

Royal Guard News

Volume 1 Number 1

February 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 January 8, 2005, Sun Room 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.*

Note that Virginia and Cyl are away, celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary and Cyl's birthday (which was December 23rd)

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

New

Elizabeth DaSilva (2nd Service 2nd and 4th Sundays)

Returning

Milton McGraw

For those that have stepped down or have taken a hiatus we pray that they continue to honor and serve the Lord in whatever capacity He has for them.

Philinda Minor (moved out of state)

Toyin Ogungbade (On Hiatus)

Marcus Robinson (deployed with the military)

Samuel Adeniji

Beth Betz

Renee Grant (On Hiatus)

Blessing Murray (On Hiatus)

Denise Long

Mary West

Birthdays For January

January 8th Peter Mike

January 12th Toyin Ogungbade

January 29th Marcia Russel

Many thanks to Phil & Judi for hosting a superb Christmas fellowship on December 18th. All who attended enjoyed the fellowship and excellent food. Photos are online via the RG website.

Want to thank Judy for her coordinating our next fellowship activity that will be "Bowling for Guacamole" a "friendly competition" at the AMF Laurel Lanes on Baltimore Ave (Rt. 1) in Laurel on Saturday February 26th. 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. 10 pin bowling \$12 per person for 2 hours of unlimited bowling and shoe rental, soda and popcorn. Sign up sheet will be in the RG Room or RSVP via email see flier.

Thanks to all that volunteered to usher at the extra worship services during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years holidays. We also want to thank those that served at the Carmen Concert, the Paul Wilbur event and the other special services throughout the past year.

Much kudos was given to the RG from the pastors, particularly Pastor Guy, Pastor Cecil and Pastor Charles. Virginia and Cyl commend all of you on your promptness at the events, dress and professionalism displayed. Also we appreciate your willingness to serve and substitute for each other when necessary for the different events.

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

The Days of Elijah Conference – Israel and World Crisis

Friday, February 4th @ 7 p.m. (need to be in the Sanctuary by 6:30 p.m.)

Saturday, February 5th @ 7 p.m. (need to be in the Sanctuary by 6:30 p.m.)

They will also be speaking at both Sunday services February 6th

Special Guest include: **Lars Enarson, Coach Bill McCartney of Promise Keepers, and Saxophonist Juhani Aaltonen**

The Bible says that Israel will play a prominent role in the events of the world at the close of the age. Current events are filled with references to Israel and its neighbors. The eyes of the whole world are focused on Jerusalem once again. This is not a coincidence but part of a divine plan. Join us at this conference for very special days of insight as special guests from Israel bring us the inside scoop! *This event is free and open to all.*

Ash Wednesday February 9th @ 7 p.m. (need to be in the Sanctuary by 6:30 p.m.)

Mary Ann Brown

Friday, February 18th @ 7 p.m. (need to be in the Sanctuary by 6:30 p.m.)

Saturday, February 19th @ 7 p.m. (need to be in the Sanctuary by 6:30 p.m.)

She will also be speaking at both Sunday services February 20th

Mary Ann Brown carries a strong prophetic anointing to minister to the Body of Christ. Since 1980, Mary Ann has been ordained and used of God to challenge others to be saved, filled with the Holy Spirit, delivered, healed, and restored. You will laugh and maybe you will even cry, but you will never forget the ministry of healing Jesus does in your heart. *This event is free and open to all.*

We also need some volunteers (3-4 people) at RG table at the Ministry Fair in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday January 23rd after both services to hand out literature and answer questions about the RG. This is a good recruitment opportunity to reach out to the new members of the church.

The Ordination Ceremony for new Deacons of the church will be on Sunday January 30th. There will be a reception after the second service.

We want to recognize the RG members that are to be ordained as Deacons (you should have gotten a letter from Pastor Charles with details) There will be a pre ordination meeting and supper at 6 p.m. this Monday January 10th in room 311. (Connie will explain about the duties and responsibilities of a Deacon.)

Sharon Blanche
Susan Henry
Everett Hite
Troy and Cande Marbley
Marshal & Connie Payne
Cyl & Virginia Soden
John Aje
Jean Sejour
Phil & Judi Simpson
Walter Snesko
Robert Todd

The Royal Guard Commissioning ceremony will be on Sunday February 13th

The candidates that have completed the training and service requirements are:

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

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.

Fatima announced her tentative wedding date, April 30, 2005

Suggestions / concerns

List of speakers and subjects for upcoming meetings
Distribute meeting minutes, printed and on website.
Book recommendation for study. "Five Languages of Love"
Concern on Sunday mornings, some congregation members block center door with conversation.
Recruit new members from the youth / young adults ministries.
Concern youths in Balcony, restrictions?
Additional personnel in balcony.
Newsletter
List of Sunday school classes and nursery / child care locations.

The next RG Meeting will be Saturday February 12th 10 am here in the Sun Room.

Cyl and Virginia will give the mission, vision and outline for 2005 at the February meeting.

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.