



New Members Orientation and Information



Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church
Michael Teasley, Pastor

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*Welcome to the church where we preach, teach and proudly
live the Word of God*

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Welcome from the Pastor and First Lady

Pastor Michael and First Lady Kristie Teasley



Dear New Member,

Welcome to Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church. We are thankful that God has led you to our growing congregation. This packet has been designed to help you get better acquainted with your new church home. It will help you to better understand the structure of the church, the policies and procedures of the church and to strengthen you in your personal relationship with God.

After you have completed the new members classes here at Pleasant Grove MBC, pray and ask God for guidance in the area of ministry you would like to become involved to share your gifts for the Glory of God. As you are now a part of the Pleasant Grove family, we thank you for your commitment to move forward in your spiritual walk. As your Pastor, it is my privilege and pleasure to minister to you and equip you to minister to others. Please let us know how we can assist you on this journey.

In His Service,

Pastor Michael Teasley

About Pleasant Grove MBC

Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church (est.1872) is located at 668 Burnt Hickory Road, Cartersville, GA 30120. Reverend Michael Teasley Serves as Pastor.

We are a Church where there is love, compassion and inspiration for all who enter. At Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, we are committed to preaching, teaching and proudly living the uncompromised word of God and worshipping our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in spirit and in truth. Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church has a dynamic, spirit-filled worship service. The Word of God is the highest priority, and it is proclaimed with power and conviction each and every Sunday morning.

Pleasant Grove MBC is a place that you can feel Gods love through His people. We're a place where you can learn His Word and grow closer in your Christian Walk. We are also a place where you can get involved to share your gifts for the Glory of God.

Weekly Services

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Sunday School is a very important element of your Christian Journey – Don't Miss It!

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Come Worship With Us.

Wednesday Bible Study online via Zoom Our bible scholars meet each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm on online to be taught the Word of God, by our Pastor, Reverend Teasley. "Students" are learning the bible through organized lesson plans in a fun, interactive environment.

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ONLINE *giving*

Online Giving through Givelify: pleasantgrovecartersville
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Our Church History

Pleasant Grove Church was organized in an old barrel shop by Founder Jefferson (Jeffery) Milner. The building served two purposes. For about (5) five years Rev Jeffery Milner served as pastor on every 1st Sunday and during the week Professor William C Savington taught school.

In 1877 Mr. Bob Rogers donated a plot of land in which Mrs Rogers requested that the church be named for him. Soon the church and surrounding community became known as Rogers.

The Rogers School, was formed and educated members of the Black Community. William Savington served as the principal and teacher, of the Rogers School

Professor William C Savington built the first church and this included the seats in the church. The building was only a frame without weather boards or ceilings. Among the patrons that worshipped during that time were: Dennis and Mandy Wofford, Jordan and Charlotte Cash, Anthony and Henrietta Ellis, Bob and Hannah Gainor, Charlie and Nettie Pritchett, Thurston and Mandy Davis, Jim and Mary Henderson, Mrs. Carolyn Beavers, Mr John Gaston, Mrs Lucinda Wofford and Pat and Josie Brown.

Past pastorship included: Rev Jeff Milner, Rev Sullivan, Rev J. J. Freeman, Rev Adams, Rev Wright, Rev W. A. Ferrell and Rev Erwin Zuber

From 1940-1953 Rev Erwin Zuber was pastor of the church. Under his leadership the church hosted the Sunday School Conventions and taught school in this building, repair work was done in the Pastor's study and the choir area added.

From 1954 – 1957 Rev A. C. Watkins served as pastor; his wife organized the choir and served as the pianist. The choir performed at WBHF on several occasions. Bro Ben Canty served as church chairman of the Deacons and Clerk boards.

From 1958-1977 Rev R. R. Freeman served as pastor; he had a personality to share with others. He was a counselor, teacher and preacher. Rev Freeman was a friend and an example of God's miraculous power. Under his leadership the following Deacons were ordained: Bro John W. Doris, Bro Sidney Canty, Bro Andrew Brown, Bro Robert Thompkins, Bro James H Weems and Bro McKinley Beasley.

Deacon Rob Canty was the overseer of many changes and additions under the leadership of Rev R R Freeman : Sunday school room, kitchen, dining room, central heating system, carpeting and new church furniture. Deacon Rob Canty passed away in 1972 and the first member to be buried in the church cemetery. After his passing Deacon John W Davis was elected as chairman of Deacon board and treasurer.

From 1977-1995 Rev Clarence Jackson served as pastor. Rev Jackson's first sermon was "What Fault Do You Find In Me" The church sanctuary and fellowship areas were remodeled; new padded pews and carpet was installed under his leadership. Bro Bennie Weems and Bro Elmer Brown were ordained as Deacons.

From 1995-2000 Rev Melvin Baldwin served as pastor. His first sermon was "What Must I Do, When I Don't Know What To Do" Proverbs 3:5-6. Under his leadership several renovations were made : church was bricked, a bathroom moved to the front of the church, a baptism room was added, the dining room remodeled and a corner stone was placed on the front of the church.

From 2000-2004 Rev Charles Catchings served as pastor. A church van was purchased, the Youth department, Youth Sunday school, Youth Usher board and Women's department were re-instated. The Constitution and Bi laws were drafted and adopted. Church records were computerized and the 90 Plus Club was established.

From 2004-2009 Rev Nathaniel Walker III served as pastor. Under his leadership renovations included: windows in the sanctuary, air conditioning at the front entrance, new storm doors at the back entrance, a new sign on the front of the church as well as a new sign on the road; paving for the front and side of church; new membership increased. Pastor And Leaders Study (P.A.L.S.) was formed. Bro Dean Upshaw was ordained as Deacon

From 2009-2011 Rev Sebastian Holley served as pastor. His first sermon was "Seeking To Build" 1 Chronicles 22:19 Several members were added and three associate ministers. New member classes were implemented. Renovations to the sanctuary as well as the floors leveled and new carpet installed. Choir stand got a face lift, bathroom floors were re-finished; audio and video system installed.

From 2011- Present Rev Michael Teasley serves as Pastor. His first sermon was "How Is Your Love Life?" Galatians 5:22-26. Rev Teasley and First Lady Teasley have brought energy and enthusiasm to the body. Under his leadership we have re-joined the Kennesaw Missionary Baptist Association; membership has increased and several members have rededicated their lives to Christ. Rev Teasley has given us the slogan "It's Going Down at the Grove, Come and See"

Pastor Teasley's leadership allowed us to begin and complete construction of a fellowship hall in 2012. The fellowship hall was dedicated and named the Zettie B Evans Fellowship Hall. Upon Mother Evans passing, she gifted \$25,000 to her beloved Pleasant Grove Church to contribute toward the building of a fellowship hall.

Two large flat screen televisions were added to the fellowship hall and the church was wired and prepared for overflow. New flooring was installed in the Kitchen and serving area. A new roof was installed in 2020. New windows have been installed throughout the back of the church. The Pastors study was remodeled and enlarged.

In February 2012, Pastor Teasley ordained James Neal and Carl Wilkins as Baptist Deacons of Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Later Brother Patrick Banks was ordained as a Deacon.

Pleasant Grove has a partnership with Hope For the Hungry for food distribution monthly.

September 18, 2022, Pleasant Grove celebrated the sesquicentennial anniversary. It has been a prosperous and productive tenure at Pleasant Grove. God has allowed us to add to the history. And we are thankful on this 150-year anniversary and geared up to Move Forward in the Lord *Only by God's Grace.*

Through the 150th Church Anniversary celebration, a fundraiser was implemented. The church raise over \$25,000 which was used to pay off the final bank note of the Fellowship Hall. Pleasant Grove is now a Debt Free Church.

Our Founder- Jeffrey Milner July 22, 1820-March 16, 1895



Reverend Milner was born into slavery in Laurens District, SC July 22, 1820. He organized churches all over the region, earning him the nickname "The King of North Georgia, and also known as Father Milner.

He was one of the original freedmen to sign the oath and become a voting U.S. citizen in 1867 in Bartow County, Georgia.

He seems to have been called Jeff, but he signed his name variously as Jeff, Jefferson, Jeffrey, and Jephthah when signing marriage licenses in Bartow County as a Minister of the Gospel.

Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church was organized during slavery time by Rev. Jeffrey Milner. They held their meetings under a bush arbor. During the first year the Rev. Milner became pastor, one Sunday in July he preached to his congregation from this text, John 8:36. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Some of the slaves went home and told their master that Rev. Milner said they were going to be free. The white people who owned these slaves, on the following Monday morning had a gallows built, where the present depot now stands. They placed the hangman's noose around Rev. Milner's neck to hang him but before they tied the knot he preached so strong that many people wept. The mayor of Cassville, Georgia ordered the crew to cut him down and let him go and preach the word of God. After the Emancipation Proclamation, sometime during the year of 1868, the first church assembled in an old house where the present Educational/Fellowship Building now stands.

Jeffrey Milner was a slave, who preached so powerfully that other slaves were allowed to hear him preach. One day he preached a message entitled, 'The Truth Shall Make You Free'. Some of the slaves told their masters they were now free, which caused an uproar throughout the county. The slave masters banded together against Jeffrey, and decided to hang him. A gallows was built in the town square for that purpose.



"With the noose around his neck, the mayor asked Jeffrey if he had any last request. He replied, 'Well, I guess my last words will be my last sermon.' As Jeffrey began to preach, the power of God fell. People began to weep uncontrollably, and some fell to the ground. The mayor of the town said, 'Where are your accusers? I find no fault in you!' And, Jeffrey was released!

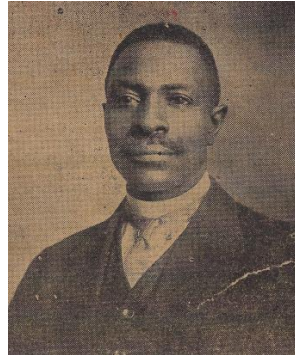
He became a church planter in Georgia, and four of the churches he planted are still here today. Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Cartersville, GA, New Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, Kingston, GA, Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Cartersville, GA and Thankful Missionary Baptist Church, Rome, GA. Rev Milner is buried at Eastview and Oakland Cemeteries in Rome, GA Lot 94, Grave 4 is the location of his burial site.

Pastors of Pleasant Grove

“And I will give you pastors according to my heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding”. Jeremiah 3:15



Rev Sullivan,



Rev J J
Freeman,



Rev Adams,

Rev Wright

Jeffery Milner-
Founder 1872-1877

W.H. Ferrell

Erwin Zuber ??????
1940-1953



A C Watkins
1954-1957



R.R. Freeman
1958-1977



Clarence Jackson
1977-1995



Melvin Baldwin
1995-2000



Charles Catchings
2000-2004



Nathaniel Walker
2004-2009



Sebastian Holley
2009-2011



Michael Teasley
2011-Present

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Romans 10:14-15 KJV

Membership Covenant

This Membership Covenant is a voluntary agreement by the member of Pleasant Grove MBC, where you pledge your life in a way to glorify God and promote the ongoing of God's church.

You should study this covenant carefully, refer to it often, and strive to live by it.

Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe by the spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior. And on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. We do now, in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love ; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinance, discipline, and doctrines;

To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations. We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;

To walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; To avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech;

To be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we are remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Church Guidelines and Member Responsibility

To ensure that reverence is maintained in the sanctuary and on the church premises, we request that you:

- Do not smoke on the church premises.
- Do not eat or drink in the sanctuary.
- Do not leave church bulletins nor litter in the sanctuary.
- Do not allow your children to run or play in the sanctuary, or the pulpit or with the musical instruments.

To ensure that all things are done decently and in order during the worship service and on the church premises, we request that you:

- Do not stand and give announcements in the worship services. All announcements must be written and submitted the courtesy guild and approved by the Pastor prior to the date of the announcement.
- Do not solicit or sell anything on the church premises unless you have been authorized by the Pastor. (Please do not solicit the Pastor or First Lady as it is impossible for them to patronize everyone's request)
- Keep movement to a minimum during the service, especially during the message.
- Please do not walk in the pulpit, unless you working in a capacity to assist the Pastor, or with the order of service.

An Exhortation to Church Service Etiquette

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Several years ago I attended a sports/activities awards banquet at a high school which featured the women's volleyball coach at a nearby university as guest speaker. Soon after he began his speaking presentation I became both disgusted and incensed. No, not about what he was saying, but because of the terrible lack of respect and common decency afforded him by many of those in the crowd of about 200 people.

As the poor guy tried to give his speech you could barely hear him over the conversations being conducted at the same time by both students and many adults. This in addition to people constantly coming and going, rattling snack wrappers, cutting up, and other rude and disrespectful behaviors. After about 10 minutes or so of it, much to the horror and embarrassment of my then teenage daughter sitting next to me, I told the people within our vicinity to be quiet and listen.

Such terrible and disrespectful manners amongst those at speaking events, concerts, plays and other public occasions are commonplace today. Of course, this lack of respect demonstrated towards others through bad etiquette has reached into local churches to varying degrees. One of the most sad aspects of the past many decades is that the *world has changed the church more than the church has changed the world*.

People used to dress in their "Sunday Best" for church out of respect for God, but in a society where it's acceptable to wear shorts, sweats, t-shirts and tank tops most anywhere that's quickly falling by the wayside. Also, folks used to exhibit behavior in church services which demonstrated respect for the speakers, singers, congregation, facilities and, most of all, for the Lord. However, in many churches even if the truth is preached those who desire to hear it are too distracted by the rude and irreverent conduct of others to get much out of it.

In many churches today it's hard to get much out of it through the people coming and going, conversations going on, rattling wrappers, slurping drinks and smacking food. That's not to mention the rowdy kids who aren't made to sit up and shut up, the watch alarms, cell phone ring tones, and the invitation-killing sound of dozens of Bible covers being zipped up at the conclusion of sermons.

What's being allowed to go on in many churches is a travesty. Bad manners in church are a reproach to God, His Word, preachers, and the churches themselves.

I. PROPER CHURCH ETIQUETTE GIVES GOD WHAT HE DESERVES

We're to respect and glorify God at all times, but most especially in His house. Leviticus 19:30 reads, "*Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the Lord.*" Here the Bible directs to "reverence" God's sanctuary. Certainly the application can be made to church services which feature ministry and worship to the Lord as did the Hebrew Tabernacle and Temple.

Psalm 29:2 exhorts us to "*Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name*" and to "*worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.*" When people are walking in and out of a church auditorium when it's time to worship God in song, prayer, teaching and preaching is that giving the Lord the glory due Him? When conversation is going on at such times is God given the glory due Him? When people choose to wear exercise clothes and such to church rather than their "Sunday Best" is the Lord given the glory due Him? When folks are still somewhere in the building drinking coffee and fellowshiping after services have already started is our Savior given the glory due Him?

Yes, the overwhelmingly popular trend in churches is to gratify people's carnality by making dress ultra-casual, ensuring that plenty of coffee and pastries are available, providing never-ending entertainment for all ages, allowing people to converse and move around as they please, and so on, but any honest reader of the Bible must surely conclude that this new tradition is contrary to the worship of God recorded and instructed in His Holy Word. More and more so the worship of the Lord in churches is being replaced by the traditions of man which revolve around worshipping self.

The "perfect" church of 21st Century America would include "mini" Starbucks and McDonalds in the foyer; the latest Nintendo machines in every Sunday School class; couches and recliners for everyone in the auditorium; vendor-ushers to bring hotdogs, peanuts and ice cold soft drinks throughout services; and a Christian rock group which sounds just like "Black Sabbath" or the "Grateful Dead" except with "spiritual" lyrics.

Such a church would sure to be wildly popular. Indeed, there are already thousands of them which have almost reached the standards of this "perfect church." However, contrary to popular opinion, the Bible doesn't teach that churches are to mesh and conform with society. (Romans 12:1,2; I Cor. 6:15-18)

Obviously the Bible directs that we're not to be conformed to the world, we're to be transformed from it. People should see a difference from the world when they come to church. They should see a people who are giving the Lord the glory due unto His name. They should see Spirit-filled saints who are honoring and reverencing God rather than a carnal-led congregation devoted to gratifying the flesh and glorifying self.

II. PROPER CHURCH ETIQUETTE GIVES EVERYONE ELSE WHAT THEY DESERVE

Truly, the worst thing about bad church etiquette is that it disrespects God; yet next to this is that it hinders those with spiritual needs. Those who contribute disruptions to church services should well repent and heed the words of Paul who wrote, "...but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way." (Romans 14:13b)

How terribly hurtful and sad when people with whom the Holy Spirit is dealing are distracted due to the bad church etiquette of others. There's the person who needs to be saved whose focus on the preaching is impaired by people continually conversing and going in and out. There's the visitor looking for a church who can't wait to leave because of the continual horseplay of the kids allowed to go on in front of her. There's the church member who needs the message badly but misses so much through the crackling mint and cough drop wrappers, cell phone noises, beeping watches and other assorted disruptions. And, there's the person under conviction who believes it must be time to leave when the invitation is preempted by Bible covers being vigorously zipped shut. (*Why in the world don't people have the common sense to wait until services are over before conducting their ceremonial Bible zipping?!*)

Can there be any doubt that bad church etiquette is frequently used by the devil's demons in their attempts to stifle the work of the Holy Spirit during services? How dare God's people allow themselves to be such willing accomplices of the devil!

Not only does improper church etiquette show disrespect to God, it demonstrates it towards everyone in the congregation.

How disrespectful it is when someone is praying and there are those who are talking, cutting up, crackling wrappers, putting on coats, and the like. How disrespectful it is when someone is singing a special and there's conversation and moving around. How disrespectful it is to the preacher when there are frequent distractions which rob him of having free course in preaching the Word.

Jesus said, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." With that in mind, we need to conduct ourselves in church as we would desire if doing the praying, singing, teaching or preaching. Can you imagine how

upset and frustrated that you'd be if you were in front of an audience trying to tell them something of great importance and there was all kinds of coming and going, conversation, horseplay, drinking, eating, beepers, wrappers and so on while you were trying to speak?!

Well, it's even worse in church services because the speaker is trying to tell people the most important message of all, how to be saved from an eternal hell.

III. PROPER CHURCH ETIQUETTE ACCOMPLISHES WONDERFUL THINGS

Wonderful things come forth through practicing proper church etiquette. The Lord will be revered and honored, receiving the glory due unto His name. The Word of God will have free course. The congregation will have the opportunity to experience the unhindered ministry of the Spirit. Visitors will be drawn to the church. The entire ministry of the church will become more effective for the cause of Christ.

What more motivation does one need in order to repent of bad manners in services and to begin practicing proper church etiquette?!

CONCLUSION: "Twelve Steps Towards Proper Church Etiquette"

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| 1. Similar to the common sense move on longer car trips, <i>use the restroom just before services.</i> |
| 2. In order to avoid walking into services late, <i>leave home earlier.</i> |
| 3. <i>Don't be somewhere else in the building drinking coffee, fellowshiping, etc. when you should be in church services.</i> |
| 4. <i>Write notes to yourself so that you can tell all of the enlightening things you have to say after church services rather than during them.</i> |
| 5. <i>Don't bring food or drinks into church services.</i> |
| 6. <i>Turn off watch alarms and cell phones during services.</i> |
| 7. <i>Don't expect someone else to make kids whose parents aren't at church to behave. At least give it a try yourself.</i> |
| 8. <i>Consider how the way you dress relates to respect or disrespect for God.</i> |
| 9. <i>Wait until services are dismissed before zipping up your Bible cover.</i> |
| 10. <i>Don't walk out of services during the invitation.</i> |
| 11. If you must have a certain cough drop or candy enclosed in a crackling wrapper, <i>unwrap as many as needed for church and put them in a noise-free container.</i> |
| 12. <i>Never, ever, be so utterly disrespectful that you clip your fingernails during services!!!</i> |

Spiritual Growth and Development

- I. **Salvation** is a walk with God to be maintained daily through worshipping God in Spirit and Truth (reality). The infilling with the Holy Spirit is available to every believer and is subsequent to salvation. The infilling with the Spirit is for personal empowerment to facilitate doing God's will.

- II. **Set a specific time** for daily personal growth and development. You must do something at home to grow spiritually.
 - a. Make a daily appointment with God and treat it as the most important appointment in your day.
 - i. During your appointment with God, pray! Pray for yourself, your family, and all people who are in your life, especially those who can affect your life.
 - ii. During your appointment with God, read your bible! (II Timothy 2:15; Roman 12:2)
 - b. In addition to daily personal time with God, you may choose to review church or Bible Study notes, study a Sunday School lesson, read Christian literature, listen to Christian teaching tapes, or listen to religious programming on the radio or on the television.

- III. **Get involved** in the church and you will get more out of it. Ask not what your church can do for you, but what you can do for the church-**because we are not here merely to be served, but to serve.**
 - a. Pray, "Lord, make me a blessing" instead of "Lord bless me."
 - b. Be faithful and loyal.
 - c. Work in an area where you know you have talent.
 - d. Be willing to serve behind the scenes rather than in the limelight.

Be sure of your salvation

God wants you to know for sure that you have eternal life. Eternal life is not based on your feelings, but on the facts found in the Bible.

Do not depend on feelings [FACT – FAITH – FEELING]

- I. Your assurance is based on the **Word of God**. The bible states in John 3:16 and I John 5:11-13 that God wants you to know that you have eternal life.
- II. Your Assurance is based on the **Promises of God**. What are the promises found in the following two verses? “That is you confess with your mouth. Jesus is Lord. And believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead. You will be saved” (Romans 10:9). “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned” (John 5:24). He has crossed over from death to life.
- III. Your Assurance is based on the **Character of God**. A promise is only as reliable as the person who makes it. That is why the assurance of your salvation rests on God’s character. What do these verses teach about His character? Read I Thessalonians 5:24 and Hebrews 10:23)
 - a. What does God’s Word say about the security of your salvation? Read Romans 8:38-39. Can any circumstance separate you from God? Yes or No
- IV. Your Assurance is based on the **Spirit of God**. To further assure you of your salvation, God has sent living, daily proof of your relationship. As an official seal is placed on a contract between two individuals to guarantee the contract’s validity, so has God given a seal (a guarantee) of His promise to you. Read Ephesians I: 13-14. What is the seal given by God as a guarantee of His promise?

The Holy Spirit at work within you is indisputable proof of your salvation. The Holy Spirit's work in your life will bring changes. Some changes will be gradual; some will be instant. The inward and outward changes that result are the final proof of your salvation.

Read II Corinthians 5:17

What changes have you seen in your life since you committed it to Jesus Christ?

Remember this:

Your Assurance is based on:

- The Word of God
- The Promises of God
- The Character of God
- The Spirit of God

Lesson notes:

Publicly declaring your faith

Jesus wants new believers to declare publicly, their faith in Him. Jesus said “whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in Heaven” (Matthew 10:32-33).

An opportunity is given at the conclusion of the worship services for people to make public their commitments to Jesus. If you have not publicly declared your faith, you should do so during this time. Upon making this commitment, you shall speak with the Pastor about being baptized.

Baptism is an Act of Obedience that declares one's faith.

A test of whether a person is a true follower of Jesus is his or her obedience to Jesus' commands. (Read John 2:3)

Jesus commanded Baptism (read Matthew 28:19-20. This was not a suggestion or an option for His followers. If we are not baptized, we are disobedient. Jesus set the example by being baptized. Read the account of Jesus' baptism in Matthew 3:13-17).

In the New Testament, new believers were baptized (read Acts 2:37-38, 41, 47). The verses clearly indicate that new believers followed Jesus by being baptized.

Baptism expresses your love for Jesus (read John 14:21)

Baptism pictures two things:

1. What Jesus did for you-He died for your sins, was buried, and came back to life (read I Corinthians 15:46-58)
2. What has happen to you -You died to an old way of life and have been raised to live a new life in Jesus (read Romans 6:3-4).

Scripture reveals that baptism involves 4 things:

1. The right person-a believer
2. The right reasons-obedience and declaration of your new faith
3. The right method-immersion
4. The right authority-a local New Testament Church (read Acts 2:41-47)

The essentials of baptism are:

1. Believe in Jesus for Salvation
2. Make your commitment public
3. Request to be baptized by immersion

Lesson notes:

Share Jesus with others (Witnessing)

A Christian has to be the most exciting news-the life changing news of eternal life. It is natural for a Christian to want to share this good news. Think for a moment about the various people God used to bring you to the place where you were willing to receive Jesus.

Now God wants you to be part of helping others come to know Jesus. When Andrew met Jesus, his first inclination was to bring Simon to meet Him (read John 1:40-42)

For a Christian, witnessing is not an option. Jesus commanded His followers to witness. Read (Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:17-20).

Things to remember while witnessing:

1. Use your personal testimony. Tell what the church/Christ has done for you.
 - a. Read Paul's testimony in Acts 22:3-21
2. Use scripture
 - a. Read the following scriptures to help explain to unbelievers the good news of eternal life: Romans 1:16; 2:4; 3:23; 5:8; 6:23; 10:9; 10:13 and 15:13.
3. Start where you are
4. Use a one on one approach. ***Each One Reach One***
5. Be enthusiastic

Remember this:

- Why should you share Jesus with others?
- Whom do you know needs to receive Jesus?
- Share your testimony with someone this week.

Study Your Bible

God wants an intimate, personal relationship with you. You are not just an acquaintance or a distant relative, you are His child. This relationship can be strengthened by studying the Bible – His revelation to you.

Read Hebrews 4:12. It tells us that God’s Word is living and active. This means that the Bible is more than a book, more than words on a page. It is more than words spoken in ancient times. The Bible is relevant and it addresses the needs of today.

1. God’s Word has specific purposes (read II Timothy 3:16)
 - a. God’s Word is useful for **teaching**. Read the following: Jeremiah 31:3 and Romans 5:8
 - b. God’s Word is useful for **rebuking** (to point out a fault) and convicting of sin. Read Ephesians 4:26-31.
 - c. God’s Word is useful for **correction of error**. The Bible not only convicts but it also corrects. Read Psalm 119. This psalm teaches that God’s Word gives direction for living. As God’s Word takes root in your heart, your faults and defect will be corrected by the Bible’s influence.
 - d. God’s Word is useful for **training** in righteousness (Godly behavior). Bible Study is your spiritual food. Just as your physical body benefits from nutrients in the food you eat, your spiritual life benefits from consistent Bible Study (read Jeremiah 15:16).

2. There are several ways to learn God’s Word. If you Hear, Read, Study, Memorize and Meditate on God’s Word, your grasp of its truth will become a firm part of your life.
 - a. HEAR (read Romans 10:17). Listen to your Pastor’s sermons and to bible studies. Take notes on what you hear.
 - b. READ (read I Timothy 4:13). Set a goal to read a certain amount from the Bible each day. For example, read one chapter daily from the Gospel of John.
 - c. STUDY (read II Timothy 2:15). Attend Bible Study faithfully. When you study, ask the following questions:
 - What promise is there to claim?
 - What example is there to follow?

- What command is there to obey?
 - What sin is there to confess and forsake?
- d. MEMORIZE (read Psalm 119:11). Memorizing scripture gives you the opportunity to share God’s Word and assist you in overcoming sin. Seek to memorize at least one scripture verse every week.
- e. MEDITATE (read Joshua 1:8). Meditation is spiritual digestion. It is analyzing and dwelling on a verse over and over. Meditate on a scripture verse during the day as you drive, rest, walk, play etc.

Remember this:

God’s Word is useful for Teaching
God’s Word is useful for Rebuking
God’s Word is useful for Correction of Errors
God’s Word is useful for Training in Righteousness

Lesson notes:

Learn to Pray

The best way to get to know someone is to talk with that person often. God longs for you to know Him. The Bible is full of invitations to enter into a deep, personal relationship with God the Father. (read Jeremiah 24).

- Jesus set the example for us (read Mark 1:35).
- Jesus taught the necessity of prayer (read Luke 18:1).
- What did the disciples ask Jesus to teach them? (read Luke 11:1).
- Why should we pray continually? (read I Thessalonians 5:17).

The acronym ACTS will help you to begin developing your prayer life:

Adoration
Confession
Thanksgiving
Supplication

Adoration is praise focusing on who God is. Read the following: Psalm 145:3; Psalms 147:1-5

Confession is acknowledging your sins before God in order to receive forgiveness.

When you receive eternal life, a relationship with God was established which will never be broken, but our daily fellowship with God can be hindered by unconfessed sin.

(Read Psalm 66:18). Therefore, when you sin:

1. Confess the sin when you realize you have committed it (read John 1:9)
2. Receive His promise of cleansing (read I John 1:9).
3. Claim victory over temptation (read I Corinthians 10:13).

Thanksgiving is expressing gratitude to God for specific acts. When does God say we should give thanks (read I Thessalonians 5:18). Think about things in the following

areas that you can give thanks for and spend time thanking Him: *Spiritual Blessings, People, Physical Blessings and Material Blessings.*

Supplication is making request and expressing desires to God. They may take the form of personal petition or intercession.

1. Petition is asking God for your needs (read John 15:7 and Philippians 4:6-7).
2. Intercession is praying for the needs of others (read Exodus 32:30-34 and Romans 10:1). What are the request that are found in these verses?

Remember this:

Prayer is communication with God. It has to be learned and it must be practiced. Think about the four elements of prayer discussed in the section: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication. It is important for you to spend time each day in prayer.

Lesson notes:

Be Faithful to your Church

Jesus personally established the church while He was on earth to unite Christians as a spiritual family (read Matthew 16:17-18). Who was speaking when the words “I will build my church was spoken”? The word church means ‘called out ones’. The church is made up of people who have been called out to follow Jesus. The term church is used to refer to all believers but is more often used to denote a local group of believers.

Why be faithful to your church?

A church is a group of baptized believers voluntarily joining together for **instruction, fellowship, worship and service** (read Acts 2:42-47).

Instruction Through your church, you receive instruction. Jesus has given spiritual leaders to the church to provide members with knowledge and instruction (read Ephesians 4:11).

Fellowship Through your church, you have the privilege of fellowship. God has placed individuals in families for their care, protection, fellowship and development. You need the church for all the reasons you need a family and much more. Read Hebrews 10:24-25.

Worship Through your local church, you meet to worship. Read Colossians 3:16.

Service Through your local church you have many opportunities for service. The church is the proper avenue to serve God. God has given you special gifts and abilities in order to serve (read Romans 12:6-8).

Jesus taught in Matthew 28:19 that the church's mission is to: **Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.** This involves:

1. Sharing eternal life with the world
2. Baptizing new believers
3. Teaching the Bible
4. The joy of ministering in Christ's name
5. Giving your money, time and talents



Lesson notes:

Allow Jesus to control your life

Now that you have eternal life, you need someone to guide you in this spiritual adventure. The best guidance comes when you give control of your life to Jesus Christ. This control is often referred to as the Lordship of Christ.

Therefore, the Lordship of Christ means that you submit yourself to the control of Jesus Christ. Control is essential in many aspects of life. For example, spending needs to be controlled when an individual is on a fixed budget. An automobile needs to be controlled when driven. Your life should be controlled by Jesus before you can be spiritually fruitful and productive (read John 15:4).

Jesus Christ has earned the right to be given full control of your life. Read Philippians 2:8-11. It states that Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient unto death—even death on a cross.

Jesus Christ desires to be in control of your life. This control can be experienced on a daily basis as you:

- Recognize daily His right to be given control of your life (read Luke 9:23)
- Confess your sins consistently and accept His promise of forgiveness (read I John 1:9).
- Trust Him completely as you allow Him to control your:
 - Time (read Ephesians 5:15)

- Money (read I Corinthians 16:2)
- Abilities (read Colossians 3:17)
- Relationships (read Matthew 22)
- Mind (read Romans 12:1-2)
- Ambitions (read Matthew 6:33)
- Morality (read I Corinthians 6:19-20)
- Any areas that need to be placed under the control of Jesus-list them and give Him control now!

Remember this:

Be sure to renew your commitment daily to give Jesus control of your life in order to experience the abundant life He promises.

- Spend time in prayer and Bible Study daily
- Be faithful in Bible Study and Worship Services at church
- Serve the Lord with gladness!
- Be a good manager of your possessions
- Share Christ with others

Lesson notes:

God's Financial Plan

The tithe is older than the law, better than any man made plan: and as new as the most modern idea.

TITHE-Tithe literally means a tenth, that is ten percent of your earnings. If it is not a tenth, it is not a tithe! (example: if your salary is \$200 per week, your tithe should be \$20.)

OFFERING-Any amount of giving over or in addition to the tithe. By definition of the tithe, one cannot tithe more than 10%. However, there is no limit to the amount of an offering. Offerings belong to the Lord. Offerings are like seeds that you sow in the field.

ALMSGIVING-Any amount of giving to the poor or those in dire need. Even financial help to relatives qualifies as almsgiving. Almsgiving is help to the needy which is primarily left to your discretion. (Proverbs 19:17; Matthew 6:1-4; Luke 11:41, 12:33-34).

WHY EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD TITHE

Some people believe what the Bible says about salvation, about baptism, the Lord's Supper and many other things; but when it comes to believing what it says about GIVING, they have doubt. The Bible is very clear concerning Christian giving.

1. God claims a portion of our substance:

The tithe belongs to the Lord and all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord. (read Leviticus 27:30).

2. Withholding this claim is to rob God:

In Malachi 3:8 God asks, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me...in tithes and offerings."

3. The claim should be attended to promptly:

And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance, the first fruits of corn, oil and honey and of all the increases of the field; and the tithe of all the things brought they in abundantly. Read II Chronicles 31:5

4. It should be given willingly:

Every man according as he purposed in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver. Read II Corinthians 9:7.

5. Does poverty or limitations means exemption from giving to the Lord:

They shall not appear before the Lord empty. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which He hath given thee. Read Deuteronomy 16:17, 18.

- And none should appear before me empty. Exodus 34:20
- Give that something every Sunday: Upon the first day of the week. Read I Corinthians 16:2.
- According to blessings received: According as the Lord thy God hath blessed thee. Read Deuteronomy 16:10. God hath prospered him. Read I Corinthians 16:2.

Remember this:

Make tithing part of your life in Christ. Its an important way to:

- **express your gratitude** to God for the gifts and blessings you have received
- **renew your faith** and grow closer to Christ
- **help your church** remain strong and fulfill its mission

Give with a loving generous heart, God will reward you with joy and fulfillment.

“The measure you give will be the measure you get back” Read Luke 6:38

Ministries and Descriptions

Bible Study- our bible scholars meet each Wednesday evening at 7:00pm to be taught the Word of God, by our Pastor, Reverend Teasley. "Students" are learning the bible through organized lesson plans in a fun, interactive environment.

Christian Education Ministry-this ministry is designed to support the vision of the church. Through various programs that will be offered to strengthen the believers daily walk in Christ and increase their faith. Instruction and edification is provided to promote learning and positive development of each individual and the collective body of the Pleasant Grove church family. Under this ministry are: the Children's Moment, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School.

Church Beautification-This ministry oversees the design and decorating of the church. This ministry provides decoration for the outside entrance of the church and the sanctuary. This ministry coordinates special events decorating (ie. Church Anniversary, Easter, Christmas). In addition, this ministry is also responsible for changing the Sanctuary Parament Set per occasion, decorating the entrance bulletin boards and all aspects of preparing the elements for communion services and post communion functions.

Courtesy Guild Our Courtesy Guild is our ministry that strives toward making our visitors feel at home while attending our church. The principle function of the Courtesy Guild is to meet and greet visitors and members at all Worship Services. And to also read the weekly announcements during worship service.

Deacon and Deaconess The Pleasant Grove Deacons and Deaconess serves in the capacity of support to the Pastor. The purpose of the deacons/deaconess ministry is to work in close alignment with all of the other ministries to meet congregational needs and be actively involved in all church programs.

Our mission is to endeavor to promote family unity by supporting one another, socializing together, and loving one another. The ministry works to improve communication, verbalize concerns, and resolve church family conflicts. Our duties include praying for the pastor on a regular basis and to relieve him of temporal affairs in the church. We are to visit the sick and needy members of our congregations, and should be good counselors.

Kitchen/Hospitality Committee-Hospitality plays a key role in the life of the church. This committee is designed to bring our congregation together at various church-wide functions with Food Fellowship and Fun. The Pleasant Grove Hospitality Committee

sets and prepares the menus for church functions, maintains the kitchen appearance, cleanliness and making recommendations for equipment repair or replacement at church meetings. Additionally, they are responsible for greeting guest as they are served and din as well a making our members and guest feel comfortable during services and functions.

Men's Fellowship Ministry -The primary goal of the Men's Fellowship Ministry is to help men strengthen their relationship with God. Through prayer and service to family, church and community, this ministry helps men grow spiritually and encourages men to live a Christ centered life.

Music Ministry-A music ministry ushers in the spirit of God through praise and worship of song and instrumentation. Through this ministry, the anointing of God is released into the atmosphere, thereby preparing the way for preaching of the Gospel. The music ministry includes 3 choirs (Senior Choir, Mass Choir and Youth Choir), musicians and youth praise dancers.

New Member's Orientation and Welcome Ministry-This ministry under girds new members as they go through the new member orientation process. We are the first faces of Pleasant Grove greeting new members and providing support for them as they complete new member classes. Upon completion of classes, this ministry assists baptismal candidates in their preparation for baptism.

Telephone Follow up ministry-this ministry caters to the "New Converts" who have accepted the Lord Jesus. Telephone follow-up includes prayer over the phone, answering questions concerning the church or ministries and encouraging the new believer to attend Sunday School and Bible Study.

Youth Department Ministry-The youth department works with all age groups to provide scheduled youth activities in the church and also in the community. The youth leaders work with PGrove Youth in bible study, children's church, holiday presentations and youth choir and also community events and activities for our youth.

Ushers and Junior Ushers-More than just "Keepers of the door" this ministry greets and seats everyone that enters the sanctuary, assists in collection of tithes and offerings, maintains order during services. This ministry also provides beverages for the pulpit for each service.

Audio Visual/Technology - The mission of the Technology Ministry is to use technology to enhance the building of God's Kingdom here on earth. Workers in this ministry, make updates to social media accounts, Live stream weekly service, assist with sound equipment prior to service beginning and a number of other functions to incorporate technology into the weekly worship service.

Women's Fellowship-This ministry consist of the Women of Pleasant Grove coming together for food fun, fellowship and the Word of God. Our vision is to advance the Kingdom of God by bring women together in Christ for encouragement, service and spiritual growth. Having the same desire of Christ, that non should perish. Training young and old women of their Godly position in the Lord, that they may go forth preparing others and fulfilling their given purpose here on earth that God has set for them.



Pastor Michael Teasley Closing Letter



We are so glad that you are now a member of the Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church family. This handbook has been provided to better acquaint you with the ministry here. It helps to make you aware of ministry that is available for you and areas where you can serve. Also this handbook gets you familiar with what is required of you as a believer.

The word “minister’ means to serve. The highest calling we can have is to be a servant. We are only qualified to lead to the degree we are willing to serve. This is perhaps the reason Jesus said “He that is greatest among you shall be your servant “. (Matt 23:11)

Again I welcome you to our family. As your Pastor, I love you and am here to serve you and help you to serve others. We are blessed so that we can be a blessing, we learn so that we can teach others, we have been given so that we can give. Continue to let your light shine, so that God can get the glory.

In His Service,

Pastor Michael Teasley