



The Chronicle

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Stay On Board

Philip C. Bennett

Our recent Sunday School lessons mentioned a lot about types and shadows. We know that the ark was a type of the last days Church of God.

“And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.” (Genesis 6:5-9)

God gave Noah the ark’s dimensions (length, height, breadth, one door and one window). For 120 years, Noah built the ark and preached about the impending judgement to come. The people mocked him and paid no attention but every blow of the hammer was a message and a warning. Only when the ark was completed did God give Noah further instructions:

“And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female. Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth. For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth. And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him.” (Genesis 7:1-5)

The Spirit of God moved upon the animals and they made their way into the ark. Noah did not have to go out and lasso them. What a sight it must have been to see all these creatures making their way into the ark, yet this sight did not move the people. They had become so hardened in their sins to the point of being defiant to God.

Then in Genesis 7:16 the Bible says: *“...and the LORD shut him in.”*

The ark was not the most comfortable of accommodations but it was a place of safety. Imagine the scenario:

- For forty days and nights there was the incessant sound of rain on the ark.
- As the ark rose, imagine the constant pitching and tossing on the waves.
- According to my calculation they were in the ark for some 385 days altogether.
- If any of them were claustrophobic, they had to just endure it.
- I'm sure sometimes they annoyed one another (Whose turn is it to feed the elephants today?)
- Can you imagine the noise and the stench of the animals?

Where else could they go though? The ark was the only place of safety so they had to stay on board.

Coming down to our days, the Church is the only place of safety. Sometimes there is conflict within the Church and because we are not robots we do not always see eye to eye. We have to learn to resolve our differences, live together and stay on board. Jesus spoke about the days of Noah and said: *"But as the days of No'e were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that No'e entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."*

(St. Matthew 24:37-39)

In recent years, the world has taken some big steps in unrighteousness: for example, abortion, homosexuality and euthanasia. In places like Belgium and Holland, not only is euthanasia (mercy killing) legal, children are being given the right to choose to end their lives when they desire. In the UK and many other nations, laws have been passed to allow same sex marriages and change the definition of marriage as a union between a man and a woman - despite huge opposition from the population.

In the months following the passing of this law in the UK, I've never seen so much storms and rainfall. This winter has been the wettest since records began. One UKIP politician drew attention to this and said it was the wrath of God. Since then, so much ridicule and aggression has been levelled at him and towards Christianity in general. As I read some of the comments on the internet, I could not help but think this was exactly the type of ridicule that Noah experienced.

In the book of Acts we read where the Apostle Paul was on his journey to Rome to appear before Caesar. Paul warned the sailors against the journey but they continued anyway. It was not long after that they found themselves in a great storm with their very lives in jeopardy: *"And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away. But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me."* (Acts 27:20-25)

Sometimes we get ourselves into trouble because we refuse to listen to the wise counsel given to us. God will send someone to warn us or instruct us but we need to be able to recognise the voice of God. God can use anyone or anything to instruct us. He used a dumb donkey to give a message to Balaam the disobedient prophet.

God could talk to Paul because they had a relationship with each other which had been built over many years:

"Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day. And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship, Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved. Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off." (Acts 27:29-32)

As these sailors cut the life boat loose, so we have to commit ourselves to God and get rid of all our contingency plans: *"And while the day was coming on, Paul besought them all to take meat, saying, This day is the fourteenth day that ye have tarried and continued fasting, having taken nothing. Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you. And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat. Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat."* (Acts 27:33-36)

When some people are in trouble spiritually or otherwise they lose their appetite and start to fret. Ultimately, that can affect their health - spiritually or otherwise. Leaders have to be there to lead by example. Paul did not just talk, he acted. He took the meat and ate it before them all. When they saw that he ate with confidence, they also took some meat and ate with confidence. Leaders have to be like the food tasters of the olden days that were responsible for tasting any food before the king or queen sat down to eat. If it was poisoned, they would be the first one to die. **Leaders - we must eat what we preach.** All the sailors on board were saved because they obeyed Paul and stayed in the ship.

The Church is like a bus with people getting on and off, but the bus keeps going on. It does not stop when a **prominent passenger** gets off. The Church is bigger than any individual or group of people.

When the bus gets to its final destination, not many of the passengers who started the journey will have journeyed to the very end. The same will be the case with The Church of God. Not many of the members who started the journey will be there at the end: *"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."* (St. Matthew 24:13)

The Church is going on to perfection.
STAY ON BOARD. 📖

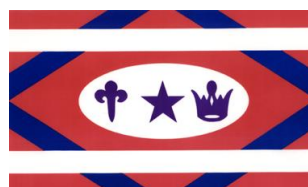


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From the Overseer's Desk

By all accounts the National Family Camp in February 2014 was a great success and enjoyed by all in attendance. The campers were not put off with Camp taking place during the winter months. Plans are already in place to return, at the same time of the year in 2015.

As you can see from the list of activities below, there are a number of events scheduled for the coming months. Let us pray and ask God's blessings upon each event. Let us stay busy for God and His Church, being assured that He will reward us for our labour when He returns:

"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money."

(St. Matthew 25:14-18)

We know the account that the servants who received five and two talents respectively both traded on what they had and increased their talents. On the other hand, the servant who only received one talent went and hid it and so had no increase to give to his master. The result being that the one talent that he had was taken away from him and given to the servant that had ten talents. The Bible tells us that was not all. He lost his privileged position and was cast out into outer darkness forever.

There is an old Sunday School song which states: *"If you have a talent use it for the Lord. If you do not use it, you will surely lose it. If you have a talent use it for the Lord."*

Upcoming Events:

- Long Lane Revival - 4th to 6th May 2014
- Wedding of Overseer & Sister Victoria - 17th May 2014
- National Ladies Retreat - 24th to 25th May 2014
- National Sunday School Challenge - 14th June 2014
- National Convention - 18th to 20th July 2014



ABM BOOST

Wilhelmina Brown - National Assembly Band Movement Co-ordinator

The general Assembly Band Movement theme for the assembly year 2013-2014 is:

'Repair the Breaches'

(2 Kings 12:5)

Dear Saints in Christ, greetings to you all.

The general ABM theme for this assembly year is ***"Repair the Breaches"***. Our spiritual living hangs upon these words. Let us examine ourselves constantly and repair every little loop hole in our lives. Our souls are priceless and we must make sure we do not lose them.

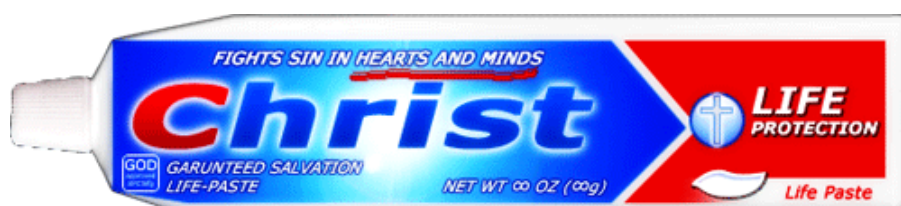
"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

(St. Matthew 16:26)

Let us move on to perfection. Let us not allow the things that held us back spiritually last year to hinder our walk with God now. We are moving on and must make spiritual progress. God is with us and we can do it.

Take courage my brothers and sisters as it will not be long until we depart from this old world of sin and woe.

May the Lord bless and keep us all. Amen.



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 2013-2014 is:

'The Spirit of Truth'

(St. John 6:13)

National Sunday School Challenge

Saturday 14th June 2014

**Venue: Maypole Centre, Idmiston Croft,
Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5NJ.**

Entry fee: £1.00

Please make plans for this annual event.



The *Treasures of Truth* quarter to be studied for the challenge is:

“The Church: Past, Present and Future” January to March 2014.

National Family Camp 2014

This year's National Family Camp was held on 17th to 19th February 2014 and what a great time in the Lord this was for all present. Our theme this year asked us the following: ***"You have run well but what hindereth thee?"*** We were encouraged to identify and pray over those things that are hindering us in our daily walk with the Lord.

Some testified at the end of camp that they were leaving feeling strengthened. Others felt 'stablished' to make it to heaven!

We had some great devotions, presentations, talks, messages and prayer time. There were also beautiful praise and worship sessions led by Sister Claudine Brown.

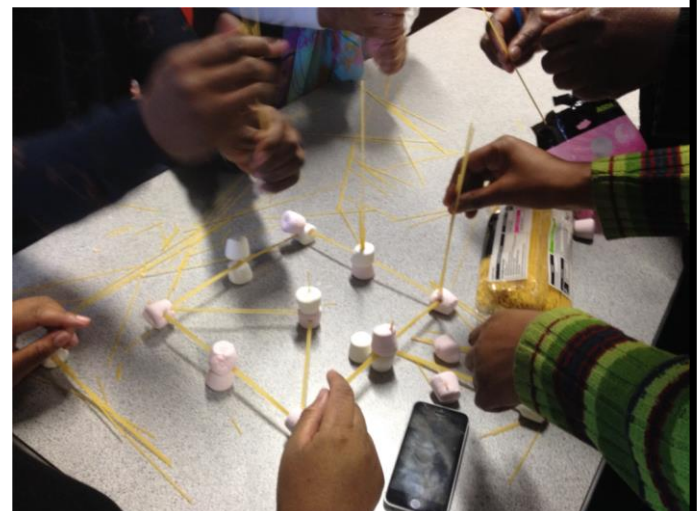
One session that really stood out was when we sang *"Worthy is the Lamb"*. The presence of the Lord was surely with us.



The children also had their sessions where they learned about hindrances at their young age and Jesus being our advocate. Some of their special activities involved card making and T-shirt decorating.

At the start of camp, adults and children were assigned into teams and competed in several activities throughout the duration of camp.

Some of these activities included structure building with raw spaghetti and marshmallows, playing Jenga, a test on Genesis chapter 7, charades with puppets and general Bible knowledge. The overall winning team was Sister Karen's team and they were all awarded medals at the close of camp.





We also enjoyed fitness/sports sessions during the day with marshmallow roasting, singing and testimonies around the camp fire at night.

If you like a wonderful time in the Lord, great fellowship, good competition, lovely, modern accommodation, good food (all you can eat), nice desserts (apple pie, banoffee pie, cheesecake, fresh fruit), please make plans to attend next year's family camp! to make it more affordable. Some have already

started fundraising for next year. Don't miss out on the fun and make plans to be there!

Sister Brenda Prince – National Reporter



Poetry Corner



I will always remember the tears I cried
I could not shift the pain in my heart
No matter how hard I tried
It's time for a change
It's time for a new start
I've wasted too many years in sin
No comfort, no peace within
Then Jesus beckoned "come, I'll enter in".

I will always remember that blessed hour
His voice whispered softly to me
"Harken my child, I have power
To save a poor sinner like thee"
I listened, I pondered,
His arms held me, so warm and tender
Then I answered "yes Lord, I surrender".

I must not forget
I will always remember what He has done for me
He died on Calvary to take away my pain
I have nothing to lose
I have everything to gain
Praise His holy name
Hallelujah!

**By Sister Wilhelmina Brown
Long Lane Church**

**National Ladies Retreat
24th to 25th
May 2014**

Venue:

**Holiday Inn
Chapel Lane
Great Barr
Birmingham
B43 7BG**

**Please make plans for this annual event and pray
for the anointing of God.**

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 2014**. These submissions will be for the Apr-Jun 2014 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: kazgirl_uk@yahoo.com

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