

# Monthly NEWSLETTER

November 2024/Vol 76



GTI COVER GIRLS

## Stay With God!

*Psalms 27:14*

### DID YOU KNOW

#### November 1, 1995

The first all-race local government elections took place in South Africa, marking the end of the apartheid system.

#### November 7, 1967

Carl Stokes became the first African American mayor in the U.S., elected mayor of Cleveland, Ohio.

#### November 13, 1956

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

#### November 26, 1789

The first American holiday occurred, proclaimed by President George Washington to be Thanksgiving Day, a day of prayer and public thanksgiving in gratitude for the successful establishment of the new American Republic.

#### November Flower

Chrysanthemum and Peony.

#### November Birthstone

Topaz and Citrine

## Cover Girls October Fellowship Highlights

Two? What do we have two of? Two feet, hands, legs; cars, homes, sisters, or brothers. Others of us may not, however, there is one thing the GTI Cover Girls have, two more fellowships remaining in 2024!

Our tech host, Sister Tina Chaney spared no time when the clock struck 7 PM to introduce Missionary Chelece Williams. She took the helm and presented our facilitators for the evening, a mother and daughter duo: Missionary Sunny Vaughn and Lil Miss Kai Ross.

Missionary Vanessa Bulnes prayed for the evening and asked God to bless the needs of others. Sister Sherylon Cater shared verses from Psalm 103 followed by the facilitating duo reading our Statement of Faith.

When you are listening to a song, do you ever think about who wrote it, or why? Every month, Missionary Gail Webb enlightens us with the most intricate details about the song she chose. Hebrews 11:24-26 inspired the writing of, "I'd Rather Have Jesus."

Wakeup ladies, Missionary Sunny is teaching our children to "Let Your Light Shine" with a supporting scripture, Matthew 5:16! Download your copy from the GTI website!

Sister Angel Marshall always begins by thanking the team for an excellent job, as well as those who contributed to the success of the monthly edition. Stay tuned to find out who is the kindest person you know next month!

Our mother and daughter duo did the role call for October birthdays and finished it off with a beautiful happy birthday song.

Lady Mallori Cunningkin was our invited guest to share words about her mom, First Lady Macklin for her birthday. What she didn't know, it was actually a surprise baby shower for her. We are so excited and happy for Lady Mallori and Pastor Seth on their new arrival coming soon. This is their first baby and many of the Cover Girls shared stories of Lady Mallori growing up in GTI and now she is about to become a mother.

We played, "The 'Price Is Right Baby Game'" where we guessed the price of different baby items. The winners were Missionary Rogers, Sister Moody, Missionary Glasglow, Sister Jonni Atkins, and Sister Charlotte Hines. They all get to enjoy breakfast at the GTI Coffee Shop.

The night is not over until we hear the voice of our leader, Missionary Macklin. It is always her deepest gratitude, thanks, and appreciation to those who shared. She talked about the Secret Sister Project and reminded us to sign up. For more information concerning the Secret Sister Project, you can see Sister Charlotte Hines.

Before the evening came to a close, Lady Macklin encouraged all the ladies to show love, be like Christ, and stay connected. This is her desire for all of the Cover Girls.

**Our Motto: Kindness is not what I do but who I am.....**

Glad Tidings  
International COGIC

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# Inspirational Testimony



Sister Vickki Savoy-Griffin

In 2023, my doctor advised that I get a CT scan because I have suffered from bronchitis and she also wanted to check for COPD. I had a chest x-ray and CT scan on my lungs. A little tiny spot was detected. I was concerned but she told me not to worry because it was really small and she would take a look at it next year during my annual checkup. I don't know why doctors do that. I feel if you see something, why wait?

It's now 2024 and I had an appointment to see my doctor but she called and said I needed to come to the office sooner. What was the urgency? She informed me the spot they saw in 2023 had grown some and she wanted me to see a specialist, who immediately scheduled a pet scan. It was determined I needed surgery to remove the spot. I began to worry. But I remember what the Bible says, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

My surgery was scheduled on September 10th. Oh the pain that I experienced those days in the hospital. Many days and nights, it was unbearable and I found myself saying, Jesus, Jesus hear my cry, hear my call.: I was released from the hospital on September 20th.

Continue on Page 6

## Inspirational Scripture

John 10:10-11

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.



## Healthy Living

### Preventing Holiday Stress with Mindful Self-Care

The holiday season is a time of joy, but it can also be a source of stress with the busyness of gatherings, gift-giving, and travel. To prevent feeling overwhelmed, it's important to make time for self-care and mindfulness. Here are a few simple tips to keep your mind and body in balance:

**Set Boundaries:** It's okay to say "no" to activities or obligations that add too much to your plate. Prioritize what's truly important to you and your family. Setting realistic goals and focusing on what you can control can significantly reduce stress levels.

**Take Breaks:** Schedule moments of rest throughout your day, even if it's just a quiet cup of tea or a walk outside. The World Health Organization (WHO) emphasizes that taking time for short breaks during a busy day can help recharge both your mind and body.

"You are a child of God. You are wonderfully made, dearly loved, and precious in His sight." Psalm 139.



**Practice Gratitude:** Keep a gratitude journal or take a few minutes each day to reflect on the blessings in your life. It helps shift focus from stress to joy. The American Psychological Association (APA) notes that gratitude practices can reduce stress and help people experience a more positive outlook during the holidays.

**Nourish Your Body:** With the abundance of holiday treats, it's easy to skip meals or overindulge. Balance is key; stay hydrated, eat wholesome meals, and enjoy treats mindfully. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), maintaining a healthy diet during stressful times can improve both physical and mental well-being.

**Lean on Faith:** Spending time in prayer and reflection can help calm your spirit. God invites us to cast our worries upon Him and allow us to find peace in His presence (1 Peter 5:7). When we lean into our faith, we remind ourselves that we don't have to carry burdens alone.

As you enter the holiday season, remember that your well-being matters. By practicing self-care, maintaining balance, and relying on your faith, you can embrace the joy of the season without feeling overwhelmed.

#### References:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Stress and Coping: <https://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/stress-coping/index.htm>

World Health Organization (WHO) on Stress Management: <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/stress>

American Psychological Association (APA) on Holiday Stress: <https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2019/12/holiday-stress>

# Happy Birthday Greetings

We honor and celebrate  
**October Birthdays**



Angela Johnson



Gerri Rogers



Chelece Williams



Sherylon Lewis-Cater



Kathy Lyons-Brown



Shirley Owens



Kai Ross & Sunny Vaughn

## Greetings Cover Girls



*God never fails, God never fails  
He abides in me, gives me the victory  
For God never fails  
You just keep the faith and never cease to pray  
Walk upright, morning, noonday, and night  
He'll be there, He'll be there  
There's no need to worry  
For God never fails*

Last month, I celebrated another trip around the sun. I am so grateful to God for life, health, and all of his many blessing towards me. As I get older, I realize I have more years behind me then in front of me. But in all my years on this earth, there is one thing that is so true, God has never failed me. He has been with me through every ups and downs, successes and failures, good times and bad. He is the most consistent person in my life.

I may not be the oldest person you know, but I've lived long enough to know prayer works. Your communication with God is the key to never having to worry about anything that may come your way. Life has taught me many lessons, but the Word of God teaches me daily all my trust is in Him and I've learned to be steadfast and unmovable. So do I worry? Never!!!

I want to thank everyone for a wonderful birthday celebration. Cover Girls, you all are so amazing. You always go above and way beyond to make my day extra special. If you have any doubt what is the best church in the world, you don't have to wonder, it is the Glad Tidings International COGIC. Also, a very special "thank you" to my family and husband, Bishop Jerry Wayne Macklin. My birthday was amazing because you are amazing. I love my life with you!

November is the month we celebrate Thanksgiving. I'm truly thankful everyday of the year but I do enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday because I get to spend it with family and friends. As in the past, the Macklin's will host Thanksgiving Dinner again at GTI. All are invited for dinner with us but we need to know how many people to prepare for, so starting this Sunday, there will be a list in the Guest Center if you plan to have dinner with us. All are welcome. There is room for you and your family at the table. Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Blessings,  
Lady Vanessa Macklin

## The October Birthdays Continues...



Martha Stamper



Vattiff Rhodes



Vanessa Bulnes



Yvette Glasgow



Stacey Tucker



Chinue Thompson



Lady Vanessa Macklin

## Cover Girls Unsung Heroes

Every month, the Cover Girls Newsletter honors a member who works in ministry not to be seen but because they love the work they do. They are our Unsung Heroes. This month, we celebrate Sister Stacey Tucker.

Sister Stacey has been a member of GTI for 21 years. Prior to joining, she was residing in Texas. She met her husband, Elder James Tucker at a wedding both were attending in Texas. They started dating, got engaged, got married in Texas, and he moved her to California. He was already a member of GTI but she wasn't sure this was the church she wanted to join. But he told her the family that prays together, stays together, so she said that she would pray about it. She said, "One Sunday, the Spirit was high, the doors of the church were opened, and I just joined. I didn't even discuss it with my husband before making that decision but it has been the best decision of my life."

Sister Stacey first began working with the Children's Ministry because her daughter was a part of this ministry, then the young ministry people providing academic assistance. She took a break from tutoring when the pandemic hit. She continues to provide these services as her private business. She would love to do it again in person for GTI. The benefits of in person tutoring are greater than on Zoom. Initially, she joined the Women's Chorus. Everyone was asking, "Don't you want to come on over and sing in the regular choir?" But my daughter was young and I didn't want to make that kind of commitment. In Texas, she was always a part of the Music Ministry. Her mom was the Minister of Music at the church. So, she joined the choir for a while but took a break. When her mom passed away, she was dealing with the loss and had to go to Texas to take care of her mom's final arrangements. When that was done and she returned home, she found herself just sitting in the choir rehearsals for strength and encouragement. The choir members started telling her, "You are here every week, you should come back to singing." But she was at the rehearsals for another reason. Finally, she came back and then they asked her to join the Praise and Worship team. She's been singing and using her gift for over 18 years.

In 2017, Elder Tucker started having health challenges that have progressively gotten worse through the years. It has been very difficult for Sister Stacey to provide 24 hour care for Elder Tucker with all of his medical needs, working full time to maintain the household obligations, and still keep her commitment to God, the Praise and Worship team, and the choir. She said, "It's been God's strength and the prayers of the righteous that has been keeping me." When she feels like she can't do it any longer, it's the text messages saying, "You got this, you can make it, God's got you." This is my assignment right now and I believe God for his healing.

Sister Stacey we love you and you will continue to be in our prayers.



We are not able to take group pictures, so I'm asking you to send me your picture for the birthday shout outs. So all of the November birthday ladies, send me your picture for the December Cover Girls Newsletter.

You can send it to: [awiley1999@aol.com](mailto:awiley1999@aol.com)

Text (510) 459-8867

## Stay With God!

Many reasons for STAYING WITH GOD may come to mind depending on who you are, what your experiences have been, or what your needs are. The benefits are endless and eternal, and outweigh the alternative in every aspect; Biblically, emotionally, physically, socially, financially, and of course spiritually.

“**NO FEAR**”, I John 4:18. Life happens and can cause anxiety, depression, and fears. Psalms 34:4 says, “I sought the LORD, and he heard me, And delivered me from all my fears.” Psalms 46:1 says, “God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. The Lord is our light and is diligent in dark places, so don't fear. He will not let your enemy find you. He protects us from hurt, harm, and danger to our minds, body, and spirit.

“**TRUST GOD**”, Proverbs 3:5-7. He supplies all our needs. Philippians 4:19 says, “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” God is a friend like no other and loves us at all times. He wants the best for us. He has our back. Psalms 145:19 says, “He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: He also will hear their cry, and will save them.”

“**HE IS FAITHFUL**”, Mark 11:22-23. Hold to your faith in every circumstance. He is your refuge and your strength in the time of trouble. He is faithful to his promises and He will do it. You can call on God in your time of need and He will hear you and He will be there.

The Word of God can and should be applied to every area of our lives. The benefits that ensue are phenomenal and unmatched. There is nothing in this world that can give the peace, joy, victory, and success but “**Staying with God.**”

I accepted the Lord as my Savior in 1976 after the birth of my second child at age 20 through the leading of my mom, Mother Elizabeth Sharp. After living a fast, rebellious, disobedient, and dangerous life from age 13, I was ready to listen and follow the Lord anywhere. Although, there have been many tests, trials, and situations where I have slipped, strayed, and walked away from God, which ended in disaster, there had also been numerous situations where my seeking and “**Staying with God**” proved to be the best and only decision that got me through victoriously. Isaiah 50:10 says, “Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God. The best decision you can make for the rest of your life is to “**Stay with God.**”

Written By:  
Missionary Myrel Ross

## The 64,000 Dollar Question

**Besides the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Who is the kindest person you know?**

Connie McLain - Cathy White  
Charlotte Hines - Mother Delores Thomas  
Aineicia Ransburg - Kaira Ransburg  
Cynthia Dunn - Keisha Shanks  
Pamela Dennis - Mother Mary Shepherd  
Naomi Carter - Missionary Deborah Harper  
Revina Williams - Mother Adrienne Green  
Delanda Burgess - Mother Adrienne Green  
Tina Chaney - Sister Sharon Robinson  
Pamela Riley - Mother Alfreda Clifton  
Vickki Griffin - Barbara Titus  
Diana Johnson - Diana Johnson (Myself)  
Meredith Walker - Mother Juanita Williams

Sharon Robinson - Mother Lillie Carr  
Bertha Harris - Patricia Harris  
Kathy Lyons-Brown - Linda Wilson II  
Kim Patton - Mother Delores Thomas  
Sherri Washington - Kim Greene  
Michelle Logan - Kehran Edmunds  
Sheree Davis - Veronica Gonzales  
Kehran Edmunds - Kimberly Butler  
Marcia Gaulden - Bishop Jerry Macklin  
Linda Lax - Linda Gentry  
Lillian Roberts - Linda Allen  
Chandra Winters - Karen Jones  
Renea Wilson - Missionary Sharon Robinson  
Gloria Wright - Mother Delores Thomas  
Sabrina Jones - Bella Lee  
Kathy Hines - Rochelle Olive

Continue on Page 6

- Teresa Gibson - Connie Ford
- Pat Wheeler - Mother Delores Thomas
- Yvette Glasgow - Bishop Jerry Macklin
- Myrel Ross - Pam Dennis
- Crystal Brownlee - Mother Delores Thomas
- Rosemary McFadden - Dorsey Lee
- Carol Walker - Elder Earl Walker
- Evette Newton - Cawauna Newton
- Adrienne Green - Mother Sadie Ross
- Jacque Fennoy - Missionary Sharon Robinson
- Mallori Cunningkin - Mother Adrienne Green
- Vivian Irving - Patti Warren
- Juanita Waugh - Latanya Bellow
- Barbara Titus - Linda Wilson II
- Pamela Riley - Mother Alfreda Clifton
- Naomi McCoy - Josh Vasquez
- Lady Vanessa Macklin - Michelle Pierce
- Vanessa Bulnes - Renea Wilson
- Angel Marshall - Frantasia Mason
- Ashley Slater - Carrie Banks
- Alexus Lott - Tarlise Lott
- Martha Stamper - Lady Vanessa Macklin
- Naomi Smith - Krystal Smith
- Jonni Atkins - Adrienne Green

## December's 64,000 Dollar Question

**What was ONE of the house rules growing up?**

### Testimony continues from Page 2

I met with the surgeon and he said, "I think I got it all." But you need to see the Oncologist to review your pathology report. What does that mean, you think? But I kept singing, "I Will Trust In The Lord."

When I met with the Oncologist, he told me the cancerous spot was removed and there were no other areas that had any cancer cells. He said, "You don't need radiation, chemo, or any cancer pills. YOU ARE CANCER FREE."

He then asked, "did you ever smoke?". I began to cry and said, "I smoked for 50 years!!!" He then said, "Well you are a miracle. Smoking for 50 years and to have a spot the size of a pea, after all those years and all those cigarettes, your lungs look amazing." I could only say, "MY GOD, MY GOD, MY GOD covered me with HIS BLOOD. He covered my faults and saw my needs. His mercy, His grace, and His love covered me. God had his fence of protection around me. To God be the Glory for all that He has done."

# What's Happening Now

## Harvest Sunday

It's November and what does that mean? As Pastor Shirley Caesar would say, "beans, greens, potatoes, tomatoes, lamb, yams, hogs, maws, chicken, turkeys, you name it."



It is Thanksgiving time and many people are planning for a feast for Thanksgiving, where family and friends come together to eat themselves into a coma. This has become a tradition that people look forward to every year, where planning the menu takes place many weeks before the actual day. That includes shopping at several different grocery stores, decorating the house, planning the guest list, just to name a few. This is one of the holidays that have to be "perfect".



For some, this is not the case. There isn't any planning the guest list, decorating the house, or shopping for food. None of this will take place because there is just no extra money for food. Holidays are very depressing for so many.

When you have a pastor who sees and meets the needs of his congregation and community, you have a church that knows what do during the holiday. Every year, on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, Glad Tidings International COGIC host "Harvest Sunday". On the first Sunday in November, the congregation receives an empty basket and a list of items to purchase and place in the basket that will create a Thanksgiving feast. On Harvest Sunday, the filled baskets are returned. When you enter the sanctuary, the pulpit and the front of the church are filled with baskets of non perishable items for distribution.



Not only does everyone who signs up receive a basket but also a gift card to buy perishable items such as a turkey or ham to make their meal complete. It doesn't matter if you are a member in need, a neighbor in need, or the broader community in need, GTI is here for you.

# Happy Birthday Lady Macklin

Last month, our First Lady, Missionary Vanessa Macklin celebrated her birthday. We love honoring and celebrating our First Lady. She is the greatest and we are so blessed, she belongs to us and we love Lady Macklin.



Written By:  
Missionary Sharon Burns



## Call Out Jezebel

In Hebrew, Jezebel's name means garbage. This infamous Women of the Bible takes 1st place for a life filled of sin and shame that displeased the LORD. Jezebel was a Phoenician princess, daughter of the King of the Sidonian, and wife of Ahab, Israel's most wicked King.

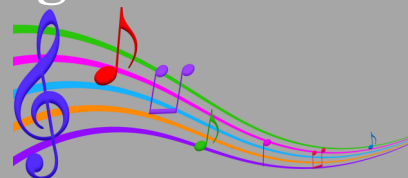
Jezebel was known for her seduction and ruthless evil deeds. She worshipped Baal and hated everything associated with the only true God and the servants of God. She ordered the execution of all the prophets of the Lord (1 Kings 18:4,13) and replaced God's altars with those of Baal. She was a murderess who arranged the death of Naboth to take away his land to give to her husband for his vineyard. Her acts of evil cause even Elijah to flee when he heard about her plan.

Jezebel authorized herself to be called a prophetess. Her character was marked with extreme violence, hunger for power, deception, and manipulation. Her most grievous sin to God was her sexual immorality and idol worship that opposed the truth of God. Her actions and unrepentant sin caused her death and destruction. (1 Kings 21:23)

The wicked spirit that empowered Jezebel exists today in effort to destroy God's plan for worship, service, and holy living. Woman of God, be quick to check and recheck your spirit. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you". (James 4:7) Listen to the Spirit of God, and hear him. Repent of wrong sinful deeds as God gives you the time to do so. Be watchful of the subtle defiant evil that influence and seek to distract your worship and commitment to God.

Jezebel's story shows that evil may prosper temporarily but will eventually be punished and justice will prevail. Evil must be repented of when God gives the time and space to do so. Call out Jezebel, do not wait. (Rev 2:20-22)

## Song of the Month



## We Gather Together (aka; The Thanksgiving Song)

Written By: Adrianus Valerius  
Born: c. 1575, Middleburg, Zeeland  
Died: Jan 27, 1625, Veere Dutch Republic  
Known For: Poetry, Music Composer  
Date Written: 1597  
Purpose of Song: To celebrate the Dutch Christian hymn celebrating the victory over the Spanish forces in the Battle of Turnhout

### Verse 1

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
He chastens and hastens His will to make  
known.  
The wicked oppressing now cease from  
distressing.  
Sing praises to His Name; He forgets not His  
own.

### Verse 2

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;  
So from the beginning the fight we were  
winning;  
Thou, Lord, were at our side, all glory be Thine!

### Verse 3

We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,  
And pray that Thou still our Defender will be.  
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;  
Thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us  
free!

Chosen and sung by:  
Missionary Gail Webb-Goodwin



# GTI Prayer Breakfast



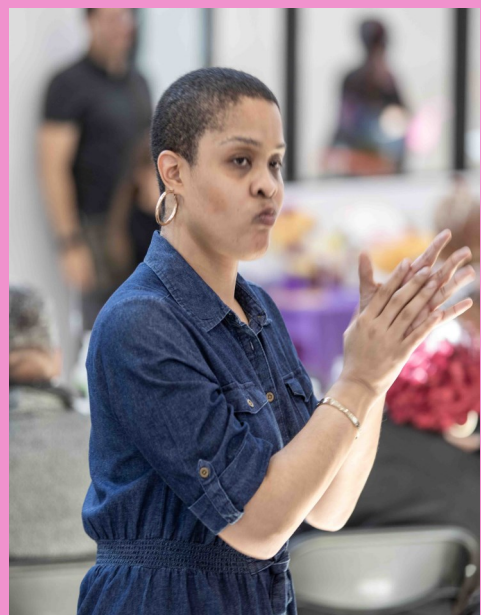
Men ought to always pray and not to faint. The prayers of the righteous availeth much. Pray without ceasing. This very foundation of GTI is built on prayer. We understand the power of prayer and know prayer changes things.

GTI has prayer everyday on-line and if you need prayer, you can always call the church and someone is available to pray for you.

Every year, we come together for our annual Prayer Breakfast. Even though there were many events taken place during this time, nothing is more important than prayer.



# It's Prayer Time



# Prayer Is Always In Order



# Welcome To The Family



**Name:** Eddie Maldon Jr.  
**Birthday Month:** March  
**Status:** Single - **Children:** 3  
**Occupation:** Works for Kaiser  
**What brought you to GTI:** The Lord and my family the Maldon's



**Name:** Reginald Wiley  
**Birthday Month:** July  
**Status:** Single - **Children:** 2  
**Occupation:** Manager for Safeway  
**What brought you to GTI:** The Lord and my sister, Angel Marshall



**Name:** Donna Calvin  
**Birthday Month:** September  
**Status:** Single - **Children:** 1  
**Occupation:** RN  
**What brought you to GTI:** The Lord



**Name:** Ronald Saine  
**Birthday Month:** October  
**Status:** Single - **Children:** None  
**Occupation:** Retired  
**What brought you to GTI:** Bishop Blake spoke so highly of Bishop Macklin



**Name:** Regina Rederford  
**Birthday Month:** March  
**Status:** Single - **Children:** 2  
**Enjoyments:** Read and socializing  
**What brought you to GTI:** Friends and the Holy Spirit



**Name:** Terral Brown  
**Birthday Month:** July  
**Status:** Married (Judy Brown)  
**Occupation:** Union Worker  
**What brought you to GTI:** The Holy Spirit



**Name:** Kevin Izuka  
**Birthday Month:** February  
**Status:** Single  
**Occupation:** Community Assistant



**Name:** Samantha Scott-Howard  
**Birthday Month:** December  
**Status:** Married (Antoine Howard)  
**Children:** 3  
**Occupation:** Social Worker  
**What brought you to GTI:** Word of mouth

We are so glad you have decided to make GTI your church home. You couldn't have chosen a better church and people to now call "Family". Bishop and Lady Macklin are the best leaders and advocates to your successful walk with God. They will lead, guide, and instruct you in ways of living a saved, sanctified, and spirit filled life. Your new brothers and sisters in Christ will love you, pray for you, and are glad you are family. Again, welcome home!

# We are Praying for You

12

## Sick List

Annie Bailey  
Twanda Bailey  
Melvin Carter  
Richard Davis  
Daryl and Hazel Fair  
Andrea Franklin  
Milton Garland  
Mother Sylvia Horton  
Patricia James  
Kimbre Johnson  
Doran King  
Stacy Louis  
Christopher Morris  
Thomas Michael Nash  
Myrel Ross  
Natasha Shaw  
Judy Stanley  
Marie Stevenson  
Keith Taylor  
Samuel Walker

## Convalescent

Juanita West  
Mother Mary Shepard  
Patricia Raspberry  
Thaddius McDaniels  
Shirley Hartman  
Phyllis Walker  
Carolyn Walker  
Yvette Drake  
Tramaine Mitchell  
Elder Albert Green

## Home Shut in

Mother Izoniah Lovett  
Ralph Paige  
Shonette Todd  
Elder James Tucker  
Helen Washington  
Mother Mamie Simon  
Claudell Woods  
Josephine Freeman

Pray for saints everywhere

# Trunk Or Treat Event



# Giving Back To Our Community



# Celebrating Our Children



**What Is Trunk-or-Treat?**

Trunk-or-Treat is an alternative to trick-or-treating, where candy-givers gather their vehicles typically in a parking lot, decorate their trunks with themes, such as pumpkin patches, Disney movies, or cartoon characters. Kids go from car to car for treats, games, and other fun. Every year, the Glad Tidings International COGIC Trunk or Treat offers food, games, a monopoly pumpkin patch, a hot chocolate and cider bar, candy, family fun, and a decorated trunk contest!

**How impactful is it?**

Trunk or Treat events have gained popularity in the last few years due to their ability to bring communities together and offer a unique twist on traditional trick-or-treating. It's a twist on traditional door-to-door trick or treating that doesn't involve wandering through neighborhoods after dark and can involve the whole family.

**Benefits of Organizing a Trunk or Treat as a church Event**

A church Trunk-or-Treat is a fun way for churches to share their message and connect with the neighborhood. Trunk-or-Treat can also be a safer alternative to traditional Halloween activities. Organizing a Trunk or Treat event offers numerous benefits for both the local church and the neighborhood. For churches, it provides an opportunity to take back the Pagan holiday "Halloween" that celebrates wickedness and to offer a different approach to this holiday by showcasing creativity, proclaiming the Gospel in a fun and inventive way, and reaching out to our community. For the neighborhood, it gives them the opportunity to get to know us outside the church walls,

to interact with us in a fun setting, and be able to create lasting memories.

GTI has been providing Trunk or Treat for our community for many years and this year, it was simply fantastic. Many children came from all over the neighborhood to a parking lot full of decorated car trunks, people in costumes, and candy overflowing. This is able to happen because GTI understands the importance of fellowship and it doesn't happen just in the church but it is more important for fellowship to take place outside of church.

Every ministry is involved in the success of Trunk or Treat because they are able to talk to the community about their ministry. Health and Wellness offers healthy snacks such as fruit and gives information on a healthy lifestyle. If you have a prayer request, the Prayer Ministry offers a chance for onsite prayer. The Youth Ministry provides material on upcoming events geared for the youth.

Trunk or Treat has become a fantastic way to engage with our neighbors and community in a festive environment. It fosters church family unity for a common purpose. It really creates a positive church experience for kids and families who may not attend church regularly. The Bible says in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Over the years, GTI have gained new families from this event and we expect to gain more each and every year. We know there are many families who may think of us when they do decide to visit a church or to give their lives to Christ. We can only be faithful to plant seeds and water them in as many ways as we can, and we trust God for the increase.

## Coming Attractions

November 3rd - November Birthday Celebration

November 3rd - Salute To Our Veterans

November 4th-10th - COGIC 116th Holy Convocation

November 13th - Cover Girl's Monthly Women's Zoom Fellowships

November 24th - GTI Harvest Sunday & Community Food Distribution

November 28th - The Macklins' Thanksgiving Dinner

November 28th - Album Release—Purity Class by Crystal Liandra on all music platforms

**Weekly: Online services for Bible Study and in person on Tuesday night, Friday Night Service, and In-person Sunday Morning at 9am and Zoom replay at 11am**

[gladdtidingscogic.org](http://gladdtidingscogic.org)

**Submit your prayer request to  
[info@gti.church](mailto:info@gti.church)**

**Stay committed to the vision of the Family Life Center and let's continue to pay our pledges.**