



The Chronicle

A Publication of The Church of God (England)

April-June 2013, Volume 8, Issue 2

The Night is Far Spent, The Day is At Hand

Philip C. Bennett

The night is usually a time for sleeping and inactivity but day time is a time for activity and work. Night time is also associated with the evil works of darkness. *“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”* (Romans 13:11)

Do we know the time? Sometimes people have an appointment which they end up missing because they fail to check the time. This occurs as they think they have plenty of time; they take it easy - only to realise that time has ran out on them.

There have been times when I have casually glanced at the clock without focussing and then potter around the house, thinking I had plenty of time before I needed to leave. The realisation of having misread the time brought on shock and a period of hurried activity. I suddenly realised it was much later than I thought and was in danger of missing an important appointment. I am sure we can all relate to this scenario.

Sometimes, people may read the clock correctly but the clock they are using is not showing the right time. The battery may be low or at other times the clock should have gone forward or backwards by an hour - e.g. for British Summer time.

Satan, our arch enemy will tell us not to worry because we have plenty of time. He'll say: “You don't have to get serious for God now as you're still young. You have your whole life ahead of you. One day, when you're older you can dedicate your life to God.” With Satan it is always tomorrow; but tomorrow never comes.

We need to realise that Satan is a liar and the father of liars (cited from St. John 8:55). He does not mean us any good. The things he promises us do not even belong to him. He simply uses them to tempt and bribe us. Once he gets us in his grasp he then takes away everything he gave us and offers them to someone else.

I remember as a teenager whilst still at school, always thinking I would give my heart to God one day, but not now. I felt that I wanted to enjoy my life first, until one Sunday night God spoke to me in a church meeting through a lady who was a new convert. I'll never forget her words: *"Young man, young man, you want to go to heaven but you're bound for hell."*

God loved me so much that He sent someone to warn me of my impending destruction if I did not change my ways. *"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."* (St. Matthew 24:14)

Some people take comfort in the fact that the Church is not established in all the world and so they believe the end is not yet. God said He would do a quick work. Sometimes people have been caught off guard because things happened so quickly and there was no time for them to make corrections. The people of Pompeii were buried alive when Mount Vesuvius suddenly erupted in AD 79. Everything was buried in time just as the larva of the eruption caught them.

Paul's encouragement to the members in Rome was: *"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light."* (Romans 13:12)

If we are going to make it to heaven we must live holy lives. The definition of Holiness as stated in 'We Hold These Truths' (29 Prominent Teachings of The Church of God) says: *"Holiness is the state of being free from sin, a condition made possible by the experience of Sanctification. God requires man to live sinless in this present world and provides the means through the shed blood of Christ."*

The words from a well known song by Charles W. Naylor says:


Heaven is a holy place,
Filled with glory and with grace –
Sin can never enter there;
All within its gates are pure,
From defilement kept secure –
Sin can never enter there.

Chorus:

**Sin can never enter there,
Sin can never enter there;
So if at the judgment bar
Sinful spots your soul shall mar,
You can never enter there.**

If you hope to dwell at last,
When your life on earth is past,
In that home so bright and fair,
You must here be cleansed from sin,
Have the life of Christ within –
Sin can never enter there.

You may live in sin below,
Heaven's grace refuse to know,
But you cannot enter there;
It will stop you at the door,
Bar you out forevermore –
Sin can never enter there.

If you cling to sin till death,
When you draw your latest breath,
You will sink in dark despair
To the regions of the lost,
Thus to prove at awful cost,
Sin can never enter there. 

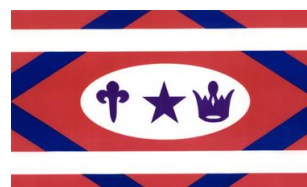


General Headquarters address



P.O. Box 450
Charleston, TN 37310 USA.
Telephone: **001-423 339 8264**
Website: **www.thechurchofgod.org**
Email: **info@thechurchofgod.org**
Prayer Line: **001-423 339 8264**
Fax Prayer Line: **001-423 339 8268**
All literature and merchandise enquiries:
Telephone: **001-423 339 8264 ext 232** or
Email: **wbarick@thechurchofgod.org**

National Office address



Philip C. Bennett
The Church of God, Long Lane,
Halesowen, West Midlands, B62 9LL.
Home telephone: **0121-551 0119**
Mobile phone: **07963 36 05 13**
Website: **www.churchofgod.org.uk**
Email: **overseer@churchofgod.org.uk**
Registered Charity No. 1132804
Registered Company No. 07015215

National Administration

Stephen E. Smith	General Overseer
Philip C. Bennett	National Overseer/Pastor, Long Lane
Frances Prince	Pastor, Druids Heath
Beverley Anderson	Pastor, Handsworth/National Women's Missionary Band/ National Ladies Retreat Co-ordinator
Angela Clarke	Pastor, London/National Treasurer
Wilhelmina Brown	National Assembly Band Movement Co-ordinator
Stuart Brown	National Church of Prophecy Marker Association/ Bible Training Institute Co-ordinator
Jason Prince	National Evangelism/National Youth Camp Co-ordinator
Ray Prince	National Sunday School Co-ordinator/National Music Director
Claudine Brown	National Victory Leaders Band Co-ordinator
Rikki Prince	National Youth Camp Co-ordinator
Jacqueline Davis	National Choir Director
Karen Richards	Assistant Editor of <i>The Chronicle</i>



From the Overseer's Desk

Since the last edition of *"The Chronicle"* a number of events have taken place. We give God thanks for His presence at each event which made them a blessing to all who attended.

Three nights of glorious refreshing were enjoyed at the Revival in Handsworth during 14th-16th April 2013. The theme *"The night is far spent, the day is at hand"* was very appropriate for the days in which we are living.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 17th May 2013 amid some lively discussion on areas of interest. The annual accounts were distributed to all in attendance to update us on the Church's financial position.

The National Ladies Retreat on 25th-26th May 2013 was a great success, by all accounts. The attendance was the best ever recorded and included three delegates from North Carolina in the USA. The sisters really enjoyed themselves and hope to return next year, God willing. Pastor Beverley Anderson is to be commended for putting an excellent programme together.

We had another well contested National Sunday School Challenge on Saturday 8th June 2013. The event was well moderated by Brother Ray Prince - our National Sunday School Co-ordinator.

We thank God for the two candidates - Sister Beverley Wilson and Brother James Mwila who were baptised in London on Sunday 16th June 2013.

On Saturday 22nd June, the Church at Long Lane held a Fund Raising Concert. The concert was ably moderated by Pastor Beverley Anderson and raised some valuable funds for the local church.

Please remember to pray for all the upcoming events on our church calendar that they too will be a blessing and bring glory to God.

Upcoming Events:

National Family Camp	-	29th to 31st July 2013
International Youth Camp	-	16th to 19th August 2013
General Assembly	-	20th to 25th August 2013



ABM BOOST

Wilhelmina Brown - National Assembly Band Movement Co-ordinator

The general Assembly Band Movement theme for the assembly year 2012-2013 is:

'Stablished, Strengthened, Settled'

(1 Peter 5:10)

Dear Saints in Christ, I greet you all in the spirit of love.

I want us to observe how quickly the days are passing by. We do not have long to tarry in this world. Let us keep in tune with the Word of God and remind ourselves that the work of the Lord must go on.

A song says *"hurry up, hurry up, no time to delay!"* Remember the general theme for the ABM this year is **"Stablished, Strengthened, Settled."** Let us remain fully rooted and grounded in serving God.

The fight is on so let us

"put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

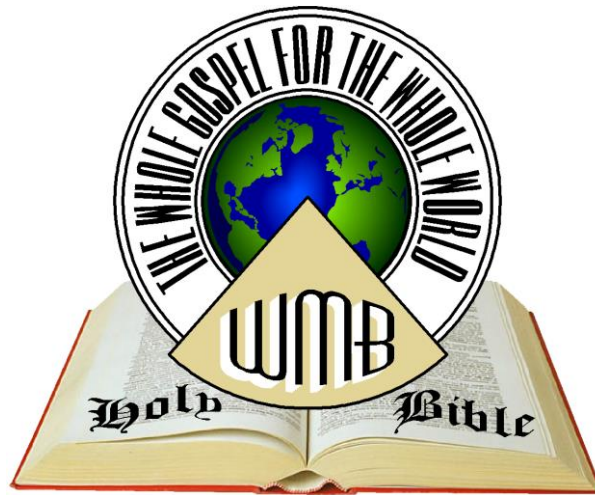
(Ephesians 6:11)

God is our mighty Captain and with Him on our side, we're bound to win.

May heaven's blessings continue to pour down upon us. Let us be at peace with ourselves and others.

Yours in the Master's service.





WMB BOOST

Beverley Anderson - National Women's Missionary Band Co-ordinator

The general Women's Missionary Band theme for the assembly year 2012-2013 is:

**'Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields;
for they are white already to harvest'**

(St. John 4:35)

**'LIFT UP YOUR EYES AND LOOK' *on the fields for they are white
already to harvest***

Jesus found it necessary to go through Samaria on His journey from Judea to Galilee. However, by the time He arrived in Samaria, the journey had left Him and His disciples tired and hungry. The disciples went off to get physical food but Jesus' necessity to go through Samaria was a spiritual one, a spiritual hunger. Some of us may be familiar with the account of Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well.

When the disciples returned with physical food, they prompted Jesus to eat. The Lord replied:
"...I have meat to eat that ye know not of." (St. John 4:32)

We can find it easy to be preoccupied with the needs of the moment (the physical needs), but in this statement Jesus invites us to get beyond our own needs/interests and open our eyes to the souls of men who are searching for answers to their deepest needs. Jesus **"...must needs go through Samaria"** (verse 4) because someone needed the spiritual food He had to give.

Although He had physical needs, the spiritual needs of a soul took precedence. It had become necessary to leave the literal food and pursue the spiritual meat. His meat was to finish the work His Father had sent Him to do.

As missionaries, we need to leave our physical food from time to time and hunger spiritually for souls:
"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (St. John 4:35)

Yes, we may be thinking there is time to look after my physical food (look after myself and my family) and we are consumed with this, but Jesus said **"...Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields,"** they are ripe now. Do not wait for the appointed time (set time that we choose). We need to be spontaneous; our meat is to do the will of Him who has called us now! It is time to give up some of the 'me time' for Christ.

National Ladies Retreat 2013

25th to 26th May 2013

Theme:

'Lift up your eyes and see the signs'



I thank God that He has enabled us to enjoy the blessings of yet another National Ladies Retreat. The Lord blessed us from start to finish. Many of us could feel the hush of the Holy Ghost as He soothed and healed our souls.

This year saw our largest delegation of 32 ladies. We were privileged to have 3 delegates from North Carolina - USA, workmates and friends of the Church. I am sure those who attended can join with me and say the sacrifice made was worth it.

The spiritual experiences reported were one soul was divinely healed during the retreat. Many souls were revived spiritually.

Pastor Beverley Anderson, National Ladies Retreat Co-ordinator - Reporter

Our National Ladies Retreat this year was a mighty blessing. Our three lovely sisters who visited with us from North Carolina, USA were an inspiration. We were so honoured to have them in our midst. To God be the glory.

Sister Wilhelmina Brown - Long Lane Church

What's happening in Long Lane Church?

On Sunday 9th June 2013, our local Sunday School department enjoyed an early morning breakfast before classes.

We all partook of some delicious food: ackee and salt fish, callaloo, cornmeal porridge and fried dumplings. This was washed down with fruit juice, tea and Jamaican drinking chocolate.

It was a great time of fellowship and a lovely way to enter into our morning worship. Everyone was catered for and there was even food that was left over.

Brother Rogier Wright - Reporter

Poetry Corner

Jesus is the same as of old
No sweeter story has ever been told
His life He gave
He conquered the grave
He lives in me
I know I'm saved.

Jesus, my wonderful Friend
His love for me has no end
When I'm in trouble
He's there on the double
On Him, I can depend.

He's coming back
Shout it loud and clear!
All the saints will meet Him in the air
The signs are fulfilling everywhere
Are you ready?
Are you prepared?



By Sister Wilhelmina Brown - 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 2013**. These submissions will be for the Jul-Sep 2013 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: kazgirl_uk@yahoo.com

Registered Charity No. 1132804

Registered Company No. 07015215