

Royal Guard News

Volume 1 Number 2

March 2005

Welcome to this edition of Royal Guard News, the newsletter of the Usher Ministry of Immanuel's Church.

To Know Jesus Christ And To Make Him Known.

Royal Guard Meeting, Saturday February 12, 2005, Conference Room #311 at Immanuel's Meeting Minutes:

Opening of meeting with the RG Ushers Prayer

The Ushers Prayer

Our father in heaven, we thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve as ushers in your house. We would rather be doorkeepers in the House of God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness (Psalms 84:10)

Help us Lord to serve you with our whole heart, our whole body and our whole mind.

We present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto you Lord. May our service be pleasing in your sight. Let all that we do be done to your glory, this is our prayer. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Praise & Worship (musical interlude)

Attendance sheet. Note it is important to be on time on the Sundays that you are scheduled to serve and checking in for prayer and instructions before your shift. It is also important to sign in so that we know you are here.

Schedules are not set in stone, you may be reassigned a position to fill gaps as they arise. Also if you cannot serve a particular Sunday please try to find your own replacement and let your shift leader know if you cannot find a replacement. Also if you want to change your schedule or take a hiatus let Everett know before the start of the month so he can update the printed schedule.

Recognize new people, and those that have left the RG

Birthdays For February

February 2 - Rose Denegal
February 5 - Sherly Rajan
February 16 - Everett Hite
February 20 - Yvonne Campbell
February 22 - Blessing Murray

Commissioning ceremony was held on Sunday February 13, 2005
The following were commissioned:

Rose Denegal
Marcia Russell
Jackie Ivory-Kelley
Anthony Duval
Abednego Dee
John Rumford
Gludie Brooks
Isac P. Rajan
Ranee Phillips
Sherly Rajan
Kesuith Smith

Photos of the commissioning ceremony are available. You can view them online at the RG website <http://royalguard.faithweb.com> and click on the "photo" page.

Ministry Fair Sunday February 20, 2005

Thanks to Virginia and Cyl for setting up and decorating our table at the Ministry Fair. And thanks to all the RG members that manned the table during the first service for the new members and between services and after service for the congregation. There were many people that visited and showed an interest in becoming a member of the RG.

"Bowling for Guacamole" Saturday February 26, 2005

We want to thank Judy for her coordinating our "Bowling for Guacamole" a "friendly competition" at the AMF Laurel Lanes on Baltimore Ave (Rt. 1) in Laurel on Saturday February 26th. Thanks for all those that came out and participated. We had a great time and the Guacamole was delicious!

There are several special events coming up that we will need volunteers to usher for.
Sign up sheets are here and will be in the RG Room

Thursday March 24, 2005 - Maundy Thursday Service

Friday March 25, 2005 - Good Friday Service

Sunday March 27, 2005 - Resurrection Sunday

Volunteers needed for Parking Lot duty.

Friday April 15, 2005 - Paul Wilber new CD release Concert

Sunday May 1, 2005 - National Christian Choir Concert

Sunday May 15, 2005 - Georgian Banov guest speaker and worship artist, with River of Joy Celebration

Monday May 16, 2005 - Georgian Banov guest speaker and worship artist, with River of Joy Celebration

Tuesday May 17, 2005 - Georgian Banov guest speaker and worship artist, with River of Joy Celebration

An important reminder. When you sign-up to usher for a special event / service you are making a commitment. We expect you to be there. If you find that you can't serve after signing up please let Virginia or Cyl know.

Our new "shift leaders" for special events will be Robert Johnson and Phil & Judi Simpson

Special guest speaker Pastor Timothy Seay of Immanuel Covenant Church, Beltsville, MD



Robert Todd reviewed the locations of circuit breakers for the lights in the Sanctuary. When the lights go out we have a diagram of the breaker locations.

Our next book for study is *Your Best Life Now - 7 Steps to living at your full potential*. By Joel Osteen. Virginia will be giving an overview at the March 12th meeting. Details also on the RG website <http://royalguard.faithweb.com>

Dress code: Same as before,
It is very important as we serve the Lord Jesus Christ that we are properly attired when we are serving in the sanctuary and rotunda.

The women are to wear black skirts or pants, white blouse, a black jacket, and black shoes. The nametag goes on the right side of the chest and the dove insignia is on the left upper chest. Your shoes should be polished.

The men are to wear a black suit, white shirt and an appropriate tie should be worn. The shoes are to be dark in color and polished. The nametag is on the right side of the chest with the dove insignia on the left lapel.

Opening the floor for feedback from members as to what they think would improve the RG, making it function even better. Suggestions for study materials and book recommendations.

Testimony from members for the past and present year.

WHO EXACTLY ARE THE ROYAL GUARD

The Royal Guard are *ushers*; they *usher* the people of God into the Presence of God and they assist in *usher*ing in the Presence of God Himself! The Royal Guard are called to insure the orderly conduct of the people of God in the House of God. They are spiritual *gatekeepers*, and as ministering servants in the House of the Lord; they are a branch of the deaconate (the New Testament equivalent of the Old Testament Levites.)

King David is the one who created the concept of the Royal Guard. He established from among the Levites "four thousand... to be gatekeepers" in the Temple (1 Chronicles 23:5)-guarding the Temple from unclean and adversarial spirits, and yet *assisting* the people of God themselves to enter into God's Presence with joy. King David set the age for these Levites as "twenty years old or more" (23 :27). "The duties of these Levites was *to help in the service of the Temple of the Lord... [and] to be in charge of the courtyards* [equivalent to our Rotunda]..." (23:28).

Theirs was a holy calling with a vast spiritual dimension. "They were to stand every morning to thank and praise the Lord. They were to do the same in the evening. ... they were to serve before the Lord regularly in the proper number and in the way prescribed for them" (1 Chronicles 23:30). All of this was because the Temple was to be "a place of rest" for our God, a place "for the footstool of our God" (1 Chronicles 28 :2). This indeed is a holy calling!

Psalm 84 was a psalm written for the Royal Guard in their Davidic ministry- "How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. ... Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they are ever praising you. Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked. The Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless." Amen.