



The Chronicle

A Publication of The Church of God (England)

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I Must Work The Works Of Him That Sent Me While It Is Day

Philip C. Bennett

This statement from St. John 9:4 was made by Jesus in response to a question from the disciples regarding the man born blind. They wanted to know if sin was the cause of his blindness and if so, who did sin - the man or his parents: *"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."*

(St. Matthew 9:35-38)

Some members have been in the Church for years and are just sitting idly and warming the chairs. They have never aspired to any spiritual heights or left their comfort zones. One cannot have any meaningful spiritual conversation with them for they are surface Christians, having no depth.

These individuals are easily shaken and deceived by every wind of doctrine. They sway which ever direction the wind blows. They have no strength to fight or endure. Such Christians cannot be effective in the work of God: *"If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?"* (Jeremiah 12:5)

We need to be grounded and established in the truth. In times like these we need a Saviour, in times like these we need the Bible, in times like these we need an anchor (cited from 'In times like these' by Ruth C. Jones). The only sure and unmoveable anchor is Jesus and the Word of God. Some people do not want to know about doctrine. They are content to be ignorant and just come to church to 'worship', but 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)

If we fail to take heed to the Word of God, as sure as night follows day it will catch up with us. If we fail to prepare ourselves we cannot be used by God.

The theme for last year's Family Camp was, 'Making God's Cut' and much was said about Gideon's army. He started off with 32,000 men but in the end the battle was won with 300 men. These 300 represented those who fitted God's criteria.

We live in a world that is filled with darkness and getting darker every day. We have to be light in this dark world. Jesus said of the Church; she is a city set on a hill that cannot be hid.

To do the work of God is more than lip service; we must have the goods. We need the power of God to be effective in His work. Paul gives us a good description of many latter day Christians in 2 Timothy 3:5 "*having a form of godliness, but denying the power...*" The word 'form' is the appearance of something but not the real thing. We need the real Holy Ghost power to go forth into the enemy's territory and come out unscathed. The words from a song by Leila N. Morris states:

They who know the Saviour shall in Him be strong.

Mighty in the conflict of the right 'gainst wrong:

This the blessed promise given in God's Word.

Doing wondrous exploits, they who know the Lord.

*In the midst of battle be thou not dismayed,
Tho' the power of darkness 'gainst thee are arrayed*

God thy strength is with thee, causing thee to stand,

Heaven's allied army waits at thy command.

Brave to bear life's testing, strong the foe to meet,

Walking like a hero midst the furnace heat,

Doing wondrous exploits with the Spirit's sword,

Winning souls for Jesus, praise, O praise the Lord.

*Victory, victory, blessed blood bought victory,
Victory, victory, victory all the time,*

*As Jehovah liveth, strength divine He giveth
Unto those who know Him, victory all the time.*

The devil and his demons should fear when a true child of God enters their territory, because they know they have a fight on their hands. The Bible tells us about certain professing Christians who only had a form of godliness but no power: "*Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?*"

And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.” (Acts 19:13-20)

Everywhere the early Church went they caused a stir. The devil and his demons could not rest peacefully as revivals broke out in different areas: *“But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have*

turned the world upside down are come hither also.” (Acts 17:5-6)

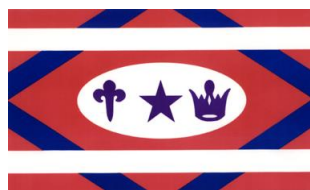
Paul and Silas went to Macedonia in obedience to the call of God through a vision. Due to their obedience, Lydia became the first convert in Europe and a demon possessed girl was delivered. The devil was not happy and stirred up people to throw Paul and Silas in prison but God delivered them. Finally, the very jailer and his family were saved.

We also read in the book of Acts where Peter was sent to take the message to the Gentiles after a vision from God. Cornelius and his family were saved and baptised with the Holy Ghost.

On and on and on we read of the exploits of the early Church. Have we become too comfortable? In fact could it be the case that many members have fallen asleep? Church, it is time for us to wake up and go forward for the night cometh when no man can work (cited from St. John 9:4).📖

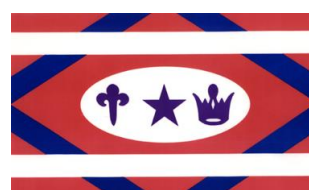


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From the Overseer's Desk

"My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away. For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land. The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away."

(Song of Solomon 2:10-13)

Just as Jesus called His Bride, the Church to arise after a relatively inactive spell, it is time for The Church of God in England to arise as we leave Winter behind us and move towards Springtime and warmer weather.

We have a busy year ahead of us and are expecting great blessings from God. Let us all seek Him diligently and ask Him to anoint us and all our activities because as Jesus said "...for without me ye can do nothing." (St. John 15:5)

Upcoming Events:

Good Friday Service (Long Lane Church) - **6th April 2012**

National Youth Convention - **21st April 2012**

Annual General Meeting - **11th May 2012**

National Ladies Retreat - **2nd to 3rd June 2012**

National Sunday School Challenge Day - **9th June 2012**

National Convention - **13th to 15th July 2012**

National Family Camp - **23rd to 26th 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.



ABM BOOST

Wilhelmina Brown - National Assembly Band Movement Co-ordinator

The general Assembly Band Movement theme for the assembly year 2011-2012 is:

‘One Goal’

(St. Luke 12:32)

As we continue with our general ABM theme ‘One Goal’, I want to encourage all Band Leaders to hold the fort, stand firm in your duties and strive to reach your goal in God. It is only then we will receive our eternal reward.

Lately, there has been a voice saying to me: “the Holy Ghost is in charge.” We must get out of His way so He can do His work in The Church of God.

The Band Leader (under-shepherd) who is placed over each band should be a Spirit-filled individual who is well established in the Church teachings, Advice to Members, as well as the overall work of the ministry.

Exodus 18:21 states:

“Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.”

Saints, we are not here to please ourselves or any man. The Apostle Paul in Colossians 3:23 declares: *“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.”*

It came to my mind to visit band prayer meetings whenever possible. As the song says:

*“I will do what I can for my Lord
I will do what I can for my Lord
I will do what I can till I can’t do no more
I will do what I can for my Lord.”*

May the abiding grace of God be with us all.



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)

Counter-Strike!

Greetings to you from the C.P.M.A. and B.T.I. departments in the mighty name of Jesus. I continually thank the Lord for His love, grace and mercy to us and for The Church of God.

Jesus's return for His Bride is even at the door and He is working to perfect those who mean business. Satan is also working frantically to prevent the programme of God from advancing forward. The hater of men's soul is in direct opposition to the Lover of our soul (Jesus). We must ensure that we are ALWAYS true to the Word of God.

As the Church we are told that we are "...the body of Christ, and members in particular." (1 Corinthians 12:27) In verse 25 of this same chapter, we are taught:

"...that there should be no schism in the body..."

There is to be no words or behaviour that causes any breach of peace, division or discouragement within the membership of the Church. Keeping the theme for the C.P.M.A. in mind, anything that we do that steers us away from this unity is contrary to the will of God.

Satan is working to entice us to fall into wrongful behaviour and attitudes so that we become divided and ineffective. Let us fight back with the Word of God and "...resist the devil..." (James 4:7) The enemy of the Church is making an onslaught against us and we need to follow the Lord's command and strike back. With what? Well choose one of the following scriptures: St. John 15:12, 1 Thessalonians 4:9, 1 Peter 1:22, 1 John 4:7-12, and many more. I can just see the enemy losing ground and weakening as we fight back by being doers of these scriptures.

This brings us nicely to the B.T.I. boost! Our highest priority as children of God is to love Him. Jesus set the marker for this quite simply by stating:

" if ye love me, keep my commandments."

(St. John 14:15) We must be obedient and follow His direction only.

In Numbers 20:8 the Lord told Moses to "...speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water..." This was a clear and direct instruction from God to meet the need of the thirsty congregation. Moses disobeyed God's will. Instead, he "...smote (to strike with force) the rock twice..." (verse 11) God was not pleased and as a result He forbade Moses from entering into the Promised Land. Did it matter that the people gathered themselves against Moses? Was it ok for Moses to act out of frustration and disobey God due to the "...rebels..." (verse 10) quarrelling and blaming him for their thirst? NO! It does not matter what we are faced with or who may contend or confront us. It is paramount that we do what the Lord in His Word, through theocracy and in the Church tells us to do! We do not want to make it this close to eternal rest, only to miss out because we fail to do God's perfect will.



My encouragement to you all when the devil uses his tactics and fires at us is to strike back. We must make the conscious effort to fight HIM every hour of every day!

**LET THE CHURCH BE
A STRONG COUNTER
ATTACK TO SATAN'S
KINGDOM!**

God bless you.



EVANGELISM BOOST

Jason Prince - National Evangelism Co-ordinator

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

'Holy Ghost Revival'

AND GOD SAID "LET THERE BE LIGHT!"

The Bible says in Genesis 1:2: "...the earth was without form, and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep." Here is a definition of what the word 'sun' means: A star that is the basis of the solar system and that sustains life on Earth, being the source of heat and light (www.thefreedictionary.com/sun). In the beginning, I imagine the world was cold and very, very dark. Then God said "**LET THERE BE LIGHT**" and there was light." (Genesis 1:3) God is the only One who could have done this.

Let us think about a soul that does not know of the love of God in sending His Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins. Let us think about our souls and where we were before we accepted Christ into our lives - the moment just before God said to our hearts and souls "**LET THERE BE LIGHT!**"

1 Peter 2:9 says:

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

God has called us out of that darkness where there was no form, void, and coldness, into His marvellous light. For this to happen, God had to send His Son Jesus Christ to die for mankind.

Going back to our definition of the sun 'it is the basis of the solar system that sustains life on EARTH!' Jesus Christ is just the same and more. Through Him our lives are sustained. Without Him we would be spiritually and even physically dead. He gives us warmth and He sheds light onto our path. We now should be able to see ourselves in this new light that He has given us in our hearts.

What about the soul that has no experience of this Light? There is still no form, void and coldness in that soul. How will they know that Jesus is the Light of the world as He declares in St. John 8:12 unless we tell them? How will they know unless WE live uprightly and walk in the Light so that God can receive the GLORY? We have a duty to TELL others about salvation, but we first must LIVE a consecrated life. By OUR fruits they will know us (cited from St. Matthew 7:16).

2 Corinthians 4:4: *"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."*

St. John 6:44: *"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him..."*

From reading these scriptures we see that as it was in the beginning, it is God that has the power to shed the light that souls need into their hearts. It can only be given (revealed in a man's heart) by God. Those souls that do not believe are blind. Only God has the power to open their eyes.

We do not have the power to save, but we can tell others about the love of God *"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."* (1 Corinthians 3:6) We can also share our testimonies. Salvation came to many people in the Bible by hearing about the mighty acts and miracles that God performed.



We must battle through the fear that the enemy tries to bring when we witness to a soul about God. Let us NOT listen to what the enemy has to say to us after we have finished talking to a soul about receiving salvation. The Captain of the Ship has left us the commission to *"Go ye therefore..."* (St. Matthew 28:19). He also comforted us in the same chapter by saying:

"...I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world..."
Let us keep Jesus' commandments and LIVE according to His Word.

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 2011-2012 is:

'Walk in the light'

(1 John 1:7)

*"When I think of the goodness of Jesus
And what He has done for me
My soul cries out hallelujah
Thank God for saving me."*

This chorus has been a wonderful blessing to me of late. Truly, when I think of God's goodness, He deserves the highest praise. The more I reflect on my life is the more I see how God really loves and cares for me. This divine providence extends not to me alone. We all should be able to relate to this chorus. King David understood God's goodness and was committed to serving Him. Psalm 57:7 states:

*"My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed:
I will sing and give praise."*

I encourage and remind us to remember God's goodness and to sing, give praise and live holy lives for Him.

Diary Date:

National Sunday School Challenge

Saturday 9th June 2012 at 6:00 pm

Venue to be announced

Treasures of Truth literature to study:

"Witnesses unto a good report through faith" - October-December 2011

"The cup of suffering and the crown of glory" - January-March 2012

"Fundamental truths from God's Word" - April-June 2012

UNMOVABLE UNSHAKABLE

National Youth Convention (England)

Saturday 21st April 2012

Venue:

The Church of God

Long Lane

Halesowen

West Midlands

B62 9LL

9:45 am start

**THE CHURCH OF GOD
VICTORY LEADERS BAND 2011-2012**

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

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