



The Chronicle

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There is Power in Praise

Philip C. Bennett

God inhabits praise. There have been many events in the Bible where God used men and angels but when it comes to praise, He comes down to get His praises and so Satan has to leave the vicinity.

We cannot trust and doubt at the same time. Doubt robs us of our faith. It is like a cancer that saps our strength. Without the shield of faith we will not have any defence against the attacks of the enemy. When this happens, we seem unable to withstand; anything and everything becomes a problem. Every little thing becomes a mountain and as God diminishes in our estimation, so the problem seems to get bigger and bigger.

As God's children, we need to ignore what our eyes are seeing and trust God. We need to ignore what our ears are hearing and trust God. We need to ignore what we are feeling and trust God.

The devil will use our senses against us, but we walk by faith and not by sight.

We need to trust God - even in the unknown, like an aircraft depends on its navigational system. The pilot is not always able to see the ground or where he is going, but he has faith in the navigational instruments.

The reason why sometimes we cannot seem to get the victory and live victoriously is simply because we will not praise God. We take our eyes off God and all we can see are the problems in our lives: *"And they journeyed from Mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. And the people spake against God, and against Moses, wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. And the Lord said unto Moses, make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall*

come to pass, that every one that is bitten when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived."
(Numbers 21:4-9)

Even after a way was made for their deliverance, many failed to look up and died after being bitten. The fiery serpents can be likened to our problems. The devil would like us to wallow in self-pity as it can be comforting to do so. Some people enjoy doing so as they feel that no one is paying them any attention. Until we learn to praise God, things will remain the same.

As we begin to praise God, the invisible shield of faith comes up to protect us against the darts of the enemy. As we are being shielded from these blows, we get stronger and stronger until praise becomes a way of life.

1983 was the year I have since labelled as my wilderness experience - something every true child of God will experience in their spiritual journey. The situation caused me to pray more than any other year in my Christian journey, yet the more I prayed the worse things seemed to get. I remember saying, "God if you deliver me now, I'll never doubt you again." To me I meant it, but God knew that things would come to once again cause me to doubt Him.

So despite all the praying, God had a purpose He had to fulfil in my life. The prayers were helpful and they kept me alive but God was not going to deliver me before the time, no matter how much I pleaded. **Sometimes we want to rush God but God will not be rushed.** God knows best and knew best. He wanted to teach me a lesson and even gave me a Scripture along the way to encourage me:

"(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."
(Romans 4:17-25)

The lesson God was trying to teach me was to praise Him in every situation, and when I learned to do that, deliverance came. **I had learnt my lesson.** God wants us to praise Him and He will do wonders for us. However, we do not praise Him just to be delivered. That is like blackmail and God will not respond to this. We must praise Him in spite of our problems, saying from our hearts: **"God if you choose to deliver me it is alright, but if you choose not to deliver me it is still alright. Your will be done."**

If we want to see God's glory we are going to have to praise Him as Paul and Silas did in Acts of the Apostles chapter 17; as Jehoshaphat did in 2 Chronicles chapter 20 and as Solomon did at the dedication of the temple in 2 Chronicles chapters 6 and 7.

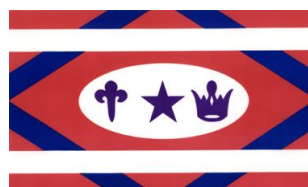
Yes, there is power in praise. 📖

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From the Overseer's Desk

It has been another busy few months since the last edition of *"The Chronicle."* We had a wonderful National Youth Convention in April which was excellently directed by Sister Claudine Brown, the National VLB Co-ordinator. Sister Claudine's message, along with other messages from the youth was a great inspiration to all in attendance.

In April and May we had soul stirring Revival meetings in Handsworth and Long Lane respectively where souls were saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost. Many more were encouraged and strengthened in their walk with the Lord. Brother Jason and Sister Brenda Prince were mightily used of the Lord.

By all accounts, the National Ladies Retreat in May 2014 was a great success and enjoyed by all in attendance. I keep threatening to sneak in one of these years wearing a dress and wig to get some of the blessings that you ladies are testifying about ☺.

The National Sunday School Challenge in June was again a great success and well presented by Brother Ray Prince, the National Sunday School Co-ordinator. It was a very competitive competition as usual, but we will be put out of our miseries at our National Convention.

Please remember to pray for our upcoming General Assembly in the USA in August. Our General Overseer has asked that every member of the church fast and pray for three days during week commencing 4th August 2014 and to make Sunday 10th August a special prayer day, with special times of prayer during both morning and evening services. Pray that God will lead and give directions to our General Overseer and other leaders in The Church of God.

Finally, Sister Victoria and I would like to thank you for all the prayers, help and gifts which were bestowed upon us and to God for giving us a beautiful day for our wedding. We were able to spend our honeymoon in the beautiful island of Saint Vincent where we met and worshipped with the wonderful saints there.

If I am reappointed as the Overseer of Saint Vincent, I will be planning to revisit during the early part of next year to hold an event. A few people have already told me that they would like to attend so if you feel the same way, start saving your pennies and the pounds will look after themselves.

Upcoming Events:

International Youth Camp – 15th to 18th August 2014
General Assembly – 19th to 24th August 2014



CPMA/BTI BOOST

Stuart Brown - National CPMA/BTI Co-ordinator

The general Church of Prophecy Marker Association theme for the assembly year 2013-2014 is:

'What is Truth?'

(St. John 18:38)

The general Bible Training Institute theme for the assembly year 2013-2014 is:

'Shew me, Lead me, and Teach me O LORD'

(cited from Psalm 25:4 and 5)

Greetings in the mighty name of Jesus from the CPMA and BTI departments. I thank the Lord for what He has been doing in my life personally and in The Church of God. I love to hear the testimonies and encouragements from my Christian siblings. These prove to me that God is working all over to strengthen, educate, establish and perfect us in these last days.

I would like to encourage us for a moment. It is not enough to be just a part of the Church - in that we attend regular services and our names are down on the church roll; or even that we are involved with church activities and are seen to be busy. While these things are good to a degree, we must discern the times in which we live with spiritual eyes and be in constant communion with the Holy Ghost. He will lead us into all truth (St. John 16:13).

Have you ever experienced a stray thought that crept in the mind that had to be immediately arrested, and sharply? Where do you think it came from? What would happen if you did not have the Lord to combat such a thought? This is how relentless the devil is and if we are not "two-edged" sharp, we will be overcome!

You will see in the denominational world, there is now a rapid surge in "Christians" going in the direction of union with other "Christians" via conferences, joint services, music concerts, and various events. While on the surface it seems like nothing more than a harmless coming together, have you noticed the main theme and the unity of purpose?

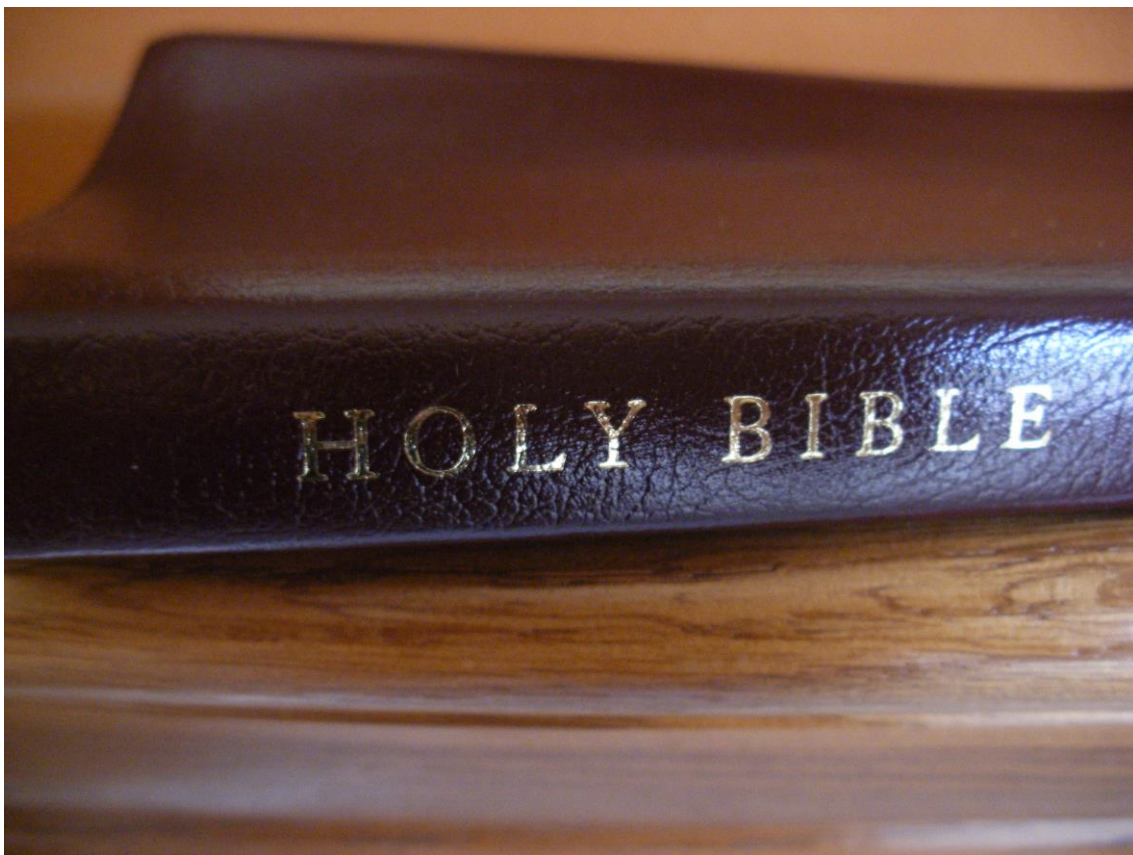
These events are underpinned with "lets leave the things that divide and separate us, lay down doctrine and ritual, forget the past, we are all the same and lets come together and worship!"

Consider this point - Satan has always been clever in making the things of God seem negative and twists the perception of the will of God (Genesis 3:1-5). We are in the time St. Matthew 24:11, St. Mark 13:6 and St. Luke 21:8 speak of and Satan is subtly and cunningly, leading people away in a melting pot of deception. Christ's true sheep will know the sound of His voice. They will love and obey the truth of His doctrine, and will not follow a "stranger's" voice (St. John 10:4-5).

If we do not follow the true Christ who is the Way and the Truth, then we will go the other way! The other way is set out in 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12! If we are not of the one (true) way, then we will be of the other (deceived). Stay awake, stay in truth Church of God!

BTI EASTER 2015

COME RAIN OR SHINE, BTI WILL BE ON NEXT EASTER BREAK!
COME AND BE EDIFIED, BUILT UP, EQUIPPED FOR LIVING
AND ESTABLISHED IN THE WORD!!



Please register your interest to local leaders and stuabrown@hotmail.co.uk

National Youth Convention 2014

This year's National Youth Convention took place on the 19th of April at our Long Lane Church. Among those in attendance were members from the previous organisation. The theme was "**Marching in Victory**".

We had a day filled with encouragements as some VLB's expanded on our theme and inspired us to continue "Marching in Victory" through their exhortations/sermonettes.

We were blessed by the special singing from the London and Druids Heath Gleaners. Some of our Druids Heath Gleaners were very eager to get on the microphones and boldly sing "*Everybody ought to know who Jesus is*".



Sister Kathleen Hamilton from Long Lane Church was also a blessing as she sang from the heart, "*I don't feel no ways tired*". A special time was dedicated to welcome gleaners into the VLB. Brother Corey Clarke from our London Church was our new graduate. Our VLB college/school graduates and those embarking into their careers were also acknowledged during this time.

Sister Claudine Brown, National VLB Co-ordinator, delivered an anointed message on spiritual paralysis. She encouraged the Convention delegates to continue moving forward for the Lord and not to be deterred by Satan and his sleight. This year's National Youth Convention came to a close with VLB's seeking the Lord at the altar for their needs. At the end of our Convention, three experiences were reported.

Lastly, it was such a blessing to see three of our young VLB's being trained as ushers by Brother Nigel Davis and team. Brother Chakiah Lambert, Brother Ethan Williams and Brother Corey Clarke did a fantastic job as trainee ushers. Surely, one day our efforts will be repaid by the Master if we continue in His ways. VLB's don't stop marching!

Sister Brenda Prince
Reporter

National Ladies Retreat 2014

Ladies, if you were not present at this year's Ladies Retreat in May, you certainly missed out! This year's theme was, "Faithful Stewards: the rewards of faithfulness."



The first presentation of the day was by Pastor Angela Clarke where she spoke of the dedication and faithfulness of Lydia. Although not much is mentioned of this lady in the Scriptures, we were all blessed when we looked in depth at her labour and compassion for the Church.

Sister Claudine Brown also delivered a wonderful presentation on Ruth. We were reminded to keep busy and faithful in our fields of labour while we wait on God's promises.

Throughout the retreat, we also honoured the faithfulness of present day sisters within the Church. Some of the sisters acknowledged were Evangelist Armena Taylor-Harrison, Pastor Frances Prince, Sister Jennifer Thompson, Sister Wilhelmina Brown and Sister Beverley Wilson. The late Pastor Lurline Harrison was also honoured as a faithful woman of the past for her devoted service to the Lord while she lived. During this time, Sister Jennifer also acknowledged Pastor Beverley Anderson for all the selfless hard work she does and has done in the past. Needless to say, there were lots of tears as we heard of the road some of the ladies among us are coming from.

Sunday was the last day of our retreat and it came with even more blessings. The presence of God moved as Evangelist Taylor-Harrison led us in a wonderful devotion. That same Spirit was present as Pastor Beverley Anderson delivered an awesome message entitled: "The Rewards of Faithfulness". Do not miss out on next year's ladies retreat. You will be blessed!!

Sister Brenda Prince
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 31st August 2014**. These submissions will be for the Jul-Sep 2014 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: kazgirl_uk@yahoo.com

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