



Atlanta Church of Christ ⁱⁿ Gwinnett

www.acocg.org | info@acocg.org

The birds of the air come and perch in its branches.

- Matthew 13:32

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Congratulations, graduates!

On May 19th, we celebrated with our high school, college and graduate school grads. We looked back with them on their academic careers, congratulated them on their achievements, and gave each a small gift as they launch the next stage of their journeys. Audrey Portillo, Briani Netzahuatl, Brianna Armstead, Brittany Cook, Isa Abreu, Jade Woung, Kamuanya Bunema, Michael Howard, Tavis Burks, Travis Burks, William Ruiz Diaz, and Zachary Cook graduated from high school, and Scott Woolfork, Abram Rowell, Shakarah Morgan, and Lydia Freeman received college or post-graduate degrees. Best wishes to all our graduates!



With thanks to Mee Yang and Peter Berry for pictures and information!



Remembering Harold Little



Harold Little, husband of AcoCG member Lisa Little, was born May 15, 1947 in Atlanta; he excelled in basketball in high school, which led him to play first at junior college in California and then to a full scholarship at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. He worked hard throughout his life, serving for over 30 years in U.S. Customs and Border Protection both in Los Angeles and Atlanta until his retirement in 2016. Harold had a generous and loving heart for family, friends, and people in need. He passed away on May 8, 2019, leaving many who will cherish his memory and miss his presence, including his wife Lisa, his stepdaughters Crystal and Venus, his daughters LeAnna, Laya and Adrian, and his son Nuyen, and many friends in the AcoCG, other congregations in the Atlanta area, and far beyond. Please remember to keep his family and friends in prayer as they navigate their grief journeys.

SUFFERING AND REPENTANCE

You may have heard someone say that God works in mysterious ways. Now, that may be true, but I think oftentimes God is actually pretty transparent in His workings. I think the "mysterious" part is that we just don't pay attention the way we should.

Let me explain what I mean. I recently started working out with a young man at my gym. He had been watching YouTube weight lifting/training videos to figure out the right form to use for various exercises, how heavy to go and how many repetitions to do, etc. Long story short, I helped him on a few exercises and offered to train with him, and we soon became training partners and friends. One particular area of interest for him was leg training, especially because it can be so easy to get hurt if you use the wrong form when doing heavy squats or deadlifts. So, I had been working with him on his form, and on our usual "leg day" a few weeks ago, I decided to show him some new exercises that I had not done in a long while.

You may already be guessing where this story is going. I pulled something in my back. As I type this article, I am still not 100%.

What struck me as I started praying about healing was the way God answered. I did not get cessation of the pain I experienced every time I turned or bent over (I couldn't even reach to put on socks or shoes without excruciating pain), but instead realized that I needed to repent for my selfishness. Interesting, right?

Well, the flip side of this story is that my wife has been experiencing extreme back pain for almost two years. It has been alleviated by an epidural (it took two shots, actually), but the underlying problem has not gone away and over the past several months it has gotten worse and worse. What I began to realize as I prayed about my own pain was that I had not been giving enough credence to what she was experiencing.

Sure, I had been praying for her health, and that God would show us who or what could help her, but in our day-to-day interactions I had not been doing enough. I had not been ensuring that she was always comfortable, that she never had to bend or lift anything, or that she had help putting on her shoes. I had shown sympathy, but not really done my part to help alleviate her pain.

So, as I am suffering through the last remaining pangs of pain from my own injury, I sit here reflecting on how God can sometimes use our suffering to show us where we need to change. I have been repenting of my selfishness, and the more I repent, the more I realize its reach. This is an issue in my life that needs to be addressed.

I thank God for revealing it to me in a way that made me finally pay attention.

– Alex Neumann

Zambia, here we come!

On Sunday evening, June 9th, the Z-6 team gathered with a group of their supporters at the Butlers' house for a Zambia Send-off and Prayer night. The evening was filled with fellowship, well-wishes, prayers, and food (of course). The six team members—Donnell Francis, Rafael Troche, Toni Butler, Kes Robinson, Antoinette Hawkins, and Patrice Brown—left for Africa on Tuesday the 11th, taking with them bags of gifts donated to the children in Zambia. The team will be staying there for a week, and going to a conference in South Africa before returning home. We'll hope to bring you their report in the next newsletter!



With thanks to Sherry Rouse and Haley Early for pictures and information!



And whether your path takes you
to the mountains...



...to the beach...



...or anywhere else this summer—even if you have a “stay-cation” instead—remember you’re always in God’s hands and He will direct you and keep you wherever you go!
Journey safely, and return refreshed!

We welcome news and pictures on interesting personal stories, family group activities, and more. Please send them to Nancy Berry, nberry2@gmail.com. Thank you!

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