

From the Minister's Desk



Wesley R. Brown

# Man Ought to Love God

**O**ur love for God ought to be stronger than our love for anyone or any thing else. He has done so much for us. The world was created by Him for man; and man himself was created by God.

Everything that is good, and excellent, was made and created by God. This ought to open man's heart to God.

Time and time again the scriptures point that God is to be loved because He is Love. Since He is love, we should love Him supremely. Notice what Jesus said, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Matt. 22:37) Love Him because He sent His Son into this world to show us how to get back home. Jesus was born two thousand years ago, and we ought to be appreciative.

Man's love for God will cause him to exert every effort to fulfill and carry out the will of God in his life. Our heart must honor Him; our souls ought to serve Him; and our minds ought to meditate upon Him. He must be first and foremost in our thoughts, and the way that we walk. Self is nowhere in the picture. Self must be denied. Self is the problem. The selfishness of the human heart is the reason why there are wars and conflict in the world. It was the selfishness of Herod that caused him to hunt down the Son of God. And when he could not find him, he murdered innocent children born in Bethlehem. Listen to the word of God, "Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men." (Matt. 2:16) Herod had no love for God.

The wise men showed their love for God by the gifts they brought to Joseph and Mary. Notice these words from the pen of Matthew, "And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." (Matt. 2:11) Thus, not only had they traveled a long way, but they also shared their treasure with God's gift to mankind.

Real and genuine love obeys God and keeps His commandments. "Jesus answered and said unto him, 'If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him'" (John 14:23) If God is your Father then you will obey Him. This is how man proves and shows his love for God.

## P R A Y E R   L I S T

|                        |                        |                           |                         |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Gloria Drake           | Edith Hodge            | The Douse Family          | Debra Harding           |
| Octavis Royals         | Doyle Fitzpatrick      | Gwenda Ferrell            | Chris & Sharon Brown    |
| Barbara Edgerton       | Conrad & Lavy Little   | Phyllis Holmes & Family   | Mona & Andre Johnson    |
| Jean Peters            | Mark Snell             | Juanita Smith             | Charles & Charlotte Ham |
| Chris Reed             | Anita Banks            | Kevin & Joan Smith        | The Folkes Family       |
| Thomas & Opal Chase    | Jerome & Vanessa Hodge | Marilyn Brooks            | Randolph McKinney, Jr.  |
| Angela Alexander       | Ruth Moneke            | Ozie Leaster & Family     | Twanda & Knox Bates     |
| Alicia Green           | Larry Timberlake       | Olympia Billings          | Mona & Andre Johnson    |
| Michael Jenkins        | Anthony Grogan         | James & Barbara Whitfield | William & Sharon Burke  |
| Joseph Alexander       | Dean & Adrea Morgan    | Sharon Brown              | Ozie Leaster & Family   |
| The Harden Family      | Doris Morgan           | DeWayne Gaines            | Sarah Kellom & Family   |
| Ruby & Chantale Murray | Lorie Moore            | Kelvin Hodge              | Obree Friday            |
| Lira Peay              | Roslyn Anderson        | Jennifer & Torry Cambell  | Octavis Royals          |
| Bertha Lee             | Milton Perry           | Corine Woods              | Sandreka Walker         |
| Flora Dansby           | Esther Brown           | Daryl Alexander           | Kesha Clinkscale        |
| Betty Hayes            | Verlence Hunter        | Steve & Corine Wilson     |                         |

**To have your name removed from the bulletin prayer list, please contact Doris Morgan 404-346-1372 or e-mail her at dhmor30331@yahoo.com.**

### Special Collection Set for Today

**T** A special collection will be held at all three of today's worship services to benefit Georgia AGAPE, a foster and adoption placement services agency for members of the churches of Christ. Please be prepared to provide your tax-deductible donation. If you write a check, put GA Agape in the memo.

**Proud Parents!** David and Lillie Garner announced the birth of Evan L. Garner, this past Tuesday at 11:53 a.m. Little Evan weighed in at 6 pounds, 14 ounces. Mother and baby are at home and doing well.

West End's **New Year's Eve program** will be held on Sunday, December 31 with an evening worship service at 9 p.m. The program will start at 10 p.m. There will be no 6 p.m. services on December 31.

**Prayer Ministry** – If you have a desire for prayer, or know someone who does, please forward your request to dhmor30331@yahoo.com, or call Doris Morgan at 404-346-1372. You can also contact Johnnie Stephens at 404-243-1139, Esther Brown at 404-696-3941, or Nettie Fanning at 404-696-9104. In order to avoid duplication, names that are currently listed on the Sick and Shut-In list will not be added to the Prayer List.

The **Membership to Discipleship** group meets each Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. in the brick annex. See J.P. Collier, David Logan, or Dorothy Reed for more information.

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### ■ YOUTH AND SINGLES ■

**T Attention Parents of 5-6 Grade Bible Class:** Today after attending 8:25 a.m. worship and 9:45 a.m. Bible class, Linda Gay and Jerolyn Ferrari are taking the 5-6th grade girls on a "mall" luncheon/outing. Lunch and transportation will be provided.

**Monthly Youth Devotionals for 2007 Begin in January** – January's Youth Devotional will be held on Sunday, January 28 at 4 p.m. The theme is *Protecting West End's Youth From a Treacherous World*. God intended the family to play the primary role in protecting the spirituality of children. Plan now to attend this event on January 28. Special guest, Christopher King from Arlington Christian School, will be one of the speakers. Star students, Khaliya Ross, Savion Carswell, Anthony Carswell, Carmen Williams, Jordan Williams, Courtney Terrell, Kayla McKinney, Reginald McKinney, Briana Wilburn, and several others will also be recognized. See David Bishop to volunteer to help with various tasks in preparation for this event.

Turn in all **report cards** to David Bishop for the upcoming youth devotional on January 28. We are looking for Star Students (A's and B's) and Rising Stars starting in January 2007 for those showing improvement from previous "not-so-good" grades. Parents of youth through grade 12 should see David Bishop with copies of your child's report cards.

## Mark Your Calendars for These Special Events

### Friday, February 2

West End will be celebrating Wesley Brown's transition from full-time pulpit minister to Minister Emeritus. The celebration banquet will be held at the Atlanta Airport Marriott Hotel in College Park, Georgia starting at 6:00 p.m. Tickets will be made available very soon at \$25 per adult and \$15 per child. An exciting, memorable, and unique program is planned for everyone in attendance.

### Sunday, February 4

Following the 10:45 worship service, West End will install Orpheus Heyward as the full-time pulpit minister. Jack Evans from Southwestern Christian College will be the guest speaker for the day.

## Give the Gift of The Word!

3rd Annual Give the Gift of the Word Evangelism Campaign

The Evangelism Committee is pleased to present the 3rd Annual Give the Gift of the Word Campaign. This exciting effort gives West Enders an opportunity to share the Gospel of Christ with friends and family during this holiday season in a wonderful way! It's absolutely FREE and easy as 1, 2, 3 - Simply go to: [www.thewestender.com](http://www.thewestender.com). Submit the names and addresses of your friends, family members, co-workers & others and they will receive via U.S. Mail, a personalized letter from West End and a powerful gospel sermon on cd! Forms will be available for those without internet access. All names and addresses must be submitted by Wednesday December 20. What better gift to give the ones you love than the Gift of the Word!

### UPDATE

If you submitted names using the online form on West End's web site for the Gift of the Word Campaign from December 1 through December 9, please resubmit them today or tomorrow. Technical difficulties may have prevented your information from reaching the proper sources. Thanks, and sorry for the inconvenience.

### Placed membership

12/10 - **Sara Harris**  
1006 Calgary Glen  
Austell, GA 30168  
770-944-9805

## Congregational Meeting Today

**Please remain seated after an abbreviated 10:45 a.m. worship service and attend West End's Congregational Meeting. Feedback from the November town hall meeting and specific visible and measurable goals will be communicated.**

WEST END'S THEME FOR 2007:

*Bringing Everybody  
Into the Same Body  
by the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

EPHESIANS 3:6

## West End's High School Juniors & Candidates for Graduation in 2007

Kurtis East – Junior, Creekside HS  
Tia Steele – Senior, North Atlanta HS  
Aria Alexander – Senior, Grady HS  
Brian Gladney – Senior, Stockbridge HS  
Adrian Brown – Junior, Decatur HS  
Amaris Clements – Senior, Luella HS  
Simeon Kelley – Senior, Grady HS  
Courtney Terrell – Senior, MLK HS  
Marquise Clark – Senior, Alexander HS  
Christian Watkins – Junior, Campbell HS  
Donita McCants – Senior, MLK HS  
Lenoard Roberts – Senior, B.T. Washington HS  
Monique Houston – Senior, Mays HS  
Amber Freeman – Senior, Banneker HS  
Kenyatta Harris – Senior, Druid Hills HS  
Tremon Brown – Junior, MLK HS  
Carmen Williams – Senior, GACS  
Travis Cammon – Senior, GACS  
Anthony Carswell – Senior, Shiloh HS  
Your name not listed? See David Bishop

## SICK & SHUT-IN

To be included or to have someone included or removed from this listing please contact Gayron Johnson at the church office.

Robert Fuzell – 10413 Southhampton Ct., Jonesboro, GA 30238, 678-479-7942. Bro. Fuzell requests weekly visits on Sunday afternoons to his home. Tallulah Latham – 320 Fairburn Rd., Apt H-6, Atl., GA 30331, 404-505-1581. Mareba Collier is on bed rest. Eugenia Farmer – 2889 Brookford Lane, Atl., GA 30331. 404-207-6238. Willie Mae Morrow – 3060 Continental Colony Pkwy., Apt. 502, Atl., GA 30330. 404-344-9990. Elizabeth Perkins – 1392 Maynard Rd., NW, #31, Atl., GA 30331. 404-691-0268. Elnora Bethel – 3700 Potomac Dr., East Point, GA 30344. Daneka Vickers, daughter of Mack and Sandra Freeman. Annie McArthur – 751 Fairburn Rd., SW #2212, Atl., GA, 30331. 404-699-2939. Annie Glaze. Anreneka Johnson – 2025 Highpoint Trail, Atl., GA 30331. 404-344-1010.