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*For in the Savior there  
is grace and truth.*

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**I**t can be a terrible thing once the word goes out about you or about something. This is especially true when that which is going out is not good or true. Throughout our lives we hear all kind of words. We hear the word of an impending change on our jobs. We hear the word about war or disagreement. We hear the word about some bad deed that someone has perpetuated on another person. We hear the word about some good occurrence that is about to break forth. We hear the word of tragedy. We delight in hearing the word of victory. The fact is that there are many things about which we hear the word. In these

**Butler Street C.M.E.  
Church**

23 Jesse Hill, Jr.,  
Drive, SE  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
Phone 404.659.8745  
FAX 404.581.0145

[www.butlerstreetcmechurch.org](http://www.butlerstreetcmechurch.org)

## PASTOR'S *Perspective*

instances the “hearing of the word” or the “word being out” usually implies that we have some inside track or some advance notice of something that is about to happen. Sometimes we have been waiting for it and at other times it is just suddenly sprung upon us out of nowhere.

The writer of the gospel according to John tells us something about a word having gone out. In this case the word is really about the good news of a coming Savior named Jesus Christ. Except that John doesn't take us forward to give us this word he takes us back instead. John takes us back all the way to the beginning and declares “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” Later in that same segment of scripture John fast forwards and tells us that the “Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.” What a great thing John has given us. John in effect put the word out about Jesus Christ. He told us how long He had existed, he told us where He existed and he definitively told us the source of the Word! Yea, the word was out.

John puts the word out because all of Israel had been waiting for its consolation. They had been living under occupation by a foreign state. They had been

*Anthony M. Alford, Sr., Pastor*

oppressed by the brutal power of a foreign hand. They had been beaten up so badly that they couldn't even recognize their own culture, their traditions or their own history. They needed some relief. They had been hoping for so long, expecting for so long and believing for so long. Somehow their hope created the thing upon which it had fed. All they needed was to hear the word. They needed just to have an assurance of grace from God which said to them that everything would be alright and that help was on the way.

Sometimes in the human condition this is where we are. The word of God gives us assurance though. For in the Savior there is grace and truth. There is opportunity. This opportunity makes it possible for us to have a vast faith that reaches through all the dimensions of human life, giving dignity, worth and purpose to even the least significant. In the Savior all of humanity can see the illumined finger of God guiding us in the way we should go so that high above all the clamor and noise that surrounds us we can still hear the Word. It is the Word, without which nothing else has meaning! The Word is Jesus Christ. The Word is out and its music still repeats the sounding joy. He is with us! He is with us, even until the end of time!