Volume 1 Issue 1

(Great Things Are Happening)

January 2021







Dr. David Anthony Clarke, Sr. First Lady Michelle Wilson Clarke

Assistant Pastor Teddy Madison Lady Jae' Madison



~ MISSION STATEMENT~

"To draw people to Christ, maximize our potential and creatively meet the physical and emotional needs of the church and community."

809 South Davis Drive Warner Robins, GA 31088 Phone: (478) 922-5514 (478) 923-6551 Fax:

Web: www.thegrovewr.org

E-mail: <u>UnionGrov1@aol.com</u>







Thank You!!!



Union Grove, we thank you for your love and kindness shown toward us in the recent celebration of our 18 years as Pastor & First Lady!

May the Lord reward each of you and supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus, our Lord (Phil. 4:19)!

Dr. David Anthony Clarke, Sr. and First Lady Michelle Wilson Clarke

~ VISION STATEMENT ~

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

PASTOR & FIRST LADY!!!



18 YEARS





Shema, Surrender, & Succeed!



Grace & peace to you, my beloved church family! Welcome to 2021 and may the Lord do exceeding abundantly above all you could ever ask or think as His power works in you (Eph. 3:20).

The Lord has given me a burden to challenge our entire church family to *Shema* this year. This comes from Deuteronomy 6:4-5.

⁴Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD: ⁵And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

In this text, the word, hear, is a translation of the Hebrew word, *Shema*. But *Shema* means much more than merely allowing sound waves to beat your eardrums. *Shema* refers to allowing what we hear to really sink in, provide understanding, and generate an appropriate response. In other words, *Shema*, in Hebrew, makes hearing and doing the same thing. When we *Shema* the Lord, we hear Him, understand Him, and surrender in obedience to Him.

As the Lord leads, I will be preaching and teaching through Deuteronomy on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings until the end of May. What is interesting about Deuteronomy is it records Moses' words to the younger generation of sojourners who will enter in and conquer Canaan. Moses and the older saints will not enter the Promised Land. So, when Moses exhorts the children of Israel to hear, to *Shema*, he's talking primarily to the younger MOTRvators in his crowd. He's addressing folks the same age as FLAVA 'nem. Detour 'nem. Truth and Foundation 'nem. The whole book of Deuteronomy is Moses saying, "Shema" to the younger crowd wearing Crocs and hoodies in the blazing heat of the wilderness. They have airpods in their ears and going crazy with Chris Brown and Young Thug. They're Tik Toking in their bedrooms and bathrooms. This younger crowd is getting positive vibes from Moses telling them how the Lord brought them, their parents, and elders to where they currently stand in history. His hope is to empower them to hear, trust, and obey that same God so they are empowered to obtain what God has ordained.

God's plan wasn't for this generation to simply enter Canaan. He intended for them to conquer Canaan and then live according to His ways so they could enjoy it for generations to come. You see, it's one thing to get what God has in store for you. It's another thing to keep it and pass it on to following generations. The only way this generation would conquer and keep Canaan was if they heard and obeyed, or *Shema*, the commands of God.

Now, no generation in the Grove Zone is being pushed aside or thrown away. While Deuter-onomy records one man named Moses addressing a younger generation, every Golden Achiever and every MOTRvator can be a Moses. If you are able to provide a first-hand testimony of how God has demonstrated His power and shown Himself faithful in the past, you are to be a Moses for our church family. This means then, we can all learn from one another! Let every Moses arise and testify so members of our church family on the come up can rise up and receive everything the Lord has reserved for them! Shema! Hear and obey! I encourage everyone to hear by being

Holy,

Engaged, &

Anointed to

Reign

More details are forthcoming in the days ahead. For now, may the Lord use this journey through Deuteronomy to help each of us help all of us. Pray with me, for me, and for our entire church family to Shema, Surrender, and Succeed!

Dr. David Anthony Clarke, Sr.



<u>The Holy Bible: King James Version.</u> (1995). (electronic ed. of the 1769 edition of the 1611 Authorized Version., Dt 6:4–5). Bellingham WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

~ December Virtual Communion Sunday ~





"This do in remembrance of me."



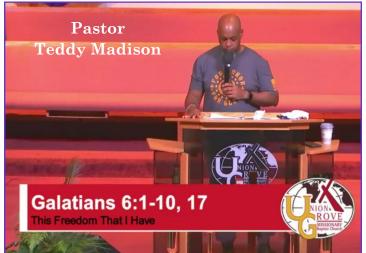






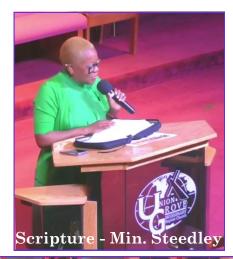


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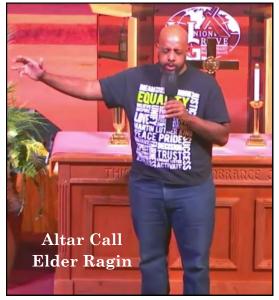




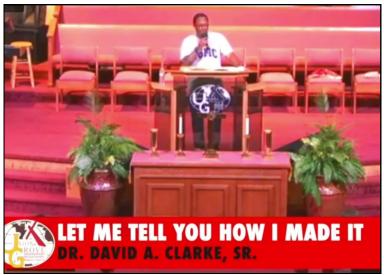




























~ Women's Heart2Heart Christmas Fellowship ~

First Lady Michelle Clarke

The Heart2Heart Christmas Fellowship was held on December 21 via Zoom. We prayed, laughed, talked, and took time to catch up on the holiday happenings of each of the ladies participating in the Zoom. The laughter of the ladies was contagious as we played our games. We played a Christmas version of "Never Have I Ever" which was won by Margie Tuck, "Name That Christmas Song" won by Deaconess Maxine Woodard and four rounds of "Wheel of Fortune" won by Sis. Cassundra Brown, Deaconess Maxine Woodard, Min. Dannie Dukes and Sis. Sally Wilson. Sis. Persephone Jones and Lady Michelle took care of some drive-bys to deliver prizes to all of our winners!

We're inviting all of our UG ladies to join us in 2021 as we continue to learn, serve, give and connect through the Heart2Heart Women's Ministry.







~ Financial Corner

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Sister Wanda Verret

It's 2021. The year we have all been waiting for or running to trying to escape 2020. Each year brings its blessings and curses. So, what do we do? Let's count our many blessings, naming them one by one.

At the beginning of each year, most of us make resolutions/commitments. Instead of making resolutions, let's set some goals for 2021. These are just a few of the many goals we should have. To meet these goals, we must have a plan.

A. Getting out of debt

- a. To get out of debt, we should know what we owe. Gather all your bills, make five columns on a paper. Write down who you owe, the amount you pay each month, the interest rate, the minimum payment required, and the balance owed.
- b. Add up the column of payments usually made each month. What is that total?
- c. Compare the amounts owed and the interest rates. Determine which bill you want to pay out first, i.e., lowest balance, highest interest rate.
- d. Whatever the difference is between what you usually pay on each bill and the minimum is the amount you will begin paying on the target bill.
- e. Until you pay out the target bill, only pay the minimum on every other bill.
- f. Once the target bill is paid, roll that amount down to the next bill and continue to pay all bills down.

g. STOP MAKING NEW BILLS AND ADDING CHARGES!

B. Saving more

- a. Let's max out our retirement. You can put up to \$19,500 in your 401K. If you are over 50, \$26,000.
- b. Start an automatic draft from your checking account to an investment account to set up your own Individual Retirement Account and emergency fund.
- c. Use that stimulus check to start your child's education fund.

C. Start Paying Tithe

- a. If you have never paid tithe (10% of gross), it can seem overwhelming. You can start small and work your way up to it. Start with 1-3 % first, then in a few months, bump up to 5%, add 1% each month until you get to 10%. Pray as you go to ask God to show you where you can cut back to be able to pay your tithes.
- b. Save money by cutting back on your cable bill by buying a system like ROKU. I bought one for our bedroom and we can see all of the channels we normally see so the boxes in our room and guestroom will get turned in.

\sim ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL \sim

FIRST QUARTER OF WINTER RECAP

I Cor. 12:1, 28 – Now concerning spiritual gifts ... And God have set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers ...

Adult Sunday School Teachers

Elder Counie Dinkins, Brother Michael White and Minister Arie Freeman, Ir.

Greetings to everyone and Happy New Year. As we close out 2020 let us be thankful to God for all He has done and let us look forward to Greater Things. 2020 saw us undergo a lot of changes in the conducting of our lessons. We pray that we have been helpful in our continuing efforts to bring the weekly Sunday School lessons to you. Though we are still in the midst of this COVID-19 virus with over 240,000 lives lost in these United States, I encourage you never lose hope and continue to trust God in these trying times. For this entire quarter we were in the First chapter from the Gospel of John. The theme for the quarter was: Preparation of Jesus Disciples and we were in Unit I titled Getting Started.

The theme of the quarter, Preparation of Jesus' Disciples, tell us all that Jesus had to do in choosing people capable of carrying out His mission. Jesus' public ministry was only 3.5 years on Earth and He was very much aware of the limited time He had. The preparation of these twelve men were essential for what was the transpire. As we studied these lessons, we saw how God made preparations in advance starting with John the Baptist.

Unit I: Getting Started

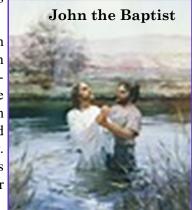
This unit covers the Word becoming flesh, the emergence of John the Baptist and the calling of the disciples all from John chapter 1.

In Lesson 1, The Testimony of John, we are introduced to the baptizer, John the Baptist. John came to bear witness of who was to come. Many had witness John preaching and baptizing and they thought he was the predicted Messiah. John knew his place and he made sure the people knew he was not the one. He went as far as saying he was not even worthy of tying the shoe laces of the Messiah. Although John was born before the earthly Jesus, he declared Jesus was preferred before him. The Jews sent priest, Levites, and Pharisees to question John about himself. John answered by saying "I baptize with water but the one coming after me will baptize with the Holy

Spirit. John the Baptist was a guide for the people, preparing them for who was

coming and what they could expect.

In Lesson 2, Jesus' First Disciple; we hear of John at the river still baptizing when Jesus approaches him. The Holy Spirit reveals to John who this really is for John says "Behold the Lamb of God". John baptizes Jesus and sees the Spirit descending upon Jesus, John is still witnessing to what he has be honored to see and bare witness of. John has two of his followers (disciples) with him and tells them "Behold the Lamb of God" and immediately they follow Jesus. Jesus is identified to John and to followers of John who calls Jesus Rabbi, which means Master. They follow Jesus and spent time with him. Only one disciple is identified which is Andrew, Simon Peter brother. It is believed that the other disciple is none other than John, the disciple Jesus loved and entrusted him with the care of his mother.



Peter finds his brother, Simon, and shares the news that they have found the Messiah. After being brought to Jesus, Jesus calls him Cephas with means stone or rock. We find in this lesson the disciples are hungry for the Word of God and willing to share what they have heard and found. Peter finds his brother, Simon, and shares the news that they have found the Messiah. After being brought to Jesus, Jesus calls him Cephas with means stone or rock. We find in this lesson the disciples are hungry for the Word of God and willing to share what they have heard and found.

In Lesson 3, The Word Became Flesh; was our Christmas lesson for the quarter. It differs greatly from the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, and Luke because there is no infant Jesus, no Mary nor Joseph. No genealogy, no descendant of David, no seed of Abraham. It simply states in the Beginning was the Word and the Word was God and the Word was with God. Jesus on several occasion stated that when you see Him you are seeing God. Jesus is eternal, Jesus is Creator, Jesus was, is and always will be. John makes it plain that Jesus is God in human form. Jesus is the Light of the World. Jesus was in the world He created and the world rejected its creator. Verse 14 sums everything up by telling us that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we saw His glory as the only begotten of God, full of Grace and Truth. It is through Jesus that we know God and He is the real reason for the Christmas season. God's gift to the world.

Finally in Lesson 4, Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael, after Jesus meets Peter the next day He goes to Galilee and there He finds Philip and tells him to follow Him. Jesus is still telling us today to follow Him. Philip does the same thing Andrew did when he met Jesus. Philip finds Nathanael and shares the good news that they have found the one spoke of in the Law of Moses. Nathanael is not impressed but Philip tells him to come and see Jesus. Jesus sees Nathanael and calls him a real Israelite and Nathanael is astonished. He wants to know how do Jesus know him. Jesus tells him before Philip called you, I saw you under the fig tree. Nathanael acknowledges that indeed "you are the Son of God." Jesus has knowledge of everything that is happening in the world. Nothing escapes Him. He is Omniscient and Omnipotent. He knows all, sees all, hears all and can do all things.

In this unit on Getting Started, Jesus knew what He had to do and He went about the process of preparing a group of men to carry on his work. Jesus is still preparing disciples today to carry on the mission of saving souls. The Great Commission that Jesus gave His disciples to spread to gospel to all nations of the world is also for all born again believers.

Our next Unit is titled Getting to Know Jesus. We will be discussing the miracles performed by Jesus.



Jesus walking on water

May God continue to bless this ministry as we strive to share the Good News of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior?

Min. Arie Freeman, Jr.



God's Team Sis. Jackie Powell



Many Americans adore the game of football and many Christians are devoted to their faith. It's surprising how they are related. As we prepare to watch the Super Bowl. I hope to compare the most favorite sport to the love that all Christians share as they worship the Lord, and run toward the ultimate "goal". Although the next Super Bowl will be Sunday, February 7, 2021, every day is game day for those playing on God's Team.

For a moment let's compare the participants in a football game to those Christians trying to score the ultimate "touchdown" - Heaven". As I was preparing this article, I thought about so many comparisons. I also got feedback from some men of God, (of course they were more than willing to help me). In order not to make this article so long I'll just relate a few ideas. As we prepare to watch the Super Bowl, I hope to compare the favorite sport to the love that all Christians share as they worship the Lord and "run" toward the ultimate goal: eternal life.

A player needs to be able to accept the feedback from coaches and teachers who are there to help them improve their game. Once they follow their coaches, hopefully they will become players and leaders that will help the team succeed in winning. The players might watch films of the opposing team, learn how to tackle as well as run the ball. We must realize that we have the "winningest coach" aka Jesus Christ. Those young men that once competed in junior varsity might succeed into the pros. In order to be victorious, Christians should realize they must follow the men of God in order to mature in both knowledge of God and in godly living; ultimately, become more like Christ. We must practice certain fundamentals such as praying, reading our Bible, and serving as well helping others. Just as football players do not want to be a "benchwarmers", we as Christians should not be a benchwarmer someone who does not sing, pray, work, or apparently do nothing but sit. Just as a person like a football player grows physically from infant to mature adult, a Christian's life is designed to grow spiritually from baby to mature Christian.

As the football players "suit up" with basic protective equipment such as a helmet, shoulder pads, gloves, shoes, thigh and knee pads, gloves, shoes and a mouth guard, we as Christians should be ready. Ephesians 6:10-18 reminds Christians about the reality of spiritual battle and describes the protection available to them. The full armor of God that Christians are called to put on comprises the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Gospel of Peace, the Shield of Faith, the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit.

Just as the players get in a huddle so that they will be on one accord and know what play is next, we Christians should be in a truth practicing church. so that we may receive the salvation that can only be found with Jesus.

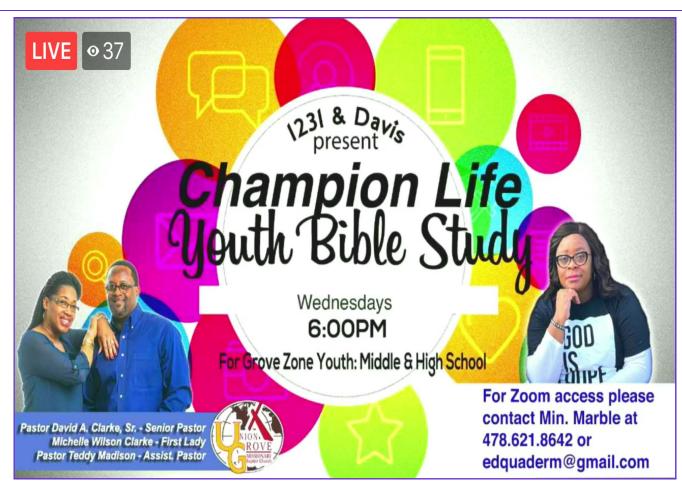
Just as a player might be tackled on one play, it doesn't mean the game is over. Likewise we as Christians must believe that we can get up and start again. Even if a player gets hurt doing a certain play, his teammates are there encouraging him that things will get better. Likewise, our brothers and sisters will be there to encourage us and pick us up when we encounter problems in our lives.

One more thought that I would like to share with you is about the running back. All good backs do not turn around to see who's behind them. They stare ahead trying to outrun the opposition. We as Christians should feel the same. As the apostle Paul stated in, Philippians 3:13-14: "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Just as great football players have that "goal line" vision," focusing fully on their goal, and so should we.

We Christians, as well as football players must play defensive against sin (such as tackling the opposing team) as well as offensively until the final whistle blows at the conclusion of the game. We must expose ourselves to such fundamentals as praying, reading the Bible and serving. Utilizing these skills will aid us as we "tackle" the temptations we might be exposed to. We must realize that we have the "winningest coach" aka Jesus Christ. Just as a coach might have a playbook with all the ways to score, we Christians have a "playbook" - the Holy Bible that contains plays that will lead to the touchdown called eternal life.

Hut-hut, hike!









LEARN | SERVE | GIVE | CONNECT



Watch us live Sunday Worship @ 10:15AM on











~ New Year's Eve Exhortation and Prayer ~



During the Virtual Prayer Celebration, led by Pastor Clarke we celebrated what the Lord has done in keeping us and expectation of His abundant favor in 2021.







Roll Call of Grove Zone family members who battled COVID-19 in 2020:

Bro. Charlie and Sis. Margie Tuck

Mother Maggie Bradley

Bro. Brian, Min. Africa and Mahogany Porter

Bro. McKinley and Sis. Wanda Verrett

Deacon Jerome, Sis. Shirley and Jason Stephens

Sis. Felecia Hamlin

First Lady Michelle and Janelle Clarke

Sis. Iris Bracey

Sis. Marion Mathis

Sydney Oglesby

Min. Earnestine Thompson

Sis. Gayla Pegues

Sis. Harriett Marlow, Chanel Strong, and Charisma Collier







Calling all Grove Zone ladies ages 18 and up!!!!!

Never miss another moment of H2H Ministry Announcements and Events









ugheart2heart@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/h2hwomensministry

1st & 3rd Mondays @ 7:00 p.m. Contact Lady Michelle for zoom info.

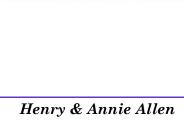


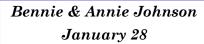


Deacon Jerome & Shirley Stephens January 7



Henry & Annie Allen January 16

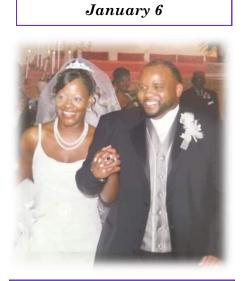






Deacon William & Deaconess Dorothy Jackson January 6





Deacon Charles

& Minister Mary Lenoir

Min.
Nicole & Anthony Steedley
January 1



Lillie Allen

Lena Anderson

Miquel Barlow

Destiny Barzey

Ethel Blackmon

Irene Booker

Sharon Broughton

Yolanda Buckley

Gail Caldwell

Tre'Quize Carr

Jeffrey A. Cunin

Deaconess Grace Davis

Dea. Nathanel Davis

Elder Connie Dinkins

Joseph Dinkins

Moses Dupree

Trinyette Finkley

Leroy Frazier

Felecia Hamlin

Skyla Haslem

Ladarrion Holloway

Deaconess

Rossie Jackson

Barbara Johnson

Elawonza Johnson

Mattie Johnson

Stephanie Johnson

Lenora Jones

Josiane Larose

Vickie Latimore

Shirley Lee

Joshua Leggette

Gary Lucas

Sarah Lumpkin

Hazel Mahone

Courtney McCray

Nini McLean

Deanthony Mitchell

Korey Napier

Gayla Pegues

Davontae Perry

Christine Ragin

Elder Rashee Ragin

Ramell Richardson

Zamari Rogers

Tameka Sandifer

D'Ondria Simon

Clara Smith

Darren Smith

Willie Smith

Will Stephens

Antonia Streeter

Bobbie Tate

Rosa Tharpe

Olethia Thomas

Desrick Thornton

Byron Toles

Audrey Turner

Jared Ume

Sabrina Whisby

Ashley Whitehead

Kyna Williams

Gregory Willis

Marion Willis

Teresa Willis

Janet Winn



~ Ministerial Staff ~

Dr. David Anthony Clarke, Sr. Senior Pastor

> Pastor Teddy Madison Assistant Pastor

Elder Milo Bradley, Jr.

Elder Connie Dinkins

Elder Rashee Ragin

Pastor John Sutton

Minister Marie Anderson

Minister Dannie Dukes

Minister Arie Freeman, Jr.

Minister Shane Hardee

Minister Ernest Jones

Minister Mary Lenoir

Minister Annie Lester

Minister James Madison

Minister Edquader Marble

Minister Bridgette Oglesby

Minister Africa Porter

Minister Nicole Steedley

Minister Earnestine Thompson

~ Deacon Contact List ~

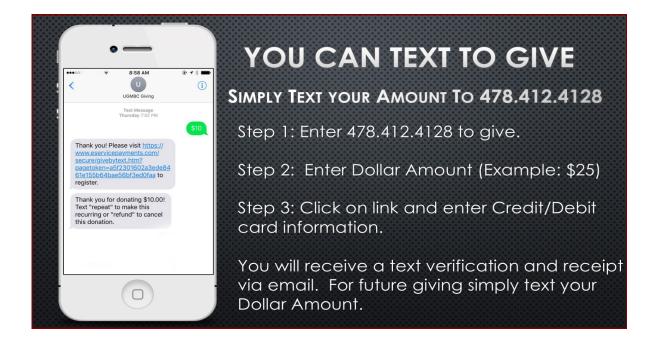
А-С	Deacon Jerome Stephens	929-1476
D-F	Deacon Slater Thorpe	218-8736
	Deacon Curtis Jackson	953-1676
G-I	Deacon Donald Woodard	987-9865
J-K	Deacon William Jackson	929-4918
L-N	Deacon T.C. Caldwell	293-8428
O-R	Deacon Monroe Clark	953-2044
\mathbf{S}	Deacon Jimmy Oglesby	987-4491
T-V	Deacon Charles Lenoir	953-2350
W-Z	Deacon Nathaniel Davis Deacon Hosea Laney	923-7713 954-3480

~ Administrative Assistant ~

Sister Janice Scott







Union Grove M.B. Church



Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.

E-Manna (FB Live)
Wednesday: 6:00 p.m.

~ In Memoriam ~



Bro. Leroy Johnson

Sis. Helen Jones (Min. Nicole Steedley's mother)

Bro. Bobby Wright (Deaconess Dorothy Jackson's brother)

Bro. Fred Lester

Sis. Patricia Lane (Bro. McKinley Verrett's sister)

G.T.A.H Staff

Carolyn Jackson, Leader

Shirley Jackson

Ardell Johnson

Jackie Powell

Tamara Sanders

McKinley Verrett

GTAH Newsletter Submissions

If you have submissions for the February issue please forward them via e-mail to <u>GTAHNewsletter@gmail.com</u> or call (478) 542-1739 by Saturday, February 6, 2021. If you would like to receive the GTAH via e-mail, please provide your e-mail address.

Please mask up, practice social distancing and wash your hands. Be safe!!!

Happy New Year!!!



G.T.A.H. Mission Statement:

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



G.T.A.H. Vision Statement:

"To keep the body of UGMBC abreast of the latest adventures, upcoming events, celebrations, reports, meetings and who's who in the steadfast work of the Lord. Our motivation is to make you SMILE."