
Mark Your CALENDAR



DISTRICT CONVENTION DATES

Updated: December 06, 2023

1) District 1 – Joshua Caley, Sr.

- i. Convention Date: January 31 – February 2, 7:15 pm
- ii. Location: Miami No.1
- iii. Gillum Preaches Wednesday, January 31st

2) District 2 – Frank Capron

- i. Convention Date: January 24-27, 7:00 pm
- ii. Locations: Wednesday through Friday
Hollywood Central Performing Arts Center,
1770 Monroe Street, Hollywood, FL
- iii. Saturday night at the Hollywood COGOP
- iv. Gillum Preaches Thursday, January 25th

3) District 3 – Jeffrey Webb

- i. Convention Date: April 12-14, 7:00 pm night services, Sunday 10:00 am
- ii. Locations: Friday Green Acres COGOP
- iii. Saturday & Sunday Embassy Suites West Palm Beach
- iv. Gillum Preaches Sunday, April 14th

4) District 4 – Derrick Jackson

- i. Convention Date: April 19-21, 7:00 pm Friday & Saturday, 6:00 pm Sunday
- ii. Locations: Friday Palm Beach Gardens COGOP
- iii. Saturday Riviera Beach AVE E
- iv. Sunday Palm City
- v. Gillum Preaches - TBD

5) District 5 – Danny Hurlburt

- i. Convention Date: March 14-15, 7:00 pm
- ii. Locations: Punta Gorda March 14
- iii. Ft. Myers (Marion Street) 15th
- iv. Gillum Preaches Friday, March 15th

6) District 6 – Scott Creasy

- i. Convention Date: March 2-3, 6:00 pm
- ii. Locations: Auburndale March 2
- iii. Brooksville March 3
- iv. Gillum Preaches Sunday, March 3rd

7) District 7 – Ronald Miller

- i. Convention Date: February 1-3, 6:30 pm
- ii. Location: Ocoee
- iii. Gillum Preaches Saturday, February 3rd

8) District 8 – Sandy Gamble

- i. Convention Date: January 5-6, 7:00 pm
- ii. Locations: Melbourne January 5
- iii. Leesburg January 6
- iv. Gillum Preaches Saturday, January 6th

9) District 9 – Harrold Daniels

- i. Convention Date: January 28-30, 7:00 pm
- ii. Locations: DeLeon Springs January 28
- iii. Daytona Beach January 29
- iv. Sanford Elm Ave. January 30
- v. Gillum Preaches Monday, January 29th

10) District 10 – Allen Baggett

- i. Convention Date: March 1, 7:00 pm
- ii. Location: Connect Church, Palatka
- iii. Gillum Preaches Friday, March 1st

11) District 11 – Billy Canterbury

- i. Convention Date: February 18, 5:30 pm
- ii. Location: Jacksonville (Westside)
- iii. Gillum Preaches Sunday, February 18th

12) District 12 – Lawrence Singleton

- i. Convention Date: February 7-9, 7:00 pm
- ii. Locations: Wednesday Perry (Hampton)
- iii. Thursday Tallahassee (Dade)
- iv. Friday Bristol
- v. Gillum Preaches Friday, February 9th

13) District 13 – Ernest Dupree

- i. Convention Date: February 9-10, 6:00 pm (CST)
- ii. Location: Chipley
- iii. Gillum Preaches Saturday, February 10th



Heart2Heart Ministries

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2023

Touched by an Angel

Of all the characters in the Christmas story, let's give attention to the angels. From the beginning of time, God has entrusted angels to deliver both verbal and non-verbal messages to humanity; messages of comfort, protection, and direction. Angels have provided for needs, delivered from danger, warned others of danger, and pronounced judgment. In the Christmas story angels take center stage. Gabriel announced to Mary that she would become the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:26-28). An angel informed Joseph that he was to take Mary as his wife (Matthew 1:20), and appeared to him in a dream warning him of the danger of King Herod's intent on killing the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:13). Then there were nativity angels who delivered the news of our Lord's birth (Luke 2:14).

Recently, while in a conversation with one of our pastor's wives, Vierge Simon, I was fascinated to hear her testimony of an angelic sighting of one of these agents of heaven. Sister Simon shared how in a vision (a man) visited her and assured her that Bishop Simon was going to be healed. (As you are aware, Pastor Raymond Simon recently faced a very serious surgery due to a tumor being removed from his brain.) This heavenly messenger's reassurance to Sister Simon was powerful. And yes, Bishop Simon is doing incredibly well.

While serving in Kentucky, one of our pastor's wives who has a bed-ridden child showed me a treasured box of 'angel wings'. Often, when their non-verbal daughter begins to laugh, a feather falls from nowhere. Although there are no down pillows or bedcovers in their home, no stuffed animals, there are divine moments when it appears as though angels are entertaining Bekki as she interacts with them.

I'm so thankful for the role angels play in our lives today. Although mostly unseen, they are continually at work according to Scripture. Thank God for the times He has dispatched these ministering spirits to guard our ways (Psalm 91:11). *"Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all his hosts"* (Psalm 148:2). Shall we join with the angels in praise to the Christ of Christmas? Yes! For only heaven will reveal the many times we entertained angels unaware, and were protected by these heavenly beings. Not only did Bible characters such as Lot, Philip, Elijah, Daniel, Peter, and Joseph witness their presence, angel sightings remain. Stay alert! And just think, should we be among those who are alive upon our Lord's return, an angelic host will join Him in escorting us to live forever in Heaven. Or, one day we'll have an angelic chauffeur to usher us into His presence at our death. This side of eternity, stay alert for angelic sightings as God's care for us never ceases. You might just be....*touched by an angel!* - Brenda

Only a Baby Sandra Willis

Now that God has allowed me to be a blessed and a seasoned adult, I often reminisce of past Christmas experiences. December is a time to really focus on the birth of Jesus. As a small child, I didn't fully comprehend His birth, but my great grandparents (Ma and Papa) continued to make Him known. It just seemed a baby was important—any baby! One Christmas morning as they told the birth story, I sat looking out of the window at snow falling to the ground. Then I spotted a small baby tree top peeking over the snow. I yelled for Papa to come see it and asked him to bring it into the house for protection because it was just a baby. After much persuasion, he got a bucket, went outside, moved snow from an area, scooped that baby tree in the bucket and brought it inside the warm house. In the spring, he and I planted it outside near the porch where it remained for nearly 12 years. My senior year in high school we cut it down and used it for the Christmas tree inside our home. It was beautiful!

The focus of baby Jesus has taken on new meaning. Jesus has grown and continues to grow in my life. No cutting Him down! The true meaning has gripped my heart. Treva VanNortwick wrote a song "Only a Baby." The first verse states:

He was only a baby sleeping in a manger—a bed of hay

*With Mary and Joseph keeping faithful watch o'er the
place He lay*

Angels told shepherds the story sweet

His coming makes all our lives complete

He was only a baby sleeping, But...

He is our Savior today.

I challenge you this month to tell the story of the baby Jesus. Although it may seem many aren't grasping the message, keep telling the story for one day the true meaning will change lives. Have family Bible study with Matthew 1:18-23, Luke 1:14-16 and other favorite scriptures of His birth.

Be thankful, be blessed and enjoy your season!



You were given the opportunity to respond to our initiative I CARE by sending birthday greetings to Sherry Miller, our pastor's wife at Pierson who is mostly home-bound. The response was remarkable. Although the intent was to send words of affirmation, her party box included gift cards, checks, and presents. It took Sister Miller an hour and a half to go through her cards. Thank you for your support!

Sister Sherry writes: I want to thank you so much for all the cards and gifts in the box. It was such a wonderful surprise. I was so touched by all the pastor's wives cards and generosity. I love each and everyone of them. It's wonderful having them as my sisters and knowing that they care for each other. I love you sooo much!

Merry Christmas

*I love giveaways! To share a gift that keeps giving all year,
We're giving five one-year subscriptions to Just Between Us.
Just Between Us is a quarterly magazine celebrating
faith. Each full-color issue is packed with
inspiration, comfort, encouragement, and support
for every season of life! The first five lead pastors
wives that text "Just Between Us"
to 270.792.8820 (Brenda Gillum), you will receive
a complimentary one-year subscription.*

Heartfelt Sympathy

Our Presiding Bishop's wife, Kelly Coalter,
lost her mother this week. Feel free to
express your condolences. Cards may be sent to:

Bishop Tim & Kelly Coalter

P. O. Box 2910

Cleveland, TN 37312

Family Traditions

"...hold fast to the traditions which you were taught whether by word or our epistle" (2 Thess. 2:15)

Traditions remind us of where we came from, who and what has been a part of our story. A Christmas tradition for the Gillum family is to gather around the Christmas tree before gifts are distributed and reflect upon the true meaning of Christmas, read Scripture together, and allow each family member to contribute. It always includes thanksgiving and affirmation for family members and this amazing faith we share. After Mom and Dad Gillum passed in 2018, we instituted a new tradition. The week of Christmas we provide a meal for a family being provided with hospice care. Our family reaped the blessings of the care on Christmas Day when Dad Gillum died so we honor their legacy by blessings others in like circumstances.

May we seek to establish Christmas family traditions that are symbolic of the ultimate gift God gave the world, and express the gospel we claim to believe. These are a few of the traditions in the parsonages:

PASTOR YVONNE DEANS

This is our family tradition, and how we celebrate Christmas. We would first make our traditional fruit cakes weeks before Christmas, making our delicious sorrel drink that is also served with the cake.

As a family we celebrate Christmas by reflecting on the gift of God to us in the birth of his son, Jesus Christ.

Early on Christmas morning we would go to church, after worshiping at church we would head home to prepare a variety of meals including curry goat, ham and roast beef with rice and pigeon peas, otherwise called (gungo peas). Families and friends come together and share gifts, eating, and playing games

RHONDA HUTCHINSON

On Christmas Eve as a family of six, we would watch "It's a Wonderful Life." This movie always inspired us to be thankful and count our blessings. Christmas day, glory filled the house with laughter and joy of opening presents, and a Christmas meal. As the years have gone by, our

heritage grew adding nine grandchildren and six great-grand children. Memories of yesterday have been made. We play the white elephant gift game and eat Christmas dinner together.

The day after Christmas is called Boxing Day in Jamaica, so we would spend that day at the beach with friends and families just relaxing.

LORNA CAPRON

Thanksgiving weekend is the beginning of the Christmas season for us. When our children were very young, we always bought a large real tree. The sounds of Christmas music would echo through the house while the family decorated the tree. Christmas morning, we started with family devotions. The youngest child would then proceed to distribute gifts from under the tree. As the children got older, their interest in decorating a Christmas tree began to fade. This led to purchasing a revolving pre-lit Christmas tree. By the time our first grandson came along and was old enough, his job was to place the star at the top of the tree. Frank always reminded the children and their spouses, even today, that it was not their birthday. However, envelopes with money would be placed under the tree for the children and their spouses, including me. About ten years ago, I started placing gifts under the tree for people visiting our home from December 1 through January 31.

DONNETTE NEAL

We celebrate Christmas as family reflecting on the birth of Jesus, the ministry of Jesus and the return of Jesus. Each year we would decorate the Christmas tree together with Christmas carols. We drank hot chocolate and ate cake, and read the story of Jesus from the scriptures. My personal favorite is Luke 2. Our family reads it aloud before we open the gifts on Christmas. We reflected on the goodness of baby Jesus coming in this world for our sins. Another thing we do is shop for family in need and bless them with gifts.

GWENDOLYN TUCKER

We start our morning off with prayer, have breakfast, and then unwrap gifts. Around 3:00 PM, we gather at our daughter's house for Christmas dinner and games.

Uplift Conference.... Romeika Adderley

Sisters, what have you been waiting to see come alive in your life? What door have you been waiting to open or close for you? Has there been an opportunity that you have been praying for, preparing for? Is there an illness personal or close to you that you need our God to heal? Is there a bill you need paid or a relationship that needs restoration? Do not lose faith, do not give up on what God has spoken to you! Our Father is designing the next step, HE is preparing the open door, organizing the closed door, and aligning things and people to work in your favor.

Many of us have been walking through days, weeks, or seasons where what's right in front of us, doesn't look like what God has spoken to our hearts. And we have wondered if what we heard was accurate. I promise you, you have heard the voice, the heart of our Father. However, let me remind you that the enemy brings distractions to cause us to question whether we will ever receive the opportunity, whether we will walk through the open door. We begin to question if we are worthy of the grace of our Father. The Word of the Lord has come to strengthen our resolve in Ephesians 3 verses 20 and 21 – **“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”** What does this mean for us the daughters of the most High God, it means that there is nothing that our Father can't and or won't do for us!

If our lives and the outcome of our lives will bring glory to Him, then we must believe beyond anything that HE will do it – HE will do for us more than we can piece together in our own strength, more than any doctor can diagnose, more than any financial advisor can plan, more than any family member can provide. What He has promised will be experienced in our lives ONLY THROUGH His hand... and it will testify that it is more than we could have ever imagined and thought – It will be **BEYOND BELIEF!** I encourage you to join with your sisters from near and far in a weekend planned to build your faith to believe beyond for whatever God has for you!



Lead female pastors and pastor's wives in attendance of the 2024 Uplift Conference, are invited to brunch on Friday morning, hosted by the Heart 2 Heart leadership team, Friday, February 23, 11 AM, The Florida Hotel, Orlando.

Get your reservations to UPLIFT today! - More information will be forthcoming.

2024 Connecting Conversations

Join us on the first Monday of each month, 7 PM (EST) for our connecting conversations. The first quarter will feature preacher/teacher, Shellie Creasy, as she leads us in Bible study. Shellie writes:

It's time for us to "Act up"! As Pentecostals, we put great emphasis on speaking in tongues. Truly, it is a beautiful gift to be in this type of relationship with the Lord. But, what about our relationship with others? Heavenly language with God and a flesh driven tongue with others cannot be allowed to coexist.

At the first of the year, we will meet together to explore what happened on the day of Pentecost and whether or not we are truly walking in its fullness today. The world today encourages "empowered" women. Well then, let's give 'em something to talk about! - Shellie Creasy

MONDAY: JANUARY 8 — FEBRUARY 5 — MARCH 4 — APRIL 1



Pastoral Care Letter
December 2023

From my heart to yours...

Dear Pastoral Care Leader,

It seems time is passing so quickly and Christmas will soon be here. The holidays are very special, especially among the people of God. It is a time to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ.

It is once again time to show honor to your pastor and family with a special "Christmas Love Offering." Please do your best to make this the very best Christmas ever!

An idea you might consider is to place a large basket or box in the foyer of your church and encourage everyone to place items of food in it for a special Christmas dinner.

As this is the last Pastoral Letter for the year of 2023, I just wanted to take this opportunity to say a great big "Thank You," for your faithfulness to your pastor and family. Let's together make this New Year an unforgettable one for each of our pastors as we continue to move Florida Forward!

May the Lord bless you and your family tremendously this holiday season is my prayer.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,

Frankie S. Dotson
State Pastoral Care Director

REMINDER...

Pastor Christmas Love Offering

As you prepare for Christmas, I just want to remind you to remember your Pastor and family. Make sure they know how much you love and appreciate them for all they do for you throughout the year.

Whether it's through a card, a gift or your prayers, show them your love. Thank you for all you do for these precious people of God.

Thank you,
Frankie S. Dotson
State Pastoral Care Director



Reminder

Christmas

Love Offering



*State Bishop
and Sister Brenda*

Florida is blessed to have this amazing ministry couple! They tirelessly care for us and love us well. Let's do the same for them.

Let's pour out our love and appreciation for them through cards, gifts and prayers during this Christmas season.



To give, scan the code or mail your offering by December 20th to:

6001 Monarch Blvd.,
Leesburg, FL 34748

Special Thanks and Best Wishes for the Holiday Season



*Bishop Noward E. C. Dean
And Family*

Dear Pastors and Local Church Ministry Leaders,

One of my final activity as the former South Regional Presbyter for the Florida Church of God of Prophecy, was that of assisting the incoming Regional Presbyter with installation of the newly appointed or assigned District Supervisors, Pastors and assistants. Because of the number of persons to be installed, and the desire of the appointees to be individually installed at their assigned local church, the dates of the installation ceremonies for these appointees had to be extended beyond the effective appointment date of September 1, 2023. Realizing this, our newly appointed Regional Presbyter invited me to assist with the remaining ceremonies. The concluding ceremony was held on Sunday, October 15th. I am thankful to the Lord for His presence and blessings throughout each of these ceremonies. Thanks to all who assisted with the planning of these services.

Ruby and I along with our children, are forever grateful to our State Bishop, Scott Gillum and all of you for giving us the opportunity to serve the people of God in the South Region of this great State of Florida. Please know that our experience doing this short time of service in our appointed position of ministry is one that will be long remembered. I have come to realize that serving God's people brings me great satisfaction. I also realized that working for the Lord is a continuous process which will keep us occupied until He calls us from this earth, so we do not plan to discontinue whatever we have been doing for Him. Perhaps it might diminish a little in quality and quantity due to our physical ability, but our greatest ambition, passion, and intention is to serve Him as long as we can, to the best of our ability. The Lord has blessed us with many talents and we want to continue using them for His glory, so please do not hesitate to reach out to us if needed and we will willingly assist in ministry and any other way that the Lord allows and enables us to.

Paul told Timothy at one point in his life that he had a course. This tells us that each of us has a course prescribed specifically for us and we should be faithful in completing that course. I have a course, and you have a course. Our courses may be slightly different, but it is the way the Lord prescribes it. **Ephesians chapter 4:11-12 tells us that "He gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors, and some teachers, for the perfecting of the Saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."** We want to stay within His will and abide by His prescription, doing whatever he gives us to do until he calls us to receive our heavenly reward.

Please allow us to use this media to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Regional Bishop, Arthur Wilson, pastors, members and friends of the churches in the South Region for the expressions of love shown during the special Appreciation Service held on Sunday afternoon, November 26, 2023. Sister Ruby and I were made to feel real special and appreciate the kind words spoken as well as the special offering given by the local churches. May the Lord's blessings forever be with all of you.

We wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

For the Master's Service,
Noward, Ruby, Kevan, Anita, Korey and Kendrick



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ON THE MOVE

Leaders in children's ministry are caretakers, instructors, playmates, peacekeepers, parental figures, and role models. These positions, when fulfilled, create tired bodies and full souls. Ministering to kids can be exhausting. Yet, there is nothing so rewarding as seeing kids learn and apply deep biblical truths, begin to trust Christ and grow into a relationship with him.

It may seem alluring to want to serve in children's ministry as nothing more than a glorified babysitting service so the rest of the flock can do 'real' ministry. This couldn't be further from veracity. Children's ministry is foundational in the spiritual, theological, and worldview formation of a person. Paul encouraged Timothy: "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:14-15).

I believe the church will never be continued without catechesis. We must teach basic bible doctrine to our children. Thomas Watson wrote, "To preach and not to catechize [teach] is to build without foundation."

In this season my prayer is that we find fulfillment in sharing the gospel with children. I pray we find satisfaction in presenting the gospel and teaching all children big truths. Generations are constantly changing along with this world; I pray we agree to continue teaching children the firm truth of the gospel even if we don't see any results right away. Be encouraged to remember....Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6) This passage is not just for parents. The more the young are taught, the better; it will keep them from being misled.

Let us move forward with the expectation that Florida COGOP Children's Ministry will double the number of children and families within your local congregations in 2024. As these numbers increase, continue to pray for stability, security, a passion with vision, and make discipleship your ultimate goal. Strong families build strong churches and will strengthen throughout society.

Blessings and Love,
Natasha 'Von' Davis
floidacm@flcogop.com
407-247-5063



prayer invades the impossible

Dear Pastor,

I am getting more and more excited about our upcoming Prayer Conference! It's **January 27th at Camp Sonshine**. It begins at **9:00am** and concludes around **4:00pm**. As always, the camp is open Friday for anyone who wishes to spend the night. Bring your own bedding, etc.

Our guest will be Dr. Tom Renfro and his wife, Evangelist Sid Renfro. They reside in Virginia. I know they will be a blessing. As you may know, he was healed of numerous tumors, 26 years ago. His testimony is amazing and Sister Sid is highly anointed! Come and be healed spiritually and physically!

We will have something new this year for our kids! Children, ages 2 through 10, will experience the Prayer Conference in a way that's tailored to them. Our State Children's Director, Sis. Von Davis has planned something very special for them from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Parents, please register your children by scanning or clicking the QR Code.



January is when our church, corporately, participates in a 21 day fast. You may choose whichever 21 days you'd like, and pick something you'd like to fast. Please keep this before your congregation. You will be receiving a poster in the mail, advertising the Prayer Conference. I ask that you please hang it up in your church. I depend on you to help me spread the word about the conference.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Kay Osban
State Prayer Coordinator



TOM AND SID RENFRO

Special Guests

2024 PRAYER CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

flcogop.org

2024
Prayer Conference *for kids*
ages 2-10

Children's Ministry

Pick a Promise Prayer Session

January 27, 2024

10am - 2pm

Camp SonShine

24165 Dan Brown Hill Rd,

Brooksville, FL 34602

Scan or click QR Code
to Register your child





UPLIFT CONFERENCE 2024



Feb 23, 2024, 6:30pm EST - Feb 25, 2024, 12:00pm EST

The Florida Mall Hotel & Conference Ctr, 1500 Sand Lake Rd, Orlando, FL 32809



Rates increase on January 1st.

Save now and get everyone
registered for Uplift 2024 before
it's too late!

Don't forget to follow us on
Facebook & Instagram!

HOW TO: 3 WAYS TO BOOK YOUR HOTEL FOR UPLIFT 24

RSVP

01

CALL

CALL THE HOTEL
@ (407) 859-1500

02



SCAN THE QR CODE

03



FROM THE 2024 CONFERENCE
PAGE. YOU CAN CLICK BOOK
HOTEL

KEYWORD
"UPLIFT
CONFERENCE
2024"



KEYWORD "UPLIFT CONFERENCE 2024"
www.sister2sisterministriesinc.org



THANK
YOU!

THANK
YOU!

THANK
YOU!

THANK
YOU!

CAMP SONSHINE

YOU DID IT!

WE REACHED OUR
GOAL OF 225
MATTRESSES!

THANK
YOU!

THANK
YOU!

THANK
YOU!

THANK
YOU!

flcogop.org

THANK
YOU!

THANK
YOU!



Seek Jesus this Christmas

by Josh Caley, Jr.

Each Christmas, many of you probably read a familiar story in the Gospel of Matthew, the 2nd chapter, in which Matthew gives us a seemingly random account of some foreign men who saw an uncommon star in the sky. This beautiful star motivated them to pay a visit to Jesus, who at that time was about two years old. Matthew does not give us many details about these men, but there are some conclusions we can make about them based on the customs and traditions of the time. 1) The term “magi” comes from the Greek “magoi” meaning “magicians”. These men were gentile astronomers and astrologers from Persia and Arabia, which is why they are called “men from the east”. By the world’s standard they were considered “Wise Men”.

We are not even told that they served the God of Abraham. We simply know that they were educated, cultured men of status who were important among the Arabians and Persians. These men were likely made aware of the birth of Christ through some sort of divine revelation, or some prior knowledge of the scriptures when they first saw that unusual star one night.

Perhaps they might’ve known the prophecy about this star in Numbers 24:17, which reads: “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth.”



(Cont'd)

Regardless of how they found Jesus, we see a beautiful truth in their story; they SOUGHT out Jesus. They looked for him. As we look back to their story take note of the fact Jesus didn't bring gifts to them to needle into their social group. Jesus didn't desire to walk with the in-crowd of Jews; His task was not to morph into the Jewish elite and conquer the Roman empire, but to call sinners to repentance and love in Christ; How beautifully expressed is that truth in this passage? Our big, sovereign, awesome savior takes the world stage, not with a crown and scepter, but with a manger--a feeding box for an animal. Even greater is the fact that he was sought after by Pagan men, who by the grace of God, had their blinded eyes open to see the beauty of redemption's light: Jesus himself. Matthew 2:10 says: "When they saw the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy". It was as if they found a special treasure that had been hidden away for years.

John 11:13 says that Jesus came to his own and they received him not. If you notice in Matthew 2:3 it says that when Herod heard the inquiry of the wise men he was disturbed and ALL Jerusalem with him. Herod was an Edomite, and a dictator, so we could probably expect him to be troubled, but all Jerusalem was troubled with him? Their salvation had arrived, and they were too occupied with distress to draw near into the presence of Jesus Christ.

Today if God's Daystar, Jesus Christ, has risen in our hearts then our obligation and delight should be found in drawing near to worship and to seek the face of God. The wise men did not come looking for some benefit. They didn't ask his parents to shadow him and one day become one of the big-time disciples. They gathered their treasures, and they drew near as men humbled in God's presence.

Let us not seek from Christ that which is only temporary.

The beauty of Christ is too astonishing, too deep, too wide, too high for us to simply settle for temporal things. This Christmas seek, and rest in the presence of the Lord. He will show you his great love. ✨

Merry Christmas!



FLORIDA COGOP YOUTH CHOIR

invites you to join!

Recruiting ALL Children & Youth

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Choir Director: Adrienne White 813-495-2707

or

Co-Children's Ministry Director: Natasha 'Von'

Davis 407-247-5063

Scan QR code

for zoom

meeting Jan 21

@ 6pm

