



The Chronicle

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Warn the righteous man

Philip C. Bennett

A righteous man is a man who does right. It is not the will of God that any should perish but God delights in the righteous.

In the olden days, cities were often built on a hill with high walls for protection. They had lookout towers from which watchmen would keep an eye open for danger. If danger approached it was the duty of the watchmen to sound the alarm. When others were sleeping or not being alert the watchmen had to be awake and on the lookout for any danger that threatened the people.

The Church in scripture is figuratively referred to as a city on a hill in which God has placed watchmen. *“Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: if when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him.*

But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman’s hand. So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me.” (Ezekiel 33:1-7)

The duty of the watchman is to watch and to sound the trumpet when there is danger. The scripture did not say *“if I bring the sword”* but *“when I bring the sword”* implying that danger would come. *“When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. Therefore, O thou son of man, speak unto the house of Israel; Thus ye speak, saying, If our transgressions and our sins be upon us, and we pine away in them, how should we then live?*

Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"
(Ezekiel 33:8-11)

Fanny J. Crosby, the songwriter of "Rescue the Perishing" said we must *"plead with them earnestly, plead with them gently, He will forgive if they only believe."*

The prophet Ezekiel went on to say: *"Therefore, thou son of man, say unto the children of thy people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth. When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it."* (Ezekiel 33:12-13)

God's ways and God's judgements are just. We should not get angry with God when He punishes our loved ones because of their sins or when He does something we are not pleased with. *"He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD."*
(Proverbs 17:15)

God is no respecter of persons. King David was described as a man after God's own heart, yet when he sinned God did not turn the other way. David was punished for his transgressions.

Moses spoke to God as a man speaketh with his friend yet when he disobeyed

God he was barred from entering the promised land. *"Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it."*
(Hebrews 4:1)

Everyone who is not righteous is classed as wicked - not just those who commit abominable sins. Jesus promises eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked. There is no degree of righteousness or wickedness with God; we are either righteous or wicked. Similarly there will not be different degrees of heaven and hell. There will be one heaven and one hell for all who go there. If we do not make it to heaven we will be going to the same hell as people like Adolf Hitler and Saddam Hussain.

Some people take comfort from the fact that they have never done anything they consider really bad, like murder or adultery. The Bible says in 1 John 5:17 *"all unrighteousness is sin..."* that includes the sins of omission as well as the sins of commission.

As Christians we have to be seen to be on God's side. *"And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace. And Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said unto them, Come near, carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the camp."*

So they went near, and carried them in their coats out of the camp; as Moses had said. And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons, Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all the people: but let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the LORD hath kindled. And ye shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: for the anointing oil of the LORD is upon you. And they did according to the word of Moses.” (Leviticus 10:1-7)

Aaron’s two sons Nadab and Abihu were also priests but they offered strange fire to God and He slew them. It must have been difficult for Aaron who was told not to mourn for them.

Eli was priest in Israel but he failed to reprimand his two sons Hophni and Phinehas with any conviction. Due to this, they went from bad to worse eventually resulting in their deaths and the downfall of Eli and his house.

Lot was a righteous man who **chose** to live in an unrighteous environment. Some people choose to live close to sin thinking that they are strong enough to withstand its attractions and that it will not affect them.


At first we read that: *“...Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.” (Genesis 13:12-13)*

The next time we read, he was in the city of Sodom where he was captured by the enemy.

“And they took Lot, Abram’s brother’s son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.” (Genesis 14:12)

Abraham had to fight to save Lot, yet after he had been delivered he went right back to living in Sodom. Again, Abraham had to intercede for Lot and God had to send angels to warn him and take him out of Sodom before its destruction. Even then, his wife did not make it. Although she came out of Sodom, Sodom did not out of her. Sometimes God delivers us from certain situations and it’s not long before we find ourselves in the same position again.

Finally Jesus warned His disciples: *“But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” (St. Matthew 24:37-44)*

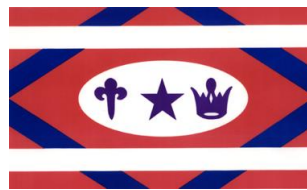
Verses 41 and 42 indicates that they were busy at work, perhaps even doing what they thought was the Lord’s work but the admonition is: *“The one shall be taken and the other left.”* 

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Claudia Prince	National Women's Missionary Band Co-ordinator/ National Choir Director
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From the Overseer's Desk

Thank God for another eventful quarter with many uplifting activities. As usual Easter was very busy and it was an encouragement to the members at Long Lane to have Pastor Prince and some other members from Druids Heath church to join in the Good Friday worship.

Sister Claudine Brown did a wonderful job in arranging and moderating the National Youth Convention. This was a blessing to all that attended. It was good to see all our visitors, many of whom were invited by Brother Justin Clarke. Brother Justin - well done and keep up the good work.

Our first Annual General Meeting (AGM) went well and was well attended. Thanks to those who have served as Trustees in the past and we welcome the new Trustees (Brother Nigel Davis and Brother Rikki Prince) to our ranks.

The reports from our recent National Ladies Retreat have all been very positive and our sisters have returned to their local churches all zealed up to work for God and His Church. A big thank you to Pastor Anderson for all her efforts to ensure the retreat went ahead and was a great success.

Let us continue to pray and seek God's face for His blessings on those events still ahead of us, namely:

National Family Camp	- 27th-29th July 2011
International Youth Camp	- 19th-22nd August 2011
General Assembly	- 23rd-28th August 2011

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city: the watchman waketh but in vain." (Psalm 127:1)

But conversely, let us say like the Apostle Paul:

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."
(Philippians 4:13)

Without God all our efforts will be futile for without Him we can do nothing.



ABM BOOST

Wilhelmina Brown - National Assembly Band Movement Co-ordinator

The general Assembly Band Movement theme for the assembly year 2010-2011 is:

'No one left behind'

(St. Mark 8:36)

Greetings once again to the dear children of the most high God.

I want to encourage us that wherever we are and whatever we do, let these four words keep ringing in our hearts and minds:

NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

I realise that we have no strength of our own to fight our spiritual battles. Zechariah 4:6 states:

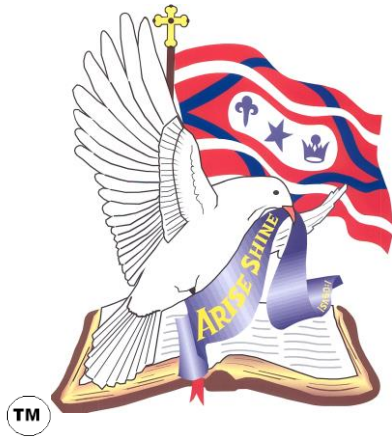
"...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."

Pastors, band leaders, ministers and members let us fight on till we reach the blissful shore where we'll hear "well done" (cited from St. Matthew 25:21).

We should not take the task that God has given us lightly! When we are given work to do from the Lord, He is counting on us to carry our duties out and see them through.

Let us continue to pray for Sister Jackie Zimmerman our General Assembly Band Movement Co-ordinator, who encourages us to feed the sheep constantly in The Church of God. We must never let them go hungry for the Word and continue praying with them as often as we possibly can.

May the Lord richly bless us all.



CPMA/BTI BOOST

Stuart Brown - National CPMA/BTI Co-ordinator

The general Church of Prophecy Marker Association theme for the assembly year 2010-2011 is:

‘My dove, my undefiled is but one’

(Song of Solomon 6:9)

The general Bible Training Institute theme for the assembly year 2010-2011 is:

‘Doers of the Word’

(James 1:22)

Are you a marker?

Greetings to all from the C.P.M.A. and B.T.I. departments! What a mighty God we serve! I feel comforted that God is for us and He will never leave or forsake us. Again, this is a great opportunity to encourage you and I am pleased to report that I have heard good things about the Arise Shine services held in our local churches. We must continue to acknowledge this blessed event where God brought the Church out of the Dark Ages and restored her to her biblical beauty. Let us continue to be grateful for June 13th 1903. If this event did not happen, none of us would be here today as members of the great Church of God!

In keeping with the Arise Shine season and in line with one of the purposes behind the C.P.M.A. I would like to pose the following questions: *Is your light shining? Are you a marker for the Church? Is your life a marker for God?*

One aspect of the ministry of C.P.M.A. is *“to be living markers or testaments of Jesus Christ and promote the perfection of the Church.”* The Apostle John in Revelation 19:7 declares: *“...his wife hath made herself ready.”* Our lives must be recognised as ones that show Jesus is alive within us. When others see our walk, our talk, our appearance, our conduct and everything about us they must be able to say *“that person is truly Christ like, I can see Jesus in them.”* Our day to day walk should not be one that would bring a reproach unto the name of Jesus. We should not be guilty of doing anything that would make us ashamed and reflect the world but rather our lives are to stand out as holy, blameless and righteous! The Apostle Paul in Titus 2:7-8 states:

“In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.”

The Church stands for holiness “...without which no man shall see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14) and we must continue to be living markers for these biblical truths! Others may shy away from these sound doctrines as they are not very popular in this day and age. We must continue to uphold these distinctive markers and be examples to a dark world and a grey Christendom. God will be glorified in our lives if we honour Him by making ourselves available for His glory to shine through. WILLINGNESS and OBEDIENCE are key to those who will be a living marker for Christ and His Church. Sometimes we may be the only Christian in our respective environments: work, school, college, university, the street where we live, but *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”* (St. Matthew 5:16) **BE A LIVING MARKER FOR JESUS TODAY.**

God bless you. This issue’s feature is named the “*Look to the Future*” chart.

What’s coming..?	Tell me more..!	What do I do next..?
“Wait, did someone say B.T.I. is coming???”	Yes... keep praying and keep your eyes and ears open as B.T.I. will kick off soon!!!	All you need to do is give your name to your local C.P.M.A. leader(s).



Sunday School Department



The Church of God

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOST

Ray Prince - National Sunday School Co-ordinator

The general Sunday School theme for the assembly year 2010-2011 is:

'The Promise of His Coming'

(2 Peter 3:4)

"This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made."

I woke up with this song on my mind one morning and decided to use it for our family devotion. It really blessed us and set us all up for the day. The song goes onto say *"I will rejoice and be glad in it."* This sometimes is not easy because we do not know what the day may bring. On that particular morning I can say that the devil was not happy with my devotion to God and did try in every way to upset and discourage me. As I write this encouragement the devil is still trying all his tricks to get me down, but as the song by John W. Peterson says *"I will rejoice and be glad in it."*

As we get closer to the return of Christ, the squeeze will become tighter and tighter. The Sunday School lessons have been a challenge to teach as all are responsible to take note and get in line with God. I am grateful for this as God loves us. Hebrews 12:6 states:

"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."

It has been a wonderful privilege and opportunity to serve as the National Sunday School Co-ordinator and have Holy Ghost inspired resources to teach from. The Church of God is truly blessed and we have "no excuse," to quote Pastor F.E. Prince. God has given us everything we need to make it in.

Let us all hold fast and live what we receive in our Sunday School lessons.



Victory Leaders Band



VLB/EVANGELISM BOOST

Claudine Brown - National Victory Leaders Band/Evangelism Co-ordinator

The general Victory Leaders Band theme for the assembly year 2010-2011 is:

'Lovers of the Truth'

The general Evangelism theme for the assembly year 2010-2011 is:

'Each one reach one'

Imagine the odour if we only washed ourselves once a year? We would emit an offensive smell and one that would push people away from us! It could not be masked by aftershave, perfume or even deodorant. The only solution would be a good soak and a scrub to take away the root of the smell. Even if we were to sit in one place and do no kind of physical exercise whatever for the whole year – we would still smell. This is because our bodies produce bacteria that grow inside the millions of sweat glands we have. The smell is the result of that bacteria not being washed away.

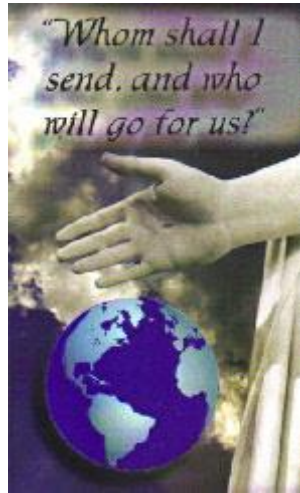
Now imagine being in a room or bus full of people who had not washed in a long time. The smell would be pungent, maybe even unbearable. Anyone exposed to this may hold their breath, cover their nose or repeatedly wince at the discomfort. You simply cannot wash yourself once in a while and expect to smell sweet 24/7.

What does this have to do with us as Christians? We can learn many spiritual lessons from nature. Are any of us happily relying on that deep cleansing we received from the Lord last year some time, safe in the knowledge that we are still squeaky clean? Do any of us only ask the Lord to cleanse us when we have committed the so-called 'big sins' (which is an erroneous term because all sin is sin)? Do any of us think we do not have to wash at all because we have been saved so long that the 'cleanse me Lord' prayer is only for new-converts? If all of us think like this and fail to keep ourselves clean, we may well be emitting that offensive odour to Almighty God!

To live a victorious Christian life and one that will not offend the Lord, we must live clean and be free from all sin. We are so used to hearing this that perhaps it has lost its significance. We must ask God to sanctify us daily – all of us, because we are not immune from the enemy who is working overtime to overthrow us. The consecration prayer is not just for new converts. There is no such thing as being too clean. It would not be too much to ask God to cleanse us each and every time we pray! David asked for a deep cleansing from the Lord in Psalm 51:7 when he said "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." David knew exactly where to go when he was sin-stained.

Youth, our theme for this year has been '**Lovers of the Truth**'. That means, we hold dear to the truth of the Bible. The Bible *does not* teach once saved always saved. The Bible *does not* teach once sanctified always sanctified. The Bible *does not* teach once filled, always filled. SO, ask yourself the question – when was the last time you were washed? How do you 'smell' spiritually? Don't rely on the last time you received a blessing, pray to God for a deep cleansing today...and tomorrow... and the next day! Christ is coming soon.

Please pray for the forthcoming Family Camp to take place on 27th-29th July 2011. We are going to have a wonderful time in the Lord! God bless you.



WMB BOOST

Claudia Prince - National Women's Missionary Band Co-ordinator

The new general Women's Missionary Band theme for the assembly year 2010-2011 is:

"...Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?..."

(Isaiah 6:8)

Theme of National Ladies Retreat: ***"I'll go, even in the Valley"***.

Our National Ladies Retreat was held on 27th and 28th May 2011 at the Holiday Inn in Great Barr, Birmingham. **WHAT A BLESSING** from start to finish, even the ice breaker (ground breaker as was called by Pastor Bev!) We had to spend time with someone we did not know very well and find out details about them which was really good.

The venue was absolutely lovely, it was clean and the food was more than what I expected. I am sure all who attended would agree with me that our bellies were satisfied. The staff were also very accommodating, so basically what I am trying to show you is that we were looked after in every possible way. Isn't God good?

The devotions, the seminars and the messages were absolutely directed by God. Everything just slotted into place. What really made my weekend was the message entitled *"The Valley of Baca"* (Psalm 84:6). I was really blessed by this message. For all those who could not attend, whether male or female this message is for all of us.

The Valley of Baca to my understanding is the Valley of Sorrows. We must all face sorrows on this Christian journey. Our journey will not be a bed of roses, we will all have our valleys to travel through. Just like we need food and water to live, we will have to walk through the Valley of Baca. When Christ was here on earth He had His own valley to walk through. When He was in the garden of Gethsemane and desired to pray His disciples could not even watch with Him for an hour. That was a valley He had to endure by Himself. The scripture says that *"...his sweat was as it were great drops of blood..."* (St. Luke 22:44) That is how intense His valley was. Well it will be the same for us, we will encounter some things that we must face on our own. We will be in a place where no-one else can help us. We will have to go through it alone.

We were also encouraged that when we are in our valley we are not to set up little tents or bungalows down there. Sometimes we become so consumed with our sorrow we enjoy wallowing in self pity. Unconsciously, we start laying down foundations and want to stay where we are. This is the time we ought to run for our lives. We were also encouraged that when in the valley and we see someone else there who seems to have set up their little houses we ought to pray for them and run on. If we do not run we will get caught up and want to comfort them down in the valley. The Valley of Baca is to pass through and not abide in.

Let us be prepared for our valley. Your valley may be different to my valley but we will all go through it. Let us make sure that we are praying and seeking God because without Him we will NEVER make it through our valleys.

There was so much more to this message but I have just picked out the things that really stood out for me. If you were not at the National Ladies Retreat please make every effort to be there next year. It was such a blessing and well worth the money. Start putting a little aside now as it will be worth it in the end.

May God bless you all.

If any of our ladies are planning on going to the General Assembly in August, can you please let me know very soon. I have had a letter from Sister Bishop and Sister Tonya Anders to say they will need numbers by 29th July with no exceptions if you want to attend the WMB Luncheon. This will cost \$10.50. Thank you in advance.

Handsworth and Long Lane Baptism Friday 13th May 2011

On Friday 13th May 2011, The Church of God in Handsworth and Long Lane held a joint baptismal service. This was held at Beacon Evangelical Church in Handsworth, Birmingham. The service was moderated by Pastor Beverley Anderson. Pastor Frances Prince prayed the opening prayer asking for God's blessings on the event. The scripture reading was taken from St. Matthew 3:13-17.

The night's message was delivered by our National Overseer, Pastor Philip Bennett. He outlined the purpose of baptism emphasising the fact that it did not wash away sins but was the answer of a good conscience towards God (1 Peter 3:21). He showed from the scriptures that Jesus the Son of God though He was sinless submitted Himself to this ordinance. Jesus showed that it was necessary in order for us to fulfil all righteousness. He went on to say that baptism was a natural step that follows the New Birth experience and he could not understand people who professed to be saved and yet refused or delayed being baptised. Brother Bennett used the account of the Ethiopian eunuch as an example of the urgent need for a born again believer to be baptised (Acts 8:36-38).

There were four candidates who were baptised by our Overseer accompanied by Brother Jason Prince a new Lay Minister. After the baptism, one member asked to be given the right hand of fellowship there and then to join the Church rather than waiting for the Sunday service. The covenant was administered by our Overseer after which all the members came forward to greet their sister as a new member.

Pastor Angela Clarke who had served as a Lay Minister for a number of years was also presented with her Ministerial Licence after completing all the correspondence courses and having being recommended to the ministry by her local Church.

We thank God for a wonderful evening.

National Ladies Retreat 28th-29th May 2011

Holiday Inn, Great Barr, Birmingham

To describe National Ladies Retreat within the confines of a written article is near impossible. The phrase "you had to be there" springs to mind as this account will simply not do it justice. From the songs, to the teaching, preaching, devotions, testimonies, presentations and fellowship, the event was rich with spiritual food for us to feast on and delight ourselves in. The presence of Almighty God was potent, from the minute we arrived at the venue until the retreat ended on 29th May 2011. Like the feeling after a taste of any good meal, we were left wanting seconds and already excited about next year's retreat.

It was so very clear that the event had been planned in obedience to the Lord's will and that much earnest prayer and seeking had been done beforehand. The theme, **"I'll go, even in the Valley"** was God-inspired. Through this theme, God demonstrated His love and care towards us in a unique way. We learnt how to appreciate our valley experiences rather than to fear them. We were shown the necessity of the various challenges we face and the glory that awaits us all 'on the other side'. All of the attendees, including ministers and pastors, could testify that they learnt something at this retreat and we thank the Holy Ghost for His teaching and His words of comfort.

The retreat began with fire! There was no need to pump anyone to praise the Lord or to sing anyone out of their seat. Our ladies know how to glorify God! Our National Ladies Retreat Co-ordinator - Pastor Beverley Anderson welcomed us all and asked that we keep open minds and view the weekend like a 'spiritual awareness course'. The weekend surely fulfilled its purpose. Many of us testified to each other about the ways in which our eyes had been opened both to spiritual and physical things that are going on around us in our communities.

Following our devotion and worship time, Pastor Anderson facilitated a 'get to know you' icebreaker. We paired up with brethren who we did not know well and asked each other pre-selected questions including; *What's your full name? How long have you been serving the Lord? Is there anything unusual you have done that not many will know about?* Our answers will of course stay between us ladies :o) but suffice it to say this was a lovely exercise that enhanced the all round good feeling that we already had at the start of the retreat.

With the Lord's guidance, I did the introductory presentation on 'The Valley'. I asked the brethren at the start of the presentation to shout out words that are synonymous with the valley experience. The words that were given were predominately negative (isolated, lonely, fearful, steep, dense, depressing, stressful, dark, dry, cold, frightening) with the exception of two which were 'opportunity' and 'glorious'. This is hardly surprising because in the valley it is hard to see the positives.

The aim of the presentation was to get us to change our perspective on the valley experience, and to see it as something that God allows us to go through to teach us something and bring us out on the other side on a higher plain than before. You will usually find a valley between the two highest points on a mountain. Rather than building us a bridge, God will allow us to descend into the valley and we cannot climb our way out without His help! We looked at photographs of different types of valleys including mountain valleys, flat country valleys, plateau valleys, rocky valleys and ravines. Each with their distinctive features, all of them can be related to our spiritual journeys. Let us give glory to God that no matter what type of valley we face there is peace in each one for us because the Lily of the valley is there with us! Following the presentation there was spontaneous worship with ladies crying and speaking in tongues as the Holy Ghost gave utterance.

Throughout the retreat, we enjoyed fiery devotions, during which the Lord reminded us that we are bond-servants, here only to do His bidding and that we have His great commission to fulfil.

During the afternoon session on Saturday 28th May 2011, guest speaker Sister Andrea Reynolds did a superb presentation on "In the Valley with my child". Sister Andrea has been a police officer for over 20 years and she shared her wealth of experience with us, opening our eyes to what is happening with the young people of our communities. Sister Andrea permeated real life cases with scriptural references to our responsibilities.

She tackled difficult topics such as suicide, self harming, gang culture, drug/alcohol abuse, sexual abuse, child murder and mental illness. The subject matter was raw and highly informative. It heightened our awareness about what our young people are facing in this dark and evil world and, what we ought to pray for. We are very grateful to Sister Andrea for allowing God to use her during this difficult presentation. We pray that God will continue to cover her in her indispensable work as a law enforcer in this country.

On Saturday evening, the Browne Sisters blessed us with renditions of *"One Day at a Time"* and *"In the arms of the Sweet Deliverer"*. The latter of the two songs just could not finish! Our ladies joined in and kept repeating the refrain, swaying and worshipping God who I believe was comforting each and every one of us in His loving arms. Praise the Lord. This was followed by a wonderful message by our National WMB Co-ordinator Sister Claudia Prince entitled "I'll Go...even in the Valley". We were encouraged that God understands what we are going through during our valley experiences. We were also encouraged with David's prayer in Psalm 23, focusing on verse 4. The valley David refers to only has the "shadow" or appearance of death. The devil sometimes makes our valleys appear worse than they are. Sister Claudia used Abraham's valley to encourage us. Despite how bleak things looked for Abraham and the fate of his only son, he trusted in Almighty God and his faith was unwavering. He came out of his valley triumphant and we can too! Sister Claudia passionately encouraged us to 'black up our knees' and to pray to God about the situations that we are facing. He will meet us where we are at and He understands every tear, every groan and every moan that we utter! Thank you Lord! When we have Christ we can smile through the storm. God used Sister Claudia to comfort the ladies and we thanked God for His repeated confirmation of His words throughout the whole day.

After the end of the service, some of our ladies stayed up to watch a DVD about the wicked music industry and the way in which Satan is using people in the entertainment industry to destroy our young people. This DVD was an eye-opener and contained some challenging material. We thank Pastor Anderson for making the DVD available for us to see, pulling the covers off Satan and exposing what is going on in his kingdom.

After Saturday, you would not have thought that the retreat could possibly get any better. We had heard from God, we had worshipped freely, fellowshiped sweetly and eaten well! Then, came SUNDAY! On Sunday 29th May 2011, the retreat went to a new dimension. We give all the glory to the Lord for the amazing way in which He used our National Ladies Retreat Co-ordinator Pastor Beverley Anderson to preach a mind-blowing message on 'The Valley of Baca' (Psalm 84:4-7). God's presence was richly felt as Pastor Anderson preached, testified, encouraged, preached some more and testified some more! BACA. A place I had never heard of or read about in my life but yet it now puts so many things into perspective! It would not do the message any justice to try and paraphrase it here but Pastor Anderson explained that this is a place that many of us may have already passed through, are passing through now, or have to come. The valley is wet with the tears of those who have already passed through. It is *not* a place for us to build our houses and set up residence! If when passing through, we find others who have set up home there, we are to pray for them but to make our way past with haste! God carries us through Baca tenderly in His arms and our lives will never be the same after the Baca experience as we will have reached Zion and a special place in God!

Pastor Anderson's personal testimony was so compelling and we were encouraged that no matter what we go through, there is no situation that is too hard for God.

Sister Wilhelmina Brown gave a lovely rendition of *"Through the Valley Below"* after the message and we had a feedback session before the final meal. The brethren testified of the impact that the retreat had had upon them and ladies are still talking about the retreat now, weeks after the event. A ladies retreat like no other! The venue was also comfortable and the staff hospitable. What more could we have asked for? Comments that were made about it by those who attended include "Slick! Very professional", "Very good", "The presence of the Holy Ghost could be felt as I walked in the room", "It was nice, so nice!" Many thanks to Pastor Anderson and her team for the great job they did in organising the retreat.

The one and only negative thing about it was that it was not long enough. Ladies, let us start saving up for next year's retreat from now so that we can spend a few more days together in the sweet presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you missed it, you MISSED OUT! Do not let the opportunity pass you next year. God bless you all as we GO..... Yes! Even in the Valley!

Sister Claudine Brown – Reporter

What's happening in Handsworth Church?

On Sunday 19th June 2011, Brother Randy and Sister Heather Date were given a send-off service from the local church. Sister Heather has joined her husband in Ireland where the family will reside. Brother Date is in the armed forces and stationed there for the remainder of his stay in the forces.

Sister Heather, Brother Randy and their children will be greatly missed in the Sunday School department. We are asking that the Church join with us here in Handsworth to pray that God will keep them and return them to us safely at the end of Brother Date's stay within the Armed forces. It is anticipated that they will be there for the next three years, but we serve a great big wonderful God and it will be as He says.

Pastor Beverley Anderson - Reporter

What's happening in Druids Heath Church?

The Arise and Shine of the last days Church of God Service

On Sunday 12th June 2011, we commemorated the Arise and Shine of The Church of God in our C.P.M.A. service.

We had a wonderful time celebrating the arise of The Church of God in 1903 on this side of the Dark Ages.

Scriptures pertaining to this momentous event were read. A visual presentation followed on who Ambrose Jessup Tomlinson, the first General Overseer of the Church, this side of the Dark Ages was. The congregation learnt some background information about his early life and how he answered God's call.

The presentation also looked at Church history from the vision Brother Tomlinson received in prayer on Burger Mountain in 1903 to the present day.

After the presentation, the congregation sang "Happy Birthday" to our great Church of God.

The congregation was encouraged to take a Church of God flag and wave it high to the glory of God as we sang "*The Great Speckled Bird*" and "*A Glorious Church*". We could feel the presence of God amongst us as we sang. Praise the Lord!

Sister Koreen Wilson – Reporter

National Sunday School Challenge

On Saturday 11th June 2011 we had our National Sunday School Challenge event. This was held at the local church in Druids Heath, Birmingham.

For months, teams from the local churches had been studying and preparing themselves for questions based on the Sunday School auxiliary. The compere for the evening was none other than Brother Ray Prince, our National Sunday School Co-ordinator; all dressed up in his 1970's attire. Brother Stuart Brown ensured that the technical side of things ran smoothly.

Areas of questioning included: Sunday School history, past Sunday School lessons, a 'guess who' round of church personnel and a 'name that tune' round.

All of the local churches were represented and questions were answered eagerly. There was a very competitive spirit as all the teams were clearly in the event to win.

The team from Long Lane Church were unveiled as the winners during the Sunday School programme at our National Convention in July 2011.

Brother Ray and all his staff who met regularly to plan and organise the event are to be commended for a wonderful event.

**Submitted by Pastor Philip Bennett
Long Lane Church**

Special Note:

The Chronicle is an official publication of The Church of God (England) with Philip C. Bennett National Overseer and Editor. Articles intended for publication in the next issue of *The Chronicle* should be received **before 31st August 2011**. These submissions will be for the Jul-Sep 2011 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: kazgirl_uk@yahoo.com

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