



The Chronicle

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God's Great Redemptive Plan

Philip C. Bennett

William R. Newell penned these words in the beautiful hymn 'At Calvary.' *"Oh the love that drew salvation's plan. Oh the grace that brought it down to man. Oh the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary."* As time passes, there is the danger that we lose the full significance of God sending His only Son to die in our stead at Calvary. What a great sacrifice.

From the time we said yes to salvation through Jesus, we became embroiled in a war between God and the devil. Satan hates God's creations, especially those who choose to serve God. He is determined in his efforts to destroy us. In the twelfth chapter of the book of Revelation we read about the unrelenting war that began in heaven and continues upon the earth. *"And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."* (Revelation 12:7-9)

Due to this continued hatred, Satan caused man to sin in the Garden of Eden but God promised to send a Redeemer. God was not taken by surprise when man sinned in the Garden of Eden because the Bible declares that *"...the Lamb (Christ) was slain from the foundation of the world."* (Revelation 13:8)

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." (Genesis 3:15)

After the whole earth became corrupted with sin, God called and used Noah to build an ark for the saving of himself and his household. From the lineage of Noah's son Shem, God called Abraham and from his lineage came the nation of Israel. As we follow their progress, we see where time after time Satan tempted them and caused Israel to fail God. Eventually, they went into captivity. The promise that God had made to them however was a sure one. Prophets, priests and kings had glimpses of God's great plan and would record what they saw.

Jacob prophesied that the Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10). Isaiah prophesied that He would be born of a virgin and His name would be called Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14). Micah said He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Prophecy after prophecy confirmed details of His life, His death and His resurrection. Galatians 4:4-5: *"But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."*

In an attempt to stop the plan of God, Satan used a jealous king Herod to try to destroy the Christ child. God was one step ahead of him and warned Joseph in a dream to take the Child to Egypt. This was in fulfilment of prophecy. (Hosea 11:1)

Jesus knew from an early age that He had a task to complete. In the temple at the age of twelve, He said to His parents *"...wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business."* (St. Luke 2:49)

The devil came to Jesus at the start of His ministry with various temptations. This was when he thought Jesus would be vulnerable as recorded in St. Matthew 4:1-11. In the first two temptations, the devil posed the question "if thou be the Son of God" knowing full well who He was. This was confirmed when Christ met the demon-possessed man in Gadara. St. Luke 8:28: *"When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, what have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not."*

When the devil saw that his temptations did not work, he tried his best to discredit Jesus and make His ministry ineffective. St. John 1:46: *"And Nathanael said unto him, can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?"* The Pharisees and the rulers argued again in St. John 7:52 *"...out of Galilee ariseth no prophet."*

When the Satan recognises our potential, he will try to belittle us before others as he tried with Jesus but Jesus would not be sidetracked. He had a task to complete and would not be distracted until it was finished. In St. John 14:30 Jesus said *"...the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me."*

When all previous attempts failed, the devil tried the tactic of fear. In one instance Jesus had just rebuked the Jews for hypocrisy when He received some news to make Him afraid. Jesus did not take the Satan's bait so again, his efforts were futile. St. Luke 13:31-32: *"The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee. And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected."* The devil uses these same tactics today. People will cause us to fear if we listen to everything we hear.

In St. John 12:27 as Jesus' time to die drew near and He became troubled, He said *"...for this cause came I unto this hour."* In the garden of Gethsemane His friends failed Him and later forsook and denied Him. He had to win the victory by Himself. He was later betrayed by one of His own, Judas Iscariot. St. Matthew 27:12-14: *"And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly."* Jesus' character and reputation was defamed but He did not defend Himself. Sometimes we are tempted to leave what we are called to do to fight private battles. He was stripped of His clothing, scourged, mocked, spat upon and humiliated, then nailed to a cross like a common criminal. The devil thought that no one would want to associate themselves with Jesus then. Even on the cross, the taunts continued: St. Matthew 27:42: *"He saved others; himself he cannot save."*

St. Matthew 27:40: *"If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross."*

St. Matthew 27:43: *"He trusted in God; let him deliver him now."*

Thank God Jesus did not come down. After some six hours on the cross John recounts the last moments: *"After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."* (St. John 19:28-30)

I could just see Satan and his demons rejoicing and thinking "we've got him now" but to make sure, Satan got Pilate to set a seal

on the tomb and had soldiers guard it. Jesus was not just lying in there dormant. To Satan's surprise, Jesus went down to the spirit world and took the keys of death and hell from him. He also revealed Himself to those who had died with the promise of seeing the Messiah but never saw the fulfilment. Many of these departed saints were later seen walking about the city of Jerusalem after Jesus' crucifixion.

Jesus finished His task and so must we. The grave could not hold Him; He arose a victor from the dark domain and He lives forever with the saints to reign. He arose, He arose, hallelujah, Christ arose. (Cited from 'Christ Arose' by Robert Lowry). 📖

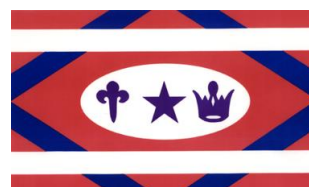


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Claudia Prince	National Women's Missionary Band Co-ordinator
Rikki Prince	National Youth Camp Co-ordinator
Jacqueline Davis	National Choir Director
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From the Overseer's Desk

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (St. John 4:23-24)

It was no coincidence that Jesus decided to pass through Samaria that eventful day. He met the Samaritan woman at the well. It is evident from the discussion in the previous verses she was a believer in God and awaiting the promised Messiah. However, there was something not right with her worship. She no doubt felt that she was fine until this day when the truth was revealed unto her.

Sometimes we can be going on thinking all is well until God allows someone to point out our errors. At this stage, we can either ignore what has been revealed to us and continue on our merry way - feeling that 'God understands' or we can make the sometimes difficult decision to change our ways. One thing for sure is that we can no longer claim ignorance once the truth has been revealed to us. To carry on regardless will place our souls in grave danger.

This woman was confronted by the truth and she could not side step it. Jesus told her the plain truth that if she was going to be a true worshipper she had to do it "*in spirit and in truth.*" The Bible says in St. John 4:39-42 that due to this woman's testimony of Jesus, there was a great revival in Samaria and many souls were won to the Lord. If she had ignored all that Jesus had told her, the story would have been completely different.

The Bible declares: "*For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*" (Romans 15:4)

Let us learn from what is written in the Word of God and not be forgetful hearers.

Since our last edition of *The Chronicle*, we held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and had a wonderful National Youth Convention for which we give God the praise. Sister Claudine Brown did a grand job as moderator of the Convention. Please remember all our upcoming events and pray that they will be a blessing.

Upcoming Events:

National Convention - 13th to 15th July 2012

National Family Camp - 23rd to 25th July 2012

International Youth Camp - 17th to 20th August 2012

General Assembly - 21st to 26th August 2012

The General Overseer, Bishop Stephen E. Smith and his wife Sister Vicky will be leading a tour to Israel from 27th November to 6th December 2012, if anyone is interested in going. The fare for those in the USA will be approximately \$3,000 for the ten day trip. This includes flight, ground transportation whilst in Israel, accommodation and food. Anyone wishing to go from the UK would need to contact Brother or Sister Smith for further details and the likely cost of the trip from the UK.



CPMA/BTI BOOST

Stuart Brown - National CPMA/BTI Co-ordinator

The general Church of Prophecy Marker Association theme for the assembly year 2011-2012 is:

'Unity of Purpose - Having the Same Mind'

(1 Corinthians 1:10)

The general Bible Training Institute theme for the assembly year 2011-2012 is:

'Doers of the Word'

(James 1:22)

It's good to talk!

Greetings to you from the C.P.M.A. and B.T.I. departments in the powerful name of Jesus! I pray that we are growing in the knowledge of Christ and His Church and steering our lives in the direction of His will and divine purpose. I thank the Lord for His blessings to me and what He is helping me to do. He gets ALL the glory!

I want to encourage us in one area that will help us in our unity one with another. As we well know, we are striving for perfection. Attaining perfection will require us to be doers of the Word, to maintain the right spirit, and to love one another.

British Telecom (BT) the communications company used this slogan: **"It's good to talk."** This was adopted to attract new customers to their service and encourage the existing customers to use the phone more! The TV adverts depicted families happily chatting, communicating over long distances and talking about things dear to them. They kept close to each other via the phone and promoted the benefits of cheap call costs. It was successful and the hook was to keep people talking. There are a lot of spiritual lessons we can take from this.

The Bible says in Ephesians 4:29:

*“Let no corrupt **communication** proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to **the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.**”*

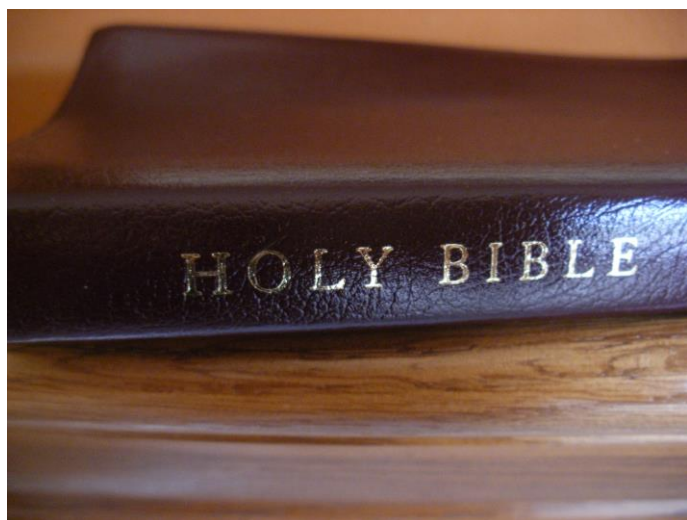
This powerful scripture is instructing us of the manner in which our conversation should be. If we do things the Bible way, when we talk to one another, it will be great, edifying and the grace (favour) of God will rest with us.

For us to “...**speak the same thing**” and be “...*perfectly joined together in the **same** mind and in the **same** judgment*” (1 Corinthians 1:10) is going to mean dialogue and reasoning with each other over things that may be sensitive, close to one’s heart, difficult to address or just simply misunderstood.

Our communication, linked with “**search(ing) the scriptures...**” (St. John 5:39) humbleness and a willingness to find and follow the will of God, will result in unity! It is good for us to talk to each other on spiritual matters, encourage and edify one another in life’s ups and downs, give godly instruction in temptations and pray with and for each other.

Remember, we have the one goal - heaven, and to get there we must work to perfect every area of our lives “*Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.*” (Ephesians 4:13)

YES! B.T.I. FIRST TERM!! YES!



“...eagerly anticipated.”

“...well needed.”

We are working towards doing the first term of Bible Training Institute! The tentative date will be during the Easter break of 2013.

For further information and to sign up contact stuabrown@hotmail.co.uk



EVANGELISM BOOST

Jason Prince - National Evangelism Co-ordinator

The general Evangelism theme for the assembly year 2011-2012 is:

‘Holy Ghost Revival’

***"...before the cock crow twice,
thou shalt deny me thrice"***

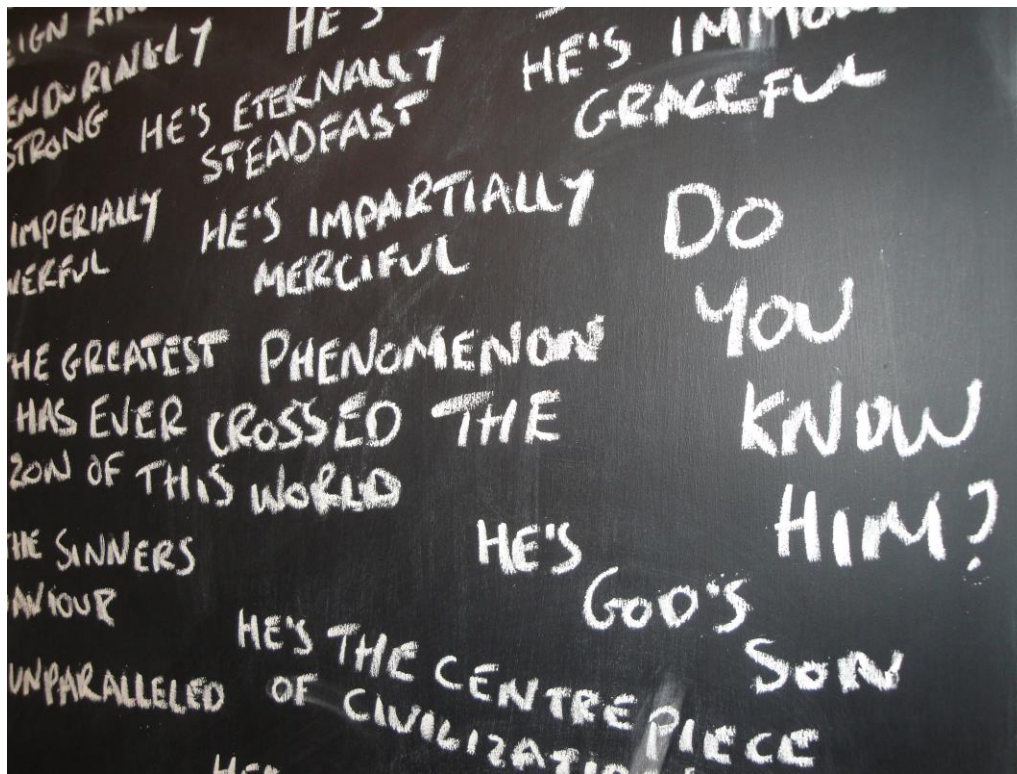
St. Mark 14:30

These words were said by Jesus Christ Himself. They could not have been said to anyone else in the world at that particular time. They were said to the very first chosen disciple. He was a man who loved Jesus and the man whom Christ spoke to saying *"...and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"* (St. Matthew 16:18). After reading this statement that was said to Peter by Jesus Himself, one may ask what caused Peter to deny Christ.

Jesus gave Peter a direct warning concerning his denial. These same words in St. Mark 14:30 are now a warning to all as they are in the Word of God as an ensample. Peter felt the pressure of people questioning him about Christ: *"And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth. But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew. And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, This is one of them. And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilaeen, and thy speech agreeth thereto. But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak. And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept."* (St. Mark 14:67-72)

From reading the Scriptures we know that Peter repented and went on to become very influential in the revelation of salvation to the Gentiles. We learn in Acts 2:41 that through a message the Holy Ghost inspired Peter to preach, about three thousand souls were added to the Church.

The apostle Peter was called to be a witness of Jesus Christ and WE that are saved have also been called to be witnesses of the love of God. We are commissioned to tell others about the change He has wrought in our hearts, the goodness of His grace and mercy.



Do these things manifest in our lives through the way we live? Sometimes, before we have the opportunity to share Christ with others we would have probably said "good morning" to them with a big smile; offered to give them a lift, maybe shared a testimony or not have spoken in anger over situations when most people would.

Every day and everywhere we go including driving or walking we can deny Christ in the way that we live! I will add that we can also bring reproach on the great Church of God by the way we live! Maybe our experience will NOT be like Peter's. Maybe our experience WILL be like Peter's and our lives are threatened! Whichever it is, we do not want to be found denying Christ with what we say or how we live. Who knows how many souls could have been saved if we did not deny Him?

There are so many pressures on all of us at this time and they are coming from every corner. Let us not denounce the worthy name of Christ or bring reproach on The Church of God as this IS the safe house where all WILL run into IF they are sheep.



VICTORY LEADERS BAND BOOST

Claudine Brown - National Victory Leaders Band Co-ordinator

The general Victory Leaders Band theme for the assembly year 2011-2012 is:

'Unmoveable, Unshakeable'

(Colossians 2:6-7)

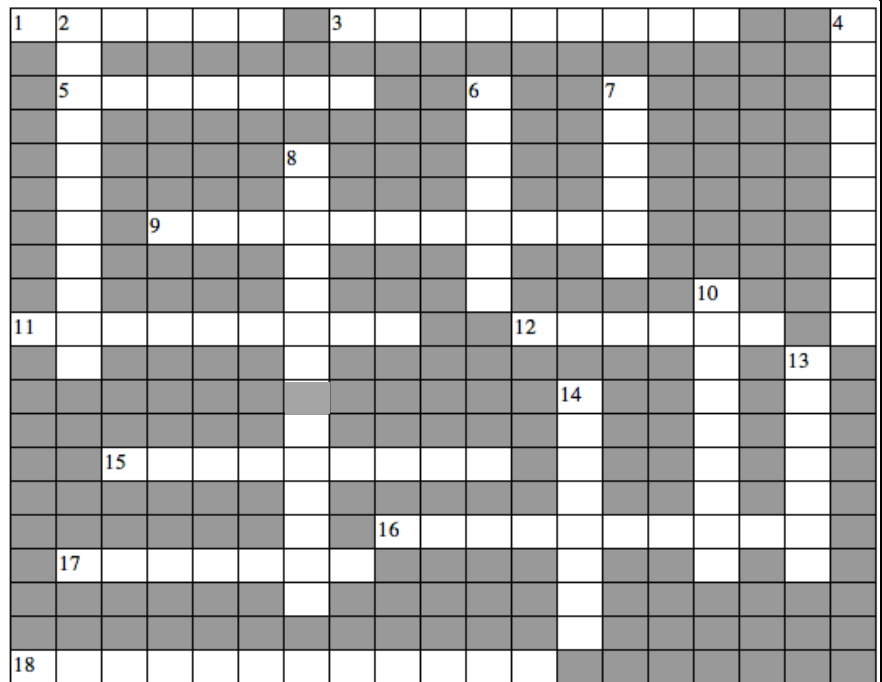
Greetings to all!

Here is a puzzle for any crossword lovers out there!

Test your knowledge of the Church, the Bible and your beloved VLB department.

Look out for further puzzles and youth, if you have any other ideas of items you would like to be included in YOUR Chronicle, please let me know.

Enjoy!



ACROSS

1. First name of our General VLB Co-ordinator
3. Fire fell from Heaven on this day
5. He didn't feel the pain despite the stones
9. He prayed a special prayer on a mount in 1903
11. National VLB secretary's second name
12. 8 year old biblical king
15. Location of our General Headquarters
16. Jesus prayed in this garden
17. I told the devil, get thee behind _____

DOWN

2. Second word of the General VLB theme
4. The location where the Assembly will be held 2012
6. Not quite a VLB...
7. The creed adopted in The Dark Ages
8. Our usual camp destination
10. _____ for Jesus we'll win!
13. Your status when you're no longer a VLB!
14. The crown on our flag represents:

National Youth Convention - Saturday 21st April 2012

It was with great anticipation of good things that the youth of The Church of God in England gathered for the annual National Youth Convention at Long Lane Church. They were not to be disappointed as the blessed Holy Ghost was very prominent throughout the day. Sister Claudine Brown, National Youth Co-ordinator welcomed everyone and outlined the Convention theme which was '**Unmoveable, Unshakeable**'.

After an initial prayer session, Pastor Angela Clarke and Sister Ashley Melton from London Church led the devotion. The scripture reading was from Daniel 3:26-30. Brother Jason Prince encouraged the youth to be steadfast and to live a life of holiness. He emphasised the fact that God requires us to live holy at all times and we should not be hypocrites. Scriptures used included: St. Matthew 7:21-22, James 1:8 and Exodus 32:1-6.

There followed a time of praise and worship after which Pastor Beverley Anderson from Handsworth Church encouraged the youth and stated "youth is the last opportunity to get it right." Our National Overseer and Pastor of Long Lane Church encouraged the youth to count the cost and to have a made up mind using the scripture St. Luke 14:28-32.

During the Gleaner Band time there were testimonies from Druids Heath Church and songs from Corey Clarke and Kathleen Hamilton. Brother Corey also rendered an item on the keyboard. We had further special singing from the churches in London and Druids Heath that were a great blessing to all.

Sister Oneaka Prince encouraged us from the story of Ruth to be steadfast and unmoveable using the scriptures Ruth 1:14-17 and Acts 9:1-6. Brother Justin Clarke encouraged us using the theme '*Stay in the Sanctuary of God*'. He encouraged us to be single minded and to stay in the straight and narrow way. Scriptures used included: St. Matthew 7:13-14, James 1:6-8, 1 Peter 5:8, Romans 8:31-39 and Revelation 3:16-17.

After a very appetizing lunch, we again gathered for worship with the VLB march around the building. Those in the march were wearing VLB uniform and singing to the glory of God.

Following Bible and flag pledges, we were encouraged by Pastor Frances Prince from Druids Heath Church to stay with God. A visual presentation then showed how Satan attacks and destroys those who are not steadfast in their faith in God.

Sister Claudine Brown, National Youth Co-ordinator preached an outstanding message entitled '*No Room for Shaky Christians in an Unshakeable Church*'. She encouraged the youth to have a made up mind and to be willing to stand whatever situation came their way.

Sister Claudine said that the things we trusted in like family and friends may not always be there, but even then we must be willing to stand. Scriptures used included: Hebrews 12:22, 26-27; St. Luke 21:27-28, Proverbs 4:24-27 and 1 John 2:24.

Pastor Beverley Anderson directed a time of prayer where the youth were invited to the altar to seek the Lord. Many could be seen pouring out their hearts to the Lord and seeking Him for a deeper revelation.

After some glorious singing from the National Choir, we had an exhortation from Brother Jonathan Wright. He encouraged us using the theme of 'Endurance'. He referred to physical and mental endurance and used the analogy of sports players and marathon runners. Scriptures used included: Ephesians 6:13-18, Galatians 5:1, 1 Corinthians 15:58 and St. Matthew 10:22.

This was followed by an encouragement from Brother Joshua Anderson using the theme 'Being Steadfast'. He also spoke about the need to be single minded, to beware of spiritual deception and encouraged us to be sober. Scriptures used included: James 1:8, 1 Thessalonians 5:6, St. Matthew 24:3-8 and Colossians 2:7.

Brother Rikki Prince and Brother Jason Prince did a boost for the upcoming National Family Camp. They encouraged as many as possible to get involved in the planned fund raising activities to help reduce the overall cost of Camp.

The National Overseer commended Sister Claudine for the wonderful way that she moderated the Convention, after which Sister Claudine brought the Convention to an end.

We thanked God for His presence with us throughout the day and for all the visitors that attended. The Convention attendance was 96, the same as last year.

Pastor Philip Bennett – Reporter

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 31 August 2012**. These submissions will be for the Jul-Sep 2012 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: kazgirl_uk@yahoo.com

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