sub-division in Gwinnett in our lifetime. It is that simple! Do you believe this is possible?

***We must preach and teach as we go.*** We must never forget that it is the Word of God that converts people. It is not our sleek ideas or friendly demeanor. You don't know someone until you allow the Word to impact their heart. When was the last time you opened the bible with someone? How often do you sit down and get into the Bible with people? Once a week, once a month? Are so busy with life that we don't have the time to show people God? For many of us, we need to be convicted and simply repent. Many of us have not opened up the bible with anyone in years! This must change. God commands us. Reaching out to people is not an option. That is the mission of the church.

***We must open our eyes and have compassion on people.*** People are lost and in pain without God. Let's get real. Don't be fooled by people who seem on the outside to have it all together. People are hurting and looking for answers to their life problems. Answers on marriage, on parenting on financial security, etc. The Bible has the answers on all these issues. That is why we are having "Life Talks". The Life Talks are for our friends and neighbors. (We are there to make comments and to make the discussions lively). Are we inviting people to these Life Talks?

***We must believe the harvest is plentiful.*** Jesus does not lie. The harvest in Gwinnett County is plentiful if we would simply open our mouths. Satan does not want us to believe this incredible promise. I believe people in Gwinnett are open and are searching for God. If we don't believe this, we might as well close down the church and go about something else in this life.

***We must become workers in the kingdom.*** Making disciples is not a spectator sport. Every player needs to be on the field. Ask God to transform you into a worker in His harvest field. Have you been working or have you simply been watching while others are doing the work?

I thank God that He believes in us to get the job done. We have not even started to scratch the surface. In the next few years, there will be over one million people in Gwinnett County. Let us build a great church to God's glory here in Gwinnett in this lifetime, and to God be the glory!



## The Christian Way (Pt.1)

By Sarah Alawaye

*In the past several months God has been very deliberate in reminding me of His ways and His workings. With us in the congregation and our different needs, He has shown me that He wants me to constantly pray and that good is coming out of it - the sisters are serving one another, taking care of each other's needs and carrying each other's burdens.*

*I am reminded of the goal and purpose of challenges, sufferings and pain: they are to achieve something in our hearts. It is this that I would like to share with you.*

*I pray that this will add to you and draw you closer to His Heart. Truly God's ways are not our ways, but the cross helps us connect with God.*

*The cross was Jesus' greatest trial, and He shows us how to handle suffering, injustice, and pain in a godly way with the example he sets for us, by having gone through it Himself.*

*Let us do some Bible study together. There is spiritual, mental and emotional shift that God wants you and me to embrace!*

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 6-7; James 1: 2-3, 12; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4: 12-19

*Whenever we go through anything challenging, be it health issues or finances or life, with all its ups and downs, while in the middle of them, they feel heavy and permanent. But "they too shall pass" (this, a beautiful song in a CD given to us by Alvin and "B" Modest, that inspires one to hang in there and allow God to fashion what He has intended). And, as God so aptly says, that they are "...light and momentary..."*

*But if we do not have a spiritual outlook, they can affect us; our lives can get altered, where we lose sleep, we cannot think, Jesus stops being Lord. Yet God says that whatever it is we are going through it has a purpose to achieve in us a glory, in heaven. So we must have that spirit to want to overcome and push through, to learn and become what He intends for us to become.*

*Like in sports, one gets to a point where one hits a wall, but one keeps going (e.g., in a marathon), and when one finishes, there is joy, a sense of fulfillment, victory. One talks of the finish and the joy in overcoming the walls. I believe it will be the same when we overcome, when we look back, we will talk of the growth, the joy and the gratitude of the process that brought this incredible victory!*

*There is something that is accomplished only through suffering, insults, hardship, pain, and humiliation that*

*nothing else can. Let us look at Jesus' suffering and learn from His response to it.*

**Luke 23:34** *If anybody who has a right to be angry and react however way it is Jesus, for He had no sin, made no mistake, had done nothing wrong and yet His Heart was, "Father, Forgive Them, for they do not know what they are doing"!*

### "FATHER"

*In the midst of it all, people having lied about Him, slapped Him, spat on Him, whipped, ridiculed, and mocked him as a spectacle for the whole world to see, He says "Father". Father, dad, denotes trust, love and closeness.*

*With us, our tendency, while in the thick of it, is to doubt, question, or wonder if God is really there. Or we become distant, we tend to feel forgotten, get inward or even cynical or critical. We don't reach out or call out; all kinds of things go on in our hearts and minds.*

*But Jesus, He calls out and says "FATHER!" Satan, right from the beginning, attacks our view of God the Father.*

**Genesis 3:4-5** *Satan here is trying to distort God's intentions, claiming that He is holding out on Eve. Satan is attacking the view of God the Father. He is attacking God and planting seeds of doubt, questions and distorting that which is pure. But Jesus, in the midst of it all, when tempted the most to question, holds onto that which is true, God the Father.*

**Mathew 25:24-25** *The last guy of the talents tries to justify his actions. His view of his master is off.*

*\*\*\* Our view of God shapes our thought patterns, our lives, our decisions, our outlook. That is why I believe Satan constantly attacks it. \*\*\**

**Luke 15:29** *The older son's view of his father is a little bit off! His heart toward his father is - all these years, slaving for you, never disobeyed. Sometimes we can be tempted to feel like, "I have been a disciple all these years, look at where I am..." He saw what His father did not give him. His focus was off. Our focus can be off sometimes and can look at what God has not done, and we quantify how long we have served Him and we get blinded to the many blessings He has blessed us with.*

**Luke 15: 17-20** *The younger brother; at his worst, had a completely different view of his father. He did not blame his father, rather his heart was, how many...he recalled the nature of his father, how he treated even his servants and assumed the goodness of his father's Heart, his very true recollection of his father made him willing to go back and be a slave. How he viewed his father changed his life completely!*

**Question: Sisters, in the midst of your pain, trial and suffering, how do you recall God the Father?**

**Question: Has Satan succeeded to distort your view of God?**

(To be continued next month)

# Singles Ministry Update

By Jim & Chandra Dew

Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

“So, my brother what’s happening with the singles?” “Glad you asked!!!” The singles are lighting it up for God in Hotlanta. We have family reaching out to family. We have two new additions to our family through baptism. Lisa Lafrance and Mirlene George brought their sister Theresa George into the family of God. Theresa was baptized on Sunday, March 2, 2008. Also baptized on that day was Kim Pettway, the daughter of our very own Winnie Pettway. Additionally, the single sisters have two ongoing studies, and we would encourage everyone to pray for victory in these studies, also.

Besides being busy sharing their faith and studying their Bibles the Atlanta Church of Christ in Gwinnett singles joined together with their brothers and sisters from all over Atlanta to have a fantastic singles devotional on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The single brothers and sisters in Atlanta spent from sundown Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> until sundown on the 23<sup>rd</sup> fasting and praying to God for guidance and unity.

Additionally, the Gwinnett singles gathered together in February with the singles from Athens and Cornerstone for a great Life Talk. We had over fifty singles in our house that night and it was great to watch the brothers and sisters dive deep into their Bibles for the real secret of the prodigal son. I don’t know if I am allowed to divulge this information, but if you look in Luke 15:11-32 and focus on the other son and the father it will be similar to what the singles discussed.

The single brothers have begun to meet twice a month to discuss what it means to be a man of God and to develop their leadership potential. We meet every other Wednesday and have begun in-depth Bible studies on different men in the Bible. A different brother leads each study and it gives us a time to practice being open with one another about our lives.

Chandra and the single sisters will be starting a series of Wednesday night classes focused on teaching the sisters how to lead Bible studies with each other and non-Christians.

The singles are excited about the International Singles Retreat coming up Labor Day weekend in Dallas. The buzz has started and singles have already sent in their registrations from over 24 different countries including United Arab Emirates, Bolivia, Bahamas, Canada, Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Liberia, Myanmar, Mexico, Nigeria, Philippines, Russian Federation, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom, US Virgin Islands, and South Africa. With so many countries in attendance, this will truly be one of the most significant international conferences in our church history.

Chandra and I are grateful to be able to serve our singles here in Gwinnett and we ask for your prayers for unity and continued growth in the ministry during 2008.

Love in Christ.

## 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

## Contribution

Feb 3	\$10,472
Feb 10	\$ 7,494
Feb 17	\$ 3,188
Feb 24	\$11,451
Mar 2	\$11,231

## 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