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UNION GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

# Change the Atmosphere

Our Motto: We are a changing people changing the world for Christ.

# G.T.A.H.

Great Things Are Happening

## Changing The Atmosphere—Pam Myrick

One of the most beautiful sights to behold is a flag being waved in our sanctuary. But, what are we really saying when we wave the flag? What do the flag movements mean? What do the colors represent?

When we wave our flags during worship, we are saying this territory belongs to God. We invite and usher in the presence of the Holy Spirit. When flags are waved in the sanctuary, we are exalting Jesus in our worship. We are declaring war on the works of the devil. "...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." (1 John 3:8). Our flags say that we want a breakthrough in the atmosphere. We want the Lord to come and show us His glory. The Lord wants us to be free in our worship. "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." (2 Cor. 3:17). We stand with our flags to acknowledge the Lord for all that HE is. Our flag worship must ALWAYS be about Him.

In the book, Bringing Back the Glory, by Joe

Brown, it explains the Biblical Foundation of the flags better than I can say it:

*"Used in accordance to the Word, flags become the primary sign for lifting up a "standard" of God. The Bible refers to the word flag as "standard" or "banner". The Hebrew word degel is translated as, a flag or banner or standard. Degel comes from the Hebrew root word dagal, meaning to flaunt, i.e. raise a flag; to be conspicuous, setting up with banners. Standard is defined as a banner used as an emblem, marker or rallying point; an ensign; military or personal flag. In the Old Testament, God commands Moses to instruct the children of Israel to camp by their own "standard" to signify their tribe. (Num. 2:2) There were 12 different flags or banners for the 12 tribes. (Num. 1:52, 2:2-3, 10, 18, 25; 10:14, 18, 22, 25) Banner is defined as a flag or cloth standard. It is used figuratively to define one of God's names, Jehovah Nissi, the Lord is my banner."*

As a congregation, we have witnessed flags of all shapes, sizes, and colors in the sanc-

tuary. There are many flags that can be used to minister unto the Lord. With the Holy Spirit leading, there are specific movements to flags used to bring forth truth. "You have given a banner to those who fear You, that it may be displayed because of the truth." (Psalm 60:4)

The following flag movements are compiled from the flag ministries of Majestic Reign Ministries, Jubilee Flag Ministry and Worship Him Ministries. I want to start with a just a few for now.

**Praise:** Flags extended upward, waving back and forth quickly. (Ps. 21:13, 99:3, 135:1)

**Worship:** Extended above the head at an angle, flourishing movements back and forth; flags in worshipful and graceful movement. (2 Chr. 20-18, Ps 29:2, Rev 7:11)

**Adoration:** Bowing at waist bringing flags down and swinging across in front. (Isa. 6:1-5, Rev. 14:8-11)

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### G.T.A.H. Mission Statement:

*"To aide others in spreading the knowledge of Christ and encouraging spiritual living through printed words."*

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

## Changing the Atmosphere Cont'd.

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**River of Life/Cleansing; Reviver; Restore our Souls:** Wave flags in a fluid motion like waves of water. (Isa. 58-12, Jer.2:13)

**Warfare:** Raise flags over head making an "X". (2 Cor. 10-4, 1 Pet. 5-8)

*The following are biblical interpretations for some of the single color flags we see in the sanctuary.*

**White:** Glory & majesty (Dan. 7:9, Rev. 20:11)  
Purity (Rev. 1:14)

**Gold:** Mercy (Ex. 37:2, 6)

**Silver:** Redemption (Gen. 44:8; Ex. 27:17)

**Purple:** Royalty (Judge. 8:26)

**Blue:** Heavenly character (Ex. 28:31)

**Red:** Atonement (Isa. 63:2) and Persecution (Rev. 12:3)



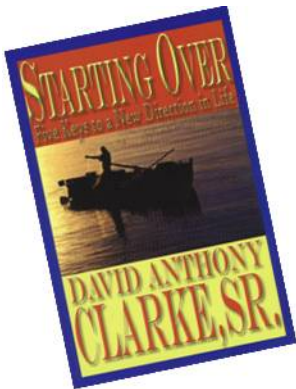
We also use our flags as Weapons of War. *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* (Eph. 6:12)

***What weapons are you using to change the atmosphere???***

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## Pastor Clarke

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Pastor Clarke's new book, *Starting Over: Five Keys to a New Direction in Life*, will help you find a "new you" that you may have never considered looking for. Just as Simon Peter made a discovery about himself that changed his life, your life can dramatically change as well. He was transitioned from a fisherman to a fisher of men. You, too, can find a "new you" and live a life of fulfillment and significance that surpasses your wildest imagination. These five keys will challenge you to pursue your God-given assignment and live it out with confidence and joy.

For your donation of \$5, you can also help Pastor Clarke provide a free copy of his book to someone displaced by Hurricane Katrina who is currently housed in the middle Georgia area. For your donation of \$450 or more, a case containing 92 books will be donated to a shelter housing evacuees in your name. Your generous support is greatly appreciated.

Pastor Clarke has also launched a new website @ [www.pastorclarke.biz](http://www.pastorclarke.biz)

**For copies of this book, contact:  
David Anthony Clarke, Sr.  
Union Grove Missionary Baptist  
Church  
809 S. Davis  
Warner Robins, GA 31088  
TEL: 478-922-5514**

# Why Was I Born? - Pastor David Anthony Clarke

I went Christmas shopping with my daughters recently. Michelle was running errands, my son, David II (*Davey-Dave*), was hanging out with a friend of his and it was just me and the two ladies. They wore me out big time. We drove up to Macon, which is about 20 minutes from where we live and hit so many stores...whew. I think we'll shop online next year. I was not born to Christmas shop with 12 and 14 year old young ladies. Nope, not me, especially on a Sunday afternoon after I had preached two messages. All I'm saying is that shopping with two teenage girls is not my spiritual gift and I've got better things to do with my life.

I'll be honest. I'll take the girls shopping again, but as I spent time with them yesterday I thought of how many times we end up doing things or involved in relationships that are not cut out for us. There are some times when we're doing something that's not the most pleasant or rewarding exercise and wrestle with serious life questions. One of those questions is, "Why was I born?" Perhaps you've asked the question in another way, "What is my purpose?" As we celebrate the birth of the Lord of Lords, Jesus, I think it is worthwhile to look at why we are on this earth and what we are to do with the life we have left. Please consider the following:

## 1. I was born to worship God.

Worship, as I have taught at Union Grove, is to give God what He wants...the way He wants it...all the time. Worship is a lifestyle of obedience that includes our actions and motives. Worship goes beyond a song or a style of music that we sing in contemporary churches. It is loving God enough to devote our lives to His purpose. Worship makes you give up what you want in exchange for giving in to what God wants. Worship is seen in Moses leaving his comfort zone in Midian to return to Egypt to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt and into Canaan. Worship is heard in Jesus saying that His "meat" was to do the will of the Father who had sent Him. Worship is seen in the saints enduring persecution for the sake of the Gospel being preached. I encourage you to worship. Live your life by giving God whatever He demands. He'll bless you in return by withholding no good thing from your life.

## 2. I was born to learn.

Soon after we're born we begin learning. We learn how to walk, how to talk, how to feed ourselves, and dress ourselves. We get a little older and learn how to surf the Internet, drive a car, break curfew, and fill out college applications so we can decrease our parents' light bill and food bill, and still find some way to become more of a financial burden to them in four years of college than we were the first 18 years of living in their homes. . Go figure. Nevertheless, we are born to learn and we learn from birth onward. They say that knowledge is power, but ignorance is even more powerful. Do not live without learning what really counts in life.

Here are a few things I'd encourage you to learn:

1. Learn how to love and be loved. Do not live your life without healthy, loving relationships. Americans are extremely busy people. We're always on the run and promising to get with people that we never have time to hook up with. Some of us experience a very depressing loneliness as a result. If we'd realize that we are born to love and be loved, we'd probably make more time for relationships.

Loving and being loved is a learning experience. I had a conversation with a gentleman who felt that he had unselfishly given himself to others only to feel abandoned at a time when he hit an emotional low and really needed a friend. I challenged him to consider if his own actions had caused others to distance themselves from him. Do not push love out of your life with unhealthy behavior. Invite love by being a loving and lovable person.

2. Learn how to live a normal life. What is a "normal" life? A normal life consists of things that normally happen to most people. Problems, pain, dealing with difficult people, joy, achievement, and failure are all a part of life. We hurt ourselves and make matters worse when we think we're the only ones dealing with problems. I encourage you to embrace the fact that what happens to you happens to a lot of people. Share what you're going through with persons you can trust. Becoming a part of a support group can work wonders for how well you

endure hard times and empower you to count it all joy as you endure what normally happens to most people.

3. Learn how to teach others to live a prosperous life. Teaching others how to live a prosperous life is very rewarding. One of the best ways to do this is to share the mistakes you've made along the way. It is very therapeutic and empowering for the person sharing as well as the people listening. I agree with Norton Juster who said, "But it's not just learning things that's important. It's learning what to do with what you learn and learning why you learn things at all that matters." If you're ready to teach, someone who is ready to learn will soon knock at your door. Don't be afraid to tell them how far the Lord has brought you and what He has brought you through.

## 3. I was born to be born again and live forever.

I was not born to die in my sins and spend eternity in a burning hell. I was born that I might be born again and live forever. Being born again simply means that I have come to a point where I asked God to forgive me for how I tried to live my life without Him and asked Him to let me start over in life with Him being in charge. Just as I started learning a lot of important stuff after my first birth, I have an awful lot of stuff to learn after I've been born again. You can be born again and live forever if you:

1. Admit you are a sinner and that you've been living life by your own rules.

2. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for your sins, was buried, and raised from the dead.

3. Confess Jesus as Lord and declare that He will be in charge of your life from now on and you will live from now on!

# I Celebrate Creation — Min. Marilyn Byrd

Cont'd from December

Although the condition was being made ready for life, and everything necessary for the sustenance of life was there, it was not yet created. So what we have at this point is a tripartite ecosystem: earth, sea, and heaven which are the relationships of the environments that all matter works together in unity, being fitly joined. Can you imagine out of utter darkness came this beautiful paradise of green-covered earth, with all the hues of flowers, and trees set in the midst of this enormous blue ocean? It was a perfect environment for the more complex of his creations to come forth.

Now God decorates the firmament above with illumined lights (heavenly bodies) to provide varying degrees of light that would govern the day and night, giving signs and seasons, days and years. When God said that the illumined lights would *rule* the day and night, he meant that they would control our life patterns, and not be our gods as personified by the ancient Babylonians, thus the beginning of mythology. They were set in place to navigate us through the courses of life (i.e., the wise men who traveled from the east to Jerusalem were led by a star, except they referred to it as His Star). "...Where is he that is born King of the Jews for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." Matthew 2:2 And the star guided them to where the child was. Even birds navigate by the stars when migrating. The signs were markers to indicate times and seasons. They regulate our lives, set our calendars, determine the length of a year, divide our years into seasons and mark the passage of our days and nights. And when I say seasons, I am not referring to Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter, or Halloween. I am referring to winter, spring, summer, and fall which are critical for the rejuvenation of life, the growing of crops, and the flourishing of the earth. This particular light was now sufficient to be the chief source of light and energy on the earth and whatever means God had previously illumined the earth was no longer necessary. All I know is what the Bible says, "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork." Psalm 19:1.

God brings forth his living creatures

of the seas and sky, and commands them to be fruitful and multiply. In Genesis vs 21, the Hebrew word for 'every living thing' is *nephesh* which translates "soul." It literally means that which breathes and it speaks of soulish and creaturely life, not to the organic life of plants. He creates each creature with amazing abilities: 1) to be self-sustaining (nourishment, breath, and protection) from their own environment; 2) to be self-repairing (means to heal and rest); and 3) to be self-reproducing thereby propagating and producing more of its own kind. All of which is dependent upon the land, dependent upon the seas, dependent upon the air, dependent upon the light.

God forms the living creatures of the ground and calls them cattle, creeping thing, and beast of the earth. He calls them after their own kind, when they die, their bodies decompose and they go back to the earth. It is so awesome to see that the created days all correspond with each other: Days one and four (lights and light bearers), days two and five (separated the seas from the sky (made dry land appear and filled it with living creatures).

Now God makes the man, but the language changes! God no longer says, "Let there be...Let the earth bring forth...Let the waters abound...or Let the waters be gathered together..." but rather says, "Let US make man in OUR image, according to OUR likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." It goes from a singular command to a definitive plurality. Everything prior to this definitive has been impersonal and issued to no one in particular. But this speaks of the creation of Adam in a very personal way. Scripture says, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living soul." There is that word *nephesh* again (soulish, breathing, and living thing). God establishes a personal relationship with this creature of his image and likeness. It did not exist with any other creation — not the light, not the waters, not the sun, the moon, the stars, or with the other living creatures. It is with humanity that

God does this different thing. He says that the earth will pass away — it will burn up and all of its inhabitants therein except, humanity. We are to live forever in the presence of God and enjoy him always. This is precisely why Jesus left his place of the Godhead to become like man that we would have the perfect model to emulate; thus scripture "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren." Romans 8:29

So we ask, "What is the image of God?" The Hebrew word for 'image' is *tselem* which comes from the root word that means "carving." Here we see that we were carved into the shape of God for our personhood. We were uniquely and wonderfully made which further exemplifies our peculiarity that Peter speaks of in I Peter 2:9. And because some of our physical attributes are similar to some of the attributes in the animal kingdom, this is clearly NOT what the image of God reflects. ☺ What we are referring to is the 'Spirit of God.' We have his consciousness: self, moral, others, and God himself. Before the sin of Adam, we had his divine nature that included holiness, wisdom, goodness, truth, love, grace, mercy, longsuffering, and righteousness. Through our intellect and emotions, we are able to understand and enjoy the creative beauty of God's creation and fellowship. We are the only created kind with the ability to have a relationship with God and other human species. Our bodies are material and will return to the dust, but it is the invisible part of man that is immaterial and eternal.

I couldn't possibly end this piece without referring to God's final creative process — He takes and fashions the WOMAN from the rib of the man while he slept. He brought her to the man and pronounced them to be husband and wife when he said, "Male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth.'" Genesis 1:27-28

# I Celebrate Creation

(Cont'd from page 5)

This is the true reason for marriage; otherwise, they could have stayed single individuals ruling and reigning together. Adam had everybody inside of him and God's purpose was to bring them forth Adam was put to sleep and given one just like himself, but with a womb to carry his seed (like begats like). The Bible refers to her as a "helpmeet," one created to be suitable for the other. She is the one who came to help Adam bring the rest of humanity out of himself. I like to think of her as the crowning creation of God. She becomes pregnant with her husband's desires and she gives them life. She was made for the man, not the man for the woman. I Corinthians 11:3. She is the greatest gift that God gave to man. He pronounced it very good, and then He rested from all of his work.

The creation story is one of the most fascinating stories of the Bible, whereas, it shows us our dependency for relationship. So the essence of the woman, God's crowning creation is dependent upon the man, God's responsible one, leader, cultivator and teacher who is dependent upon the land animals and creeping things, dependent upon the dry land, dependent upon the birds and fish, dependent upon the seas, dependent upon the air, dependent upon the light. Celebrate Creation!!!

## Welcome Our Newest Arrivals!!!

Whenever a woman is in labor she has pain, because her hour has come; but when she gives birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy that a child has been born into the world.

John 16:21 (New American Standard Bible)



**Mahogany Serae' Porter**

November 30, 2005  
1:37pm

7lbs.-4oz., 20 inches

Parents: Brian and Afrika Porter



**Faith Denise Smith**

December 16, 2005  
3:58 p.m.

7lbs.-1.2oz., 20 inches

Parents: Jermaine and Patrice Smith

## Evangelism Reminder — Min. James Gaines

As a reminder to everyone, the Evangelism Team goes out on Sunday afternoons at 4:00, we are also planning a "B" Team which will go out on Saturdays. We have home prayer cell/bible study groups that could use your help as well. You are invited to become a part of the Evangelism Ministry. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact Min. John Dukes @ 953-8789 or Min. James Gaines @ 972-0429. We will be glad to contact you as soon as you provide your name and number to our church secretary Sis. Yvonne Caesar @ 922-5514. Looking Forward to laboring with you.

# INFORMATION PAGE

## Happy Birthday!!!

### Business Stewardship Trustees Ministry

Bro. Henry Allen	929-2931
Bro. Ben Respress	923-4310
Bro. Jermaine Smith	218-0106
Bro. Charlie Tuck	988-3321
Sis. Emma Harrison	923-2935

### Ministerial Staff

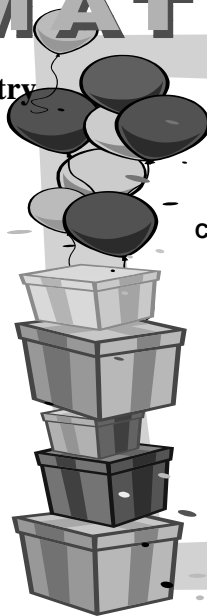
Pastor David A. Clarke, Sr.	988-9358
Pastor Paul Dunbar	953-3793
Pastor Frankie Rivers	218-2907
Min. Milo Bradley, Jr.	971-3346
Min. Lee McCants	953-5139
Min. John Dukes	953-8789
Min. Rushia Jackson	923-1350
Min. Mary Ann Lollar	328-8810
Min. Grace King	929-1272
Min. Charles Byrd	218-0185
Min. Rena Laster	929-4658
Min. Shane Hardee	825-0446
Min. James Ford	929-0577
Min. Marilyn Byrd	218-0185
Min. James Gaines	972-0429
Min. Antonia Simmons	953-4290
Min. Lonnie Klutz	971-4479
Min. Eugene Johnson	328-7069

### Deacons

A-C	Deac. Jerome Stephens	929-1476
D-F	Deac. Michael White	923-2938
G-I	Deac. Louis Laney	329-0957
J-K	Deac. Robert Simmons	953-1173
L-N	Deac. T.C. Caldwell	714-0155
O-R	Deac. Monroe Clark	953-2044
S	Deac. Charles Lenoir	953-2350
T-V	Deac. Edward Jarvis	923-5139
W-Z	Deac. Nathanel Davis	923-7713
	Deac. Donald Woodard	987-9865

### “The Grove Zone Vision Statement”

*To be a global network of learning, loving, and life transforming ministries where hungry worshipers are discovering and walking in their God-given purpose with exceeding great joy.*



Anderson, Lena M.  
Bell, Amie  
Blackmon, Ethel  
Booker, Irene  
Carpenter, Barry  
Coleman, Emerson B.  
Coleman, Erik  
Davis, Grace  
Davis, Nathanel  
Dinkins, Connie  
Dinkins, Joseph  
Dupree, Moses  
Finkley, Trinyette  
Glover, Carey  
Hardin, Sterling  
Hicks, Yvonne D.  
Hughes, Wendy

James, Latasha  
Johnson, Elizabeth  
Johnson, Stephanie  
Jones, Joyce  
Jozwiak, Isaiah  
Latimore, Vickie  
Leggette, Joshua  
Lucas, Gary  
Mitchell, DeAnthony  
Nelson, Kevin  
Pegues, Gayla  
Powell, Mattie  
Ragin, Christine  
Ragin, Rashee  
Respress, Ben  
Richardson, Ramell  
Shade, Jimmy

Simon, Dondria  
Smith, Clara  
Smith, Darren  
Smith, Willie  
Sorrow, Bonnie  
Stephens, Will  
Strickland, Tameka  
Tate, Bobbie  
Tharpe, Rosa  
Thornton, Desrick  
Toles, Byron  
Turner, Audrey Faye  
Williams, Cynthia  
Willis, Marion  
Willis, Teresa  
Woodard, Everand  
Wright, James  
Wright, Mable

### What's Going on At “The Grove Zone” in JANUARY 2006

- 1-1 New Years Day Service, 10:45am only
- 1-7 Men's Prayer Breakfast, Vision Center, 6am
- 1-8 Leaders Consecration Service, 10:45am
- 1-11 Major Ministry Leaders Meeting, 7pm
- 1-14 Ministry Workers Banquet, Vision Center, 7pm
- 1-19 Glory Girls Annual Outing
- 1-21 Benefit Concert for the Stephens Family, 6pm
- 1-22 Smithville Baptist Church, 2pm
- 1-28 Life Changers Fashion Show, Vision Center, 5pm

### PLACES TO SERVE AT THE GROVE:

- **BUSINESS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY-** Finance, Personnel Committee, Real Estate, Security, Trustees, and Wedding Ministries: *Contact Bro. Henry Allen 929-2931*
- **OPERATIONAL SUPPORT MINISTRY-** Bus, Computer Support, Floral, Food Service, Funeral, History, Media, Newsletter, and Public Relations Ministries: *Contact Deacon Edward Jarvis 923-5139*
- **OUTREACH MINISTRY-** Evangelism, Jail/Prison, Mission, Recreation Ministries: *Contact Minister John Dukes 953-8789*
- **SPIRITUAL MINISTRY-** Deacons, Deaconess, Married Couples, Men, Nurses Guild, Seasoned Saints, Serenity Addiction, Singles, and Women-(Ladies Retreat/Glory Girls) Ministries: *Contact Deacon Jerome Stephens 929-1476*
- **TEACHING MINISTRY-** Bible Study, Library, New Members, Sunday School, & Training Ministries: *Contact Minister Charles Byrd 218-0185*
- **YOUTH MINISTRY-** Children's Church, Genuine Praise, Nursery, Puppet, Scholarship, & Youth Outreach Ministries: *Contact Pastor David Clarke 988-9358*
- **WORSHIP MINISTRY-** , Indoor Reporter, Ministerial Staff, Music, Surrendered , Ushers, and Voices of Prayer & Praise Ministries: *Contact Pastor David Clarke 988-9358*

If you would like to receive an online copy of this newsletter please visit: [www.thegrovewr.org/website/newsletter.html](http://www.thegrovewr.org/website/newsletter.html)

To contribute to the newsletter email your submissions to [newsletter@thegrovewr.org](mailto:newsletter@thegrovewr.org) by the 3rd Fri. preceding the distribution month.

The G.T.A.H. is distributed on the 1st Sunday of every month, to see previous newsletters visit: [www.thegrovewr.org/newsletter.html](http://www.thegrovewr.org/newsletter.html)