



# The Chronicle

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## Continue Thou In The Things Which Thou Hast Learned

Philip C. Bennett

Most, if not all of us in our congregations were brought up in Christian homes and taught about God at an early age. We went to Sunday School where we learnt about the Bible and what it means to serve the Lord. As a young person growing up, I could tell when someone had backslidden by their conduct and appearance - but today, some Christians dress just like the world.

Many have allowed the iniquity that abounds to cause their love for Christ to wax cold and have forgotten much of what they had been taught in the past: *"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;"* (Hebrews 2:1-3)

We live in a society where some Christians are following the trends that are in the world, so that they can blend in and be more "relevant" - as they put it. But if there is no difference between us and the world, how can we win them?

Why would Christ call us out from the world if we are going to act and look like the world? We have been called out to be salt to the earth and light to the dark world of sin. Sad to say, but the only difference between some professing Christians and the people of the world is that they go to church on a Sunday and those who do not profess to be Christians don't: *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* (Romans 12:1-2)

People do not seem to know what sin is anymore. They go to church, but still mark the lottery. They go to church and still drink and smoke. They go to church but still watch inappropriate material on television and the internet, as well as listening to worldly music. They go to church but still have their boyfriend or girlfriend. They do all these things and more and still stand behind the pulpit and minister to God's people: *"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee."* (Titus 2:11-15)

The Pharisees boasted about their faithfulness, their knowledge of the Scriptures and said long prayers to be heard and seen of men. God is expecting more from us than others who just profess to be saved: *"For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."* (St. Matthew 5:20)

Paul wrote to Timothy, a young man to warn him about some of the end time signs. He encouraged Timothy to continue in the things that he had been taught from a child. Timothy grew up with his mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois, who taught him the way of the Lord from an early age:

*"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."* (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

Paul states in verse five that people would have a form of godliness. The word 'form' simply means "having the appearance of or resembling." Paul said that there would be no power behind their profession.

*"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."* (2 Timothy 3:14-17)

Some people will tell us that doctrine is divisive and that they only preach Christ and leave everyone to their own consciences. However, doctrine is very important: *"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine."*

*Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*"  
(1 Timothy 4:12-16)

Without doctrine, we will get to the place like Israel did when everyone did that which was right in their own sight. Before his departure from this world, Paul warned Timothy and the Church of the times to come and encouraged them to be steadfast in the faith: *"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica..."* (2 Timothy 4:1-10)

Demas was one of Paul's fellow labourers and had worked by his side for many years but he forsook Paul and the gospel because of his love for the world.

Let us not be conformed to this world but let us hold on to what we have been taught. This will save us and them that hear us. 📖

## **Thank You God**

The wonders of Your works never cease to amaze me  
God, Your mighty acts and power always surround me  
Nothing have I done to deserve Thee  
Happy am I that You really love me.

Open mine eyes spiritually so that I can see  
You clearly  
No more in darkness I will roam  
Give me faith to overcome all of my weakness.

God, thank You for the underserving grace  
You have given to me  
No one else has the power to save me  
In all my sorrows, in all my struggles  
Lift me high above them  
Then in heaven receive me.

Thank You God.

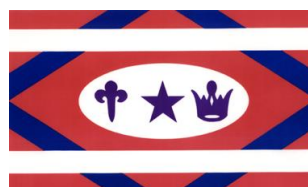
**Written and submitted by  
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<b>Philip C. Bennett</b>	National Overseer/Pastor, Long Lane
<b>Ray Prince</b>	Pastor, Druids Heath
<b>Beverley Anderson</b>	Pastor, Handsworth/National Women's Missionary Band/ National Ladies Retreat Co-ordinator
<b>Angela Clarke</b>	Pastor, London/National Treasurer/National Choir Director
<b>Wilhelmina Brown</b>	National Assembly Band Movement Co-ordinator
<b>Stuart Brown</b>	National Church of Prophecy Marker Association/ Bible Training Institute Co-ordinator
<b>James Mwila</b>	National Evangelism Co-ordinator
<b>Jennifer Thompson</b>	National Sunday School Co-ordinator
<b>Claudine Brown</b>	National Victory Leaders Band Co-ordinator/National Choir Director
<b>Rikki Prince</b>	National Family Camp Co-ordinator/National Music Director
<b>Justin Clarke</b>	National Men's Retreat Co-ordinator
<b>George Wilson</b>	National Family Camp Co-ordinator
<b>Beverley Wilson</b>	National Reporter
<b>Karen Richards</b>	Assistant Editor of <i>The Chronicle</i>



## From the Overseer's Desk

The last few months have been very busy, but we thank the Lord for some wonderful times of worship and fellowship. The Lord has been with us in every endeavour. The feedback and testimonies from all the events have been overwhelmingly positive.

We saw record attendances at our National Family Camp of 61 campers, 65 present at our Family Fun Day and 39 ladies attended our National Ladies Retreat.

Sister Victoria and I were privileged to travel to Saint Vincent in the Grenadines in May. Here, I conducted a National Convention with Bishop Robert J. Hawkins, Jnr. as our General Headquarters Representative. We had a glorious time.

We said goodbye to Brother Ray Prince and Sister Debra Browne as Trustees, but welcomed Brother James Mwila and Brother George Wilson as their replacements during our Annual General Meeting in March 2018.

Let us be in prayer for all our upcoming events that the Lord will pour out even greater blessings than we have experienced in the past:

*“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”*

(2 Chronicles 7:14)

I will be travelling to the USA for International Youth Camp (IYC) and the General Assembly on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018. I will return on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Please remember our General Overseer, Bishop Pimentel and the upcoming General Assembly in your prayers.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- |                                |   |  |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| International Youth Camp (IYC) | - | Friday 3rd to Monday 6th August 2018   |
| General Assembly               | - | Tuesday 7th to Sunday 12th August 2018 |
| District Meeting – Handsworth  | - | Wednesday 29th August 2018             |



EVANGELISM  
DEPARTMENT

## EVANGELISM BOOST

James Mwila - National Evangelism Co-ordinator

The general Evangelism theme for the assembly year 2017-2018 is:  
'Evangelism from the Inside Out'



*“Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
And renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from thy presence;  
And take not thy holy spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;  
And uphold me with thy free spirit.  
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways;  
And sinners shall be converted unto thee.”*  
(Psalm 51:10-13)

Greetings in the Wonderful and Mighty name of Jesus.  
I thank God for His goodness, grace, mercy and for making it possible that I could visit all the local churches

this year. I truly felt the love and support of the brethren during the visits and also enjoyed worshipping the Lord with you all.

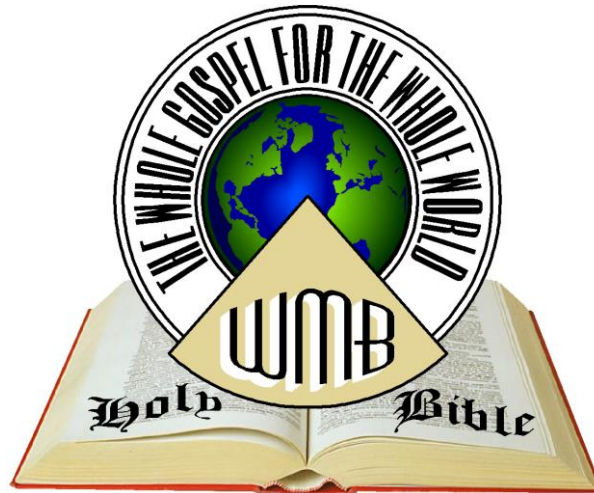
Handsworth Church had a REVIVAL for 3 days and I am glad that I was in attendance as the Lord ministered to us. It was lovely and wonderful to see brethren from other local churches in attendance, truly showing the *hunger and thirst* for His Word. It turned out to be more or less a national revival.

St. Matthew 5:6: ***“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”*** I was spiritually filled and I do believe you were filled also, as there was so much to take from the 3 days.

Let us continue in this manner, to continuously desire the Word of God. The fire during the revival was hot!! *‘O let the fire fall on me my Lord, let the fire fall on me; O let the fire from heaven fall on me, let the fire fall on me.’* Brethren, I pray that this fire did not remain at the revival or did not go out just a few days or weeks after. We need to keep the fire from heaven burning in our souls. We can do that through prayer and by desiring more of God and His ways.

David asked God for a clean heart and a right spirit. He recognised and acknowledged the need and so can we. Lord help us to recognise and acknowledge where we may be falling short and cleanse us from every sin. Let us desire to stay in God’s presence.

God bless you.



## WMB BOOST

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

The general Women's Missionary Band theme for the assembly year 2017-2018 is:  
**'Arise and go...the work is not yet finished'**  
(Song of Solomon 7:11)

ARISE & GO...



THE WORK IS NOT YET FINISHED

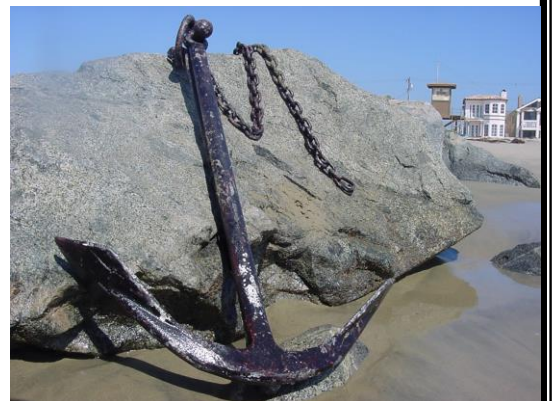
### **National Ladies Retreat 2018**

This year's National Ladies Retreat was held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at the Ramada Hotel in Solihull. The theme was **'Arise and Maintain a Sure Foundation.'** (Isaiah 28:16)

On Saturday morning, we opened the Retreat in prayer and were led into devotion by Sister Cynthia Opoku. Sister Cynthia made reference to the royal wedding taking place on the same day and said we are preparing ourselves for the Ultimate Royal Wedding when Jesus Christ will return for His Bride.

We were then greeted by our National WMB/Ladies Retreat Co-ordinator, Pastor Beverley Anderson, who welcomed the new ladies in attendance. Pastor Anderson led us in a wonderful group activity, based on the Church's Advice to Members. We were tasked to work together in groups and compete to see how much of the Advice we knew from memory. It was a good refresher.

Our second session was with Pastor Angela Clarke who gave a presentation on *'A Sure Foundation.'* We looked at the tale of two houses, one built on sand and the other upon a solid rock in St. Matthew 7:24-27; different builders in St. Luke 6:47-48 and Jesus being our Chief Cornerstone taken from Isaiah 28:16. We were encouraged to examine ourselves to see whether our spiritual houses needed repair, refurbishment or a makeover. We then had time to reflect and pray.





On Saturday afternoon, we were led into devotion by London Church - theme: *'Lifting Yourself Up'*. We read from St. John 8:1-11 and were reminded that it is okay to hit low points spiritually, as long as we get back up. At times, God just wants to show us something. He is not trying to condemn, but correct us.

A presentation followed by Sister Claudine Brown on *'Blooming in the Right Place'*.

We looked at types of plants and how they grew in different conditions. We explored the 'Tarshish Syndrome' and seeking the will of God over our own will. Scriptures were read relating to growing spiritually in different areas of our lives and examining what we are rooted in. Finally, we listed the gifts/talents/skills that God had given us and analysed whether we used them for the glory of God.

Sister Novlet Nugent led a workshop on issues pertaining to ladies, which was beneficial and brought awareness. It was good to share and delve into the Word. We were taught how these issues may impact us spiritually and to overcome them.

On Saturday evening, we were led into devotion by Druids Heath Church. We read from 2 Corinthians 13:5 and were encouraged to continually examine ourselves spiritually.

The next session was a workshop led by Sister Oneaka Prince about the Discrimination Act. We looked at the Equality Act 2010 and how it impacts us as Christians. We were encouraged to keep preaching the truth from the Bible, despite the persecution we may face. We were encouraged to be rooted in God's Holy Word and to uphold His standards.

On Sunday morning we were led into devotion by Handsworth Church who defined the words *'arise'* and *'maintain'*. We read from 2 Timothy 2:19 and 1 Corinthians 3:11, being reminded that Christ is our Foundation.

Pastor Anderson preached a sermon entitled *'A Sure Foundation - Seed of Promise'*. We looked at the story of Sarah and Hagar from Genesis and how Satan tried to abolish the Sure Foundation before He was born. She encouraged us to use this story to keep our faith in God and His promises and not to take matters into our own hands when it appears God is not working for us. The lineage of Ishmael was shown to be where Islam originated from. Jesus Christ is the Chief Cornerstone of The Church of God.

On Sunday afternoon, we shared testimonies and had time to greet each other before we headed home. Pastor Anderson organised and conducted an amazing National Ladies Retreat, full of food for thought and encouragements. On behalf of all the ladies, we thank God for her life and the work she does.

**Sister Rhiannon Harris - Reporter  
London Church**



# National Youth Convention 2018

## The Church of God, England

On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 members, family and friends gathered for the annual National Youth Convention. The theme “...grow up into him in all things...,” Ephesians 4:15 inspired those on programme to deliver God blessed songs, presentations, exhortations and sermonettes throughout the day.

Brother Rikki Prince preached the first sermonette, ‘*that we henceforth be no more children...*,’ (Ephesians 4:14). Brother Rikki told us ‘to man up’ as the Scripture tells us not to be ‘tossed to and fro’ and carried about with every wind of doctrine. He said the time of surface reading the Bible is no more. We need to study the Word in depth for our spiritual growth and maturity.

A presentation followed by Sister Rebekah Wilson, ‘*Spiritual lessons of a seed*’. We were reminded that seeds need water, soil, light/temperature and time to grow. We need the Word of God that contains spiritual nutrients to help us to grow in Him.

‘*Take root downward and bear fruit upward,*’ 2 Kings 19:30 was the second sermonette of the day preached by Brother Stuart Brown. His underlining message encouraged us to be rooted deep in Christ so that the fruit we produce will be holiness.

Sister Kathleen Hamilton’s sermonette was entitled ‘*...desire the sincere milk of the word,*’ 1 Peter 2:2. She said the Department of Health says that breast milk is best for babies and the benefits extended far beyond basic nutrition. However, for Christians daily reading and study of the Bible will provide more than our basic needs. God’s Word will edify, reprove, instruct and will never fail.

Sister Claudine Brown, the National VLB Co-ordinator delivered the theme message taken from Ephesians 4:11-15: ‘***Speaking the truth in love.***’ The Bible verse identifies the responsibilities of ministers in perfecting the saints, for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the Body of Christ. They must speak the truth in love, so that those in their charge may grow. Sister Claudine stated this is not just for the ministry - we all have a role and responsibility to speak the truth in love.

In this world of political correctness, it is hard to speak the truth at all. God’s Holy Word is the truth and at some point, we must speak it in love, regardless of the consequences.

**Sister Rhiannon Harris of London Church shared her testimony of National Youth Convention:**

*“National Youth Convention this year reminded me to reflect on how far I have come. It made me examine whether I am allowing myself to grow or stay in my comfort zone.*

*The theme for me confirmed that I need to be rooted and grounded in Christ and Christ alone at all times. Also, that I must ensure that I am being watered daily through study and prayer, so that I can grow spiritually.*

*I should not be afraid of new seasons and the unknown because that is where the growth happens, not where I am most comfortable. I have found also that it is okay to out-grow things or people. We cannot always stay the same or remain in the same place.”*

**Sister Beverley Wilson - London Church  
National Reporter**

# National Family Camp – April 2018

Greetings brethren in the mighty name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. This year's National Family Camp was once again a blessing to all who attended. It was held at Whitemoor Lakes Activity and Conference Centre in Lichfield, Staffordshire. The theme taken from Ephesians 4:13:

*"...the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"* helped us to focus and explore how we measure up as Christians to God's standard.

We studied the tools we can use to help us grow in Christ as individuals and in His Church. Some activities centred on accurate measuring were met with wonderful enthusiasm and commitment by all.

## Bookmark Creators



## Bag Creators



Devotions and group discussions were held, sharing and encouraging each other every morning.

And of course, it's not Camp unless we have that workout session from Brother Rikki. There was also time to get a little action on the lake outdoors in our canoeing activity.

First time camper, Sister Novlet Nugent of Long Lane Church testifies of her time at National Family Camp:



### **My first experience at National Family Camp**

*"I praise the Lord that Camp exceeded all of my expectations. It was not only my first time at Camp, but also the first time spent away with brethren. Four whole days - I could hardly conceal my excitement.*

*Fellowship throughout Camp played an intricate part, and it was well received. Whilst I was excited to spend time with brethren, I still wanted and needed to be fed spiritually. Early morning devotions allowed me to stay focused on Christ, and remember how fortunate I was to have this time with brethren - who like myself, just desired to serve our Lord. The time spent with two of our mothers of the Church - Sister Elouise Whitter and Sister Wilhelmina Brown was so precious. I was blessed, sharing about life before and now with Christ. Just thinking about it fills my very soul with tears of love and how good God is.*

*Brother James Mwila, from Long Lane Church gave a presentation on "Measuring up", which went well with the Camp theme which was "Measuring up to What God Requires". I know for myself it left an indelible mark on my life as a Christian woman, a baby in Christ.*

*It is also important for me to acknowledge my Camp leaders, Brother Rikki Prince and Brother George Wilson. They executed each and every section of Camp with sheer diligence. They articulated and delivered both physical activities and group fellowship with precision. These brothers are a team well formed by the grace of God. They selflessly worked and carried out what the Lord had tasked them with throughout Camp. God bless them both!*

*I have taken away from Camp three invaluable lessons:*

- 1. I will endeavour to 'measure twice and cut once', a phrase shared by Brother James.*
- 2. Good communication skills: my Camp leaders without realising displayed this quality. It proves how much we can achieve when we work together, with the Lord as our first point of reference.*
- 3. The importance of having a shared love of the Lord, with those of the same mind set.*

*I thank the Lord for all that He is doing for us in The Church of God."*

**Brother Rikki Prince and Brother George Wilson**  
**National Family Camp Co-ordinators**

# District Meeting

The Church of God in England held their second District Meeting for this Assembly year on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at the Calvary Church of God in Christ, Moseley. This was moderated by Pastor Ray Prince from Druids Heath Church.

The theme of the meeting was *'Make a joyful noise unto the Lord'*. Sister Oneaka Prince led us into our devotion by reading Psalm 100, and the congregation worshipped in singing. Brother Nigel Davis led the testimony service and reminded us of God's marvellous blessings.

The night's message, *'Make a joyful noise unto the Lord'* was delivered by Pastor Jacqueline Davis from St. Vincent. She encouraged the brethren to know God for themselves and to enter into His gates with thanksgiving. Pastor Davis stated, we should not be silent, but we should continue to serve the Lord with gladness. In closing, the brothers prayed for our young men and single parents, considering the recent stabbings that have occurred in England.



The brethren not only entered His gates with thanksgiving, they left His gates with joy in their hearts as they greeted one another in love.



We had a wonderful time of worship.

**Sister Beverley Wilson - London Church  
National Reporter**

# What's happening in Long Lane Church?

This quarter has seen the Church at Long Lane appreciate our mothers, give thanksgiving and praise to our Lord, improve our creative and sewing skills, study and so much more. It has been a packed quarter.

We were able to appreciate our mothers during our Mothering Sunday service. This year our mothers were treated to a nice rest so they could take it all in. Our mothers were spoilt with an inspiring poem, some special singing and an encouraging message from Sister Kathleen Hamilton. This was closed with a little keep sake for our mothers to remember that we love them dearly.

This year our Easter services were the start of a lovely fellowship with all the brethren. We started with service on Good Friday. This was followed with National Youth Convention on Saturday. Sunday saw us give God the glory during our Easter Sunday service and then we rolled on into National Family Camp 2018 from Easter Monday right up to Thursday. It was all a blessing.

Our members and visitors creativity and sewing skills blossomed and shone in Dorcas Club. This time we made some lovely material shopping bags. There were experts and novices working together at the sewing machine and some serious concentration skills being exercised. We had a good time.

During this quarter's Evangelism service, we looked through some of The Church of God tracts. Brother Stuart Brown encouraged us to get familiar with our tracts so that we know what we are handing out to others and that we can answer questions if we are asked about them. In small groups we look at several tracts, discussed the contents, the look, what questions could be asked and also who the tract would be ideal for. We then shared our findings with the remainder of the Church. This activity has helped us not to become complacent but to continue studying and seeking God.

**Sister Antonette Mwila - Reporter**  
**Long Lane Church**

# “He Multiplieth Words without Knowledge”

With whatever respect may be due those who presume to speak, as if they knew, about matters they have no knowledge about, may I offer a little advice? This thought was brought to my mind by the ill-advised declaration that the “old school is closed.” (Yes, I know that I mentioned this before.) Of course, it isn’t true, though it is a visionary hope for some.

I have reasoned that there is the possibility that those who say this, and other such things, may actually be “good people,” but without knowledge of the subject matter. I am sure they would not mind to be classified with the patriarch Job. God Himself said of him, “...There is none like him in the earth, a perfect man, and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil.” (Job 1:8)

But during the severe testing which God permitted Satan to put him through, Job’s “three friends” provoked him to say things he came to regret. Elihu was moved to show him his problem: “Therefore doth Job open his mouth in vain; he multiplieth words without knowledge.” (Job 25:16) Plainly speaking, he said a lot concerning things he knew nothing about.

Not too many of the present generation know anything at all about how it was, and what really happened, even 50 and 60 years ago, and certainly not 90 years ago. Their “multiplied words” show proof of that fact, regardless of how upright and perfect they may be in their own generation. My “counsel” (though unasked for) would be to read a wise man’s words from Ecclesiastes 5:1-2 and relate it to our subject, then be admonished by it. “Keep thy foot (watch your step) when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything (speaking before thinking) before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth (His footstool): therefore let thy words be few.”

An old song says, “I was there when it happened, and I guess I ought to know.” There are still a few around who were members of the Church in the 1920’s, the 1930’s, and the 1940’s...and upward. WE WERE THERE, and we were active in the work being accomplished by the Church; so WE KNOW. And we would prefer that our caskets be closed before our “old school” is pronounced closed!

We didn’t just “hold services,” we had meetings that were filled with the power of God! Many of us members had come out of denominationalism, and there was not the slightest inclination to return to that system...as there seems to be at this time!

Revivals lasted from two to six weeks. In fact, every service was a potential revival service. The preaching was powerful and the Holy Ghost-anointed, though perhaps not always “grammatically correct” or “tactfully presented.” The main idea was to see souls saved, sanctified, baptized with the Holy Ghost, and added to the Church. Holy Ghost conviction would “sweep over the congregation” and sinners couldn’t hide it. If they didn’t want it, they might “break for the door.” More often they would “break for the altar,” many times falling in the aisles before they got there!

We didn’t have to use bribes, gadgets, gimmicks, or entertainment to get people to come. The power of God drew them and held them. The “choir” was voluntary...whosoever will! It didn’t matter all that much if some couldn’t “carry a tune,” for they would soon be dancing in the Spirit and falling under the power of God! And that “old school” preacher didn’t say, “Praise God for this wonderful outpouring. Let’s be dismissed.” NO! He “didn’t know any more than to preach after the shower! “The best was yet to come!”

The pastors didn’t ask about the tithes, the rent and utilities allotment, or if there was a parsonage, before accepting the pastorate. The congregation might have been doing well even to have a “church house”...even a rented “store front”...no Sunday School rooms, nurseries, kitchens, dining rooms, or “mini-auditoriums.” The pastors often had to support themselves and their families, as well as the churches they pastored. They often worked at secular jobs, doing their visitation and other pastoral responsibilities early in the mornings or until late at night.

As a rule, there were two mid-week services besides home prayer meeting. It was “nothing thought of” for the pastor to have to prepare four sermons or more per week. He “lived preach,” “walked preach,” and was always “full of preach”! The fruitful results spoke for themselves.

Those were also the days of persecution...name-calling, threatenings, buildings damaged or burned, rotten eggs or tomatoes thrown at or into the building during services...and more. Holiness and Holy Ghost manifestations were said to be “of the devil.” Today it is different; BUT WE WERE THERE.

Pardon a personal reference...but there was a time when our old car was “jacked up” in the backyard, the tires removed and stored, because we had no money for the “tags” or gas. We walked all over town to do our visitation, and as much as two miles to the services four times a week in extreme heat or cold! We ate what we could raise in a garden plot, and the poundings which our members gave us; but many of them were on relief or on WPA jobs (during World War II), so they did what they could. And we learned to TRUST GOD!

WE WERE THERE in the Assemblies when every doctrine was preached out and officially accepted; when the auxiliaries, one by one, were officially instituted; when the Church Flag was presented, officially accepted, and dedicated by the Holy Ghost. WE WERE THERE, and we are witnesses to the Spirit’s unction in the overall theocratic process. And we are not so naïve that we would say there were no exceptions. The same devil that is loose today was fighting us “tooth and toenail” then. But overall, it was an overwhelmingly glorious time! Hallelujah!

All of the above is only a small part of the story. Years and years of labor and sacrifice are on the record on high. Many of the “flourishing” (?) churches we have today began as I have described. They are “unheralded monuments” to the years of “sweat, tears, and sacrifice” of ministers and members who unreservedly gave of themselves, never dreaming that conditions would ever be any different; that those churches would later build beautiful, well-furnished edifices with carpeted floors, padded pews, pianos, organs, bands, orchestras, busses etc.

Whether the modern congregations ever think of it or not, they have been privileged to build on the solid foundation that was laid for them by the “old school” folks. Few of them were even born when that foundation was being “poured” and laid. They may not even have read the history of those days; or, having read it, passed it off as “crude,” “uncouth,” or “unlearned.” Whatever it may seem to them, they “(understand) neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.” (I Timothy 1:7) But WE WERE THERE!

Again, I would counsel this generation...and possibly the one before them...not to “multiply words without knowledge.” I would suggest also that they follow Job’s upright and perfect example in confession and repentance: “Then Job answered the Lord, and said...Who is he (speaking of himself) that hideth counsel without knowledge? Therefore have I uttered that (which) I understood not...I have heard of Thee by the hearing of my ear; but now mine eye seeth Thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” (Job 42:1,3,5,6)

Though it is true that not all ministers and members in those years were blessed...(or cursed, as the case may be!) with “higher learning,” it may be a surprise to hear that many had an above-average education for their day and time. The “inside story” was that they were God called, and through a genuine Bible sanctification had been stripped of carnal pride and egotism. The varying levels of education fostered no discrimination. They all looked to the same Source for their anointing. Those of a bit “higher degree” humbled down before that Source for their anointing, and those of “lower degree” looked up to Him.

We who are left of those earlier generations rejoice to see better facilities available to the churches today, and the fact that an affluent era has paved an easier road in many respects. We enjoy sharing these good things with our younger brethren and sisters. But sometimes we are grief-stricken when we behold “the curse of progress” because of the arrogant attitude which often accompanies it.

CONSIDER THIS: Forty, fifty, or sixty years from now...if the Lord tarries...another generation may be labelling the 1990’s as an “old school” which operated on “artifacts”!!! 📖

**Sermon by Bishop R O Covey, published in The Evening Light of March 1993, Vol. 1 No. 6.**

**Submitted by Sister Karen Richards - Druids Heath Church**

# Children's Corner

## Kids Bible Wordsearch

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Men of the Old Testament  
Puzzle #6

AARON  
ABEL  
ABRAHAM  
ADAM  
AMOS  
CAIN  
DANIEL  
DAVID  
ELIJAH  
EZEKIEL  
GIDEON  
GOLIATH  
ISAAC  
JACOB

A	E	D	I	V	A	D	O	T	J	L	J	M
M	A	L	R	R	J	P	O	B	A	E	O	Z
O	L	W	I	O	G	L	W	N	C	I	N	N
S	D	E	S	J	E	O	O	B	O	K	A	O
W	A	E	U	I	A	M	L	I	B	E	T	E
Q	P	U	N	M	O	H	Q	I	H	Z	H	D
H	P	A	L	L	A	I	I	R	A	E	A	I
Q	D	J	O	B	S	S	K	N	O	T	N	G
N	O	S	M	A	S	S	I	L	N	H	H	X
A	B	R	A	H	A	M	E	L	N	C	C	I
G	U	C	A	A	R	O	N	S	E	I	G	Q
A	U	H	S	O	J	Y	Q	G	O	B	A	Z
E	M	A	D	A	J	O	N	A	H	M	A	C

JOB  
JOEL  
JONAH  
JONATHAN  
JOSEPH  
JOSHUA  
LOT  
MOSES  
NIMROD  
NOAH  
SAMSON  
SAMUEL  
SAUL  
SOLOMON



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### Special Note:

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