



The Chronicle

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Let the Lower Lights Be Burning

Philip C. Bennett

God used Moses to lead the Children of Israel to the Promised Land. As long as they followed God, He made them to prosper. God gave Moses instructions on how he should build and maintain the tabernacle which would house the Ark of the Covenant. This represented God's presence with them: *"And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always. In the tabernacle of the congregation without the vail, which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the LORD: it shall be a statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel."* (Exodus 27:20-21)

After the death of Moses, Joshua was chosen of God to lead the Children of Israel. However, after Joshua's death they forsook God and followed the ways of the heathen nations that were around them.

God forsook them because of this and caused these nations to oppress Israel. When they cried unto the Lord, He repented and sent them a deliverer who would rule and judge the nation.

This cycle repeated itself time and time again till we come to the fourteenth and penultimate judge of Israel whose name was Eli. During the days of Eli the prophet, we find Israel at an all-time spiritual low. Eli was now an old man and lacking in strength with poor vision. His sons who were to succeed him were vile and did not walk in the ways of God: *"Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the Lord."* (1 Samuel 2:12)

Belial is a term used with reference to the personification of the devil but in this context it referred to a worthless person, including idolaters.

Eli failed to reprove his sons with any sternness:

“Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD’S people to transgress. If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.” (1 Samuel 2:22-25)

God sent a prophet to rebuke Eli and his house and to pronounce judgement. One of the things God was displeased with was that Eli honoured his children above God. He later used the child Samuel to confirm His judgement: *“And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision. And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see; And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep” (1 Samuel 3:1-3)*

Verse one states that there was no open vision and elsewhere, everyman did that which was right in his own eyes. Does this sound like the current state of the world today? People want to do as they please without any rules or regulations. God however, has standards that we have to measure up to.

Because of neglect, the lamp of God went out in the temple - signifying that God’s presence had departed from them. Without the light of God we will walk in

darkness. God had told them that the lamp was never to go out but should burn perpetually.

After the first battle with the Philistines where the army of Israel was defeated, they decided to bring the Ark of God into the camp which they felt would guarantee them victory in succeeding battles. **However they forgot to bring the God of the Ark with them.** The Ark in itself was powerless if God was not with them. In the ensuing battle, the Ark was captured by the Philistines, the two sons of Eli were killed, and Israel was defeated with many losing their lives. When this news arrived home, the wife of Phinehas died in child birth and Eli the prophet fell from his chair and also died.

Today, we have been called to be lights in this world of darkness. We should not allow the devil to blow our spiritual lights out. There are not many true Christians left in the world and the pressure is being turned on to cause our lights to go out.

There is a film I saw on the television called ‘The Invasion of the Body Snatchers’ from which I gained a valuable spiritual lesson. In this film, some alien beings would take over the bodies of people when they fell asleep. These people would go to sleep but when they woke up they were no longer the same; something else had taken them over. In the film the leading characters had to try to evade these creatures by staying awake even when they were exhausted and wanted to lay down and sleep. They knew that if they were to fall asleep, they too would be taken over. Sometimes in our Christian journey we get tired and want to sleep but if we fall asleep it could mean spiritual death.

We have to stay awake and keep our lights burning - not just for our own wellbeing but also that those who are in darkness can make their way to the Light.

At one of D. L. Moody's meetings in America, he related the story of a shipwreck on a dark and tempestuous night, when not even a star was visible. A ship was approaching the harbor of Cleveland, with a pilot on board. The captain, noticing only one light as they drew near - that from the lighthouse - asked the pilot if he was quite sure that it was Cleveland harbour, as other lights should have been burning at the harbor mouth. The pilot replied that he was quite sure, whereupon the captain enquired: "Where are the lower lights?" "Gone out, sir," replied the pilot. "Can you make the harbor, then?" asked the captain, to which the pilot answered: "We must, sir, or perish."

Bravely the old man steered the vessel upon her course toward safety. But alas! In the darkness of the harbor mouth he missed the channel, the ship struck upon many rocks, and in the stormy waters many lives were lost.

Then Moody made his appeal to his audience: "Brothers, the Master will take care of the great lighthouse! Let us keep the lower lights burning!"

Among Moody's hearers that evening was Mr. Philip P. Bliss, the well-known hymn writer, and the striking story at once suggested to him one of his most popular hymns:

*Brightly beams our Father's mercy
From His lighthouse evermore
But to us He gives the keeping
Of the lights along the shore.*

Chorus:

***Let the lower lights be burning!
Send a gleam across the wave!
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman
You may rescue, you may save. 📖***

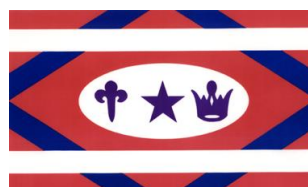


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Rikki Prince	National Family Camp Co-ordinator
Jacqueline Davis	National Choir Director
Brenda Prince	National Reporter
Karen Richards	Assistant Editor of <i>The Chronicle</i>



From the Overseer's Desk

Since our last edition of The Chronicle, I travelled to our general headquarters in February where I conducted my first week of meetings as Chairman of the Questions and Subjects Committee. I thank you all for your prayers for myself and the other committee members.

Also in February we held our annual National Family Camp in Lichfield. The testimonies of those who attended were excellent. The campers were also blessed with a teaching session conducted via Skype with our General Overseer, Bishop Stephen E. Smith. God showed His approval by baptising two with the blessed Holy Ghost. Well done to the National Camp Co-ordinators, Brother Rikki Prince, Brother Jason Prince and all who assisted.

Our National Youth Convention was well moderated by the National VLB Co-ordinator, Sister Claudine Brown. Truly the presence of God was in every session.

After establishing and serving as the pastor for the church in Druids Heath for so many years, Pastor Frances Prince stepped down due to health reasons. Many of our current members were not even born when she first started to pastor. We thank Pastor Prince for all her hard work and dedication to God and the Church and we will continue to hold her up in our prayer: *"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."* (Hebrews 6:10)

Our well wishes go out to the new pastor for the Druids Heath church, Brother Ray Prince. I encourage us all to remember our Advice to Members which states: *"Stand by your pastor or appointed leader and assist him in every way you can."*

On a more sombre note, I offer condolences to the extended Browne family, who have lost a member of their family in very tragic circumstances. Please remember them in your prayers.

Please continue to pray for the other planned activities noted below:

Upcoming Events:

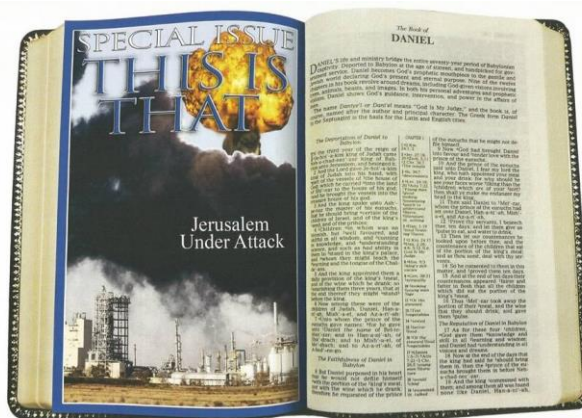
National WMB Prayer and Fasting	-	9th May 2015
National Ladies Retreat	-	23rd to 24th May 2015
National Men's Retreat	-	5th to 7th June 2015
National Sunday School Challenge	-	20th June 2015
National Convention	-	10th to 12th July 2015
International Youth Camp	-	14th to 17th August 2015
General Assembly	-	18th to 23rd August 2015



EVANGELISM BOOST

Jason Prince - National Evangelism Co-ordinator

The new general Evangelism theme for the assembly year 2014-2015 is:
‘This is That’



EVANGELISM 2014 - 2015
 E. ROGER AMMONS GENERAL COORDINATOR

“Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?”

(Acts 19:15)

Who are we really? Does what we say with our mouths and what is in our hearts agree? In the spiritual world how are we seen? If God was to open our spiritual eyes for just two minutes, what would we see? ***“And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.”*** (2 Kings 6:15-17)

I believe there is so much going on around us that we do not know or see. The Scripture says that our enemy walks around as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (cf 1 Peter 5:8). He is definitely walking around isn't he? Satan also has his demons with him. What is it that protects us? What do these evil spirits see or feel around us?

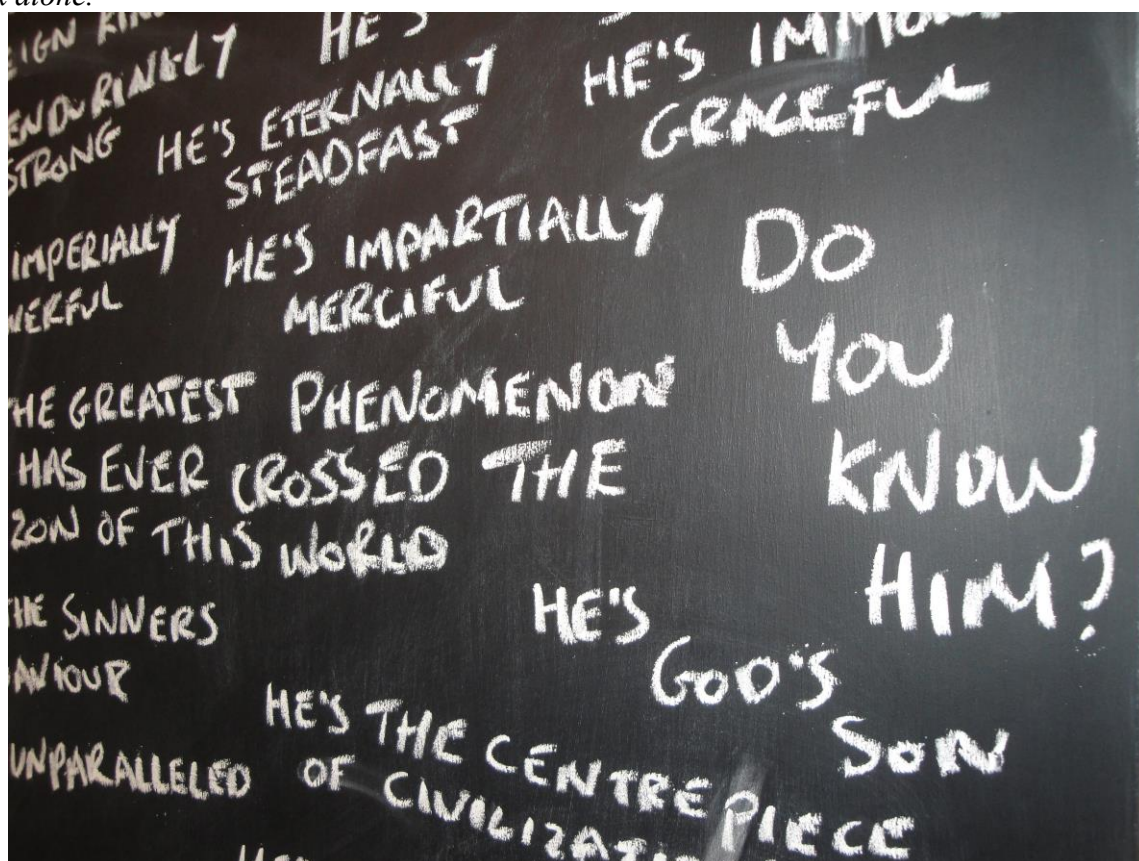
“Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and 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.” (Acts 19:13-16)

Just like Jesus Christ asked His disciples in St. Matthew 16:15: **“But who say ye that I am?”** - do we really see Him as Saviour, Master, Deliverer, Healer, Lord of Lords and the Son of God? Do we really, truly? Or do we only see His blessings as He blesses, protects, heals, delivers, saves, fills others and uses someone else to preach? The vagabond Jews were trying to cast out the evil spirits by the Jesus whom Paul preacheth (Acts 19:13). We must have our own relationship with God. Who can stand in our place before God on judgment day? The one who preached Christ to us, our family members, our Pastors? NO but it will be us.

Proverbs 17:3 tells us that the Lord tries the heart. He knows us, and from the above Scripture the evil spirits also know us, or have an awareness of our spirituality. They know the true Spirit of God for they fear and quake! They are to have manners and respect to Jesus Christ! PRAISE THE LORD! St. Mark 3:11 states: **“And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.”**

We can fool each other, but we cannot fool God. We can go through the motions and fake many things, but we cannot fake our feet leaving this earth in the Rapture.

Let us be true. We want to be effective. When we call on God we want to have a surety that He hears us as we are doing our best to live right. Let us know who we are in Christ. Do we just want the tag, or do we mean business. If we are not filled with the Holy Ghost, let us strive to be filled. The days are getting darker and we need the Holy Ghost to make it through. We need the Spirit of God to lead us as we cannot see in the dark, can we? I close with the words to this song: *“I must have the Saviour with me, for I dare not walk alone.”*



Sunday School Department



The Church of God

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOST

Jennifer Thompson - National Sunday School Co-ordinator

The new general Sunday School theme for the assembly year 2014-2015 is:

'The Armour of God'

(Ephesians 6:11)

National Sunday School Challenge

Saturday 20th June 2015

Venue: To be confirmed

Entry fee: £1.00

Please make plans for this annual event.



National Family Camp 2015

Family Camp 2015 came and went too quick! The theme this year was *“Being transformed through the renewing of your mind”* taken from Romans 12:2.

We were able to rejoice in the presence of God through wonderful devotionals, worship, teaching, preaching and prayer. This year we had a web seminar via Skype with our General Overseer Bishop Stephen E. Smith and his topic was Biblical Courtship. Single brothers and sisters were encouraged with the scripture in Genesis 24 relating to Isaac and Rebekah. Brother Smith reminded us to keep God in the centre of our lives when it comes to marriage. He also said, *“when you do things the world’s way, you get the world’s results”* and advised single members to maintain themselves in sanctification and honour.

The children also had Children’s Church, science experiments and arts and crafts sessions based around the camp theme. God bless our camp staff: Sister Karen Richards, Sister Antonette Mwila and Sister Oneaka Prince who assisted with the children this year.

As usual, we also enjoyed a good time in some good competitive team activities such as Bible quizzes, Bible story re-enactments and sports activities. We also had fun in this year’s outdoor challenge course and the intense fitness sessions.

The highlight of this year’s camp was after the second night’s service. Brother Jason invited anyone who wished to stay behind after service for prayer and encouragement to do so. A few brethren felt the need to seek God and a great prayer service broke out! Some were on their faces seeking answers to prayers. Some sought for the baptism of Holy Ghost and some for divine healing. A great spirit was prevalent as we each prayed for each other’s needs and the Spirit of God descended. Some cried, some danced, some shouted praises to His name. The Holy Ghost began to move and give messages in tongues through some of the brethren as we all waited fearfully to hear what God was about to say. Below is the interpretation:

***“I am thy God hearken. I am thy God, hear Me
I am thy God My people, oh My people, oh My people I am thy God
Hear My words, hear My word, hear My word today
I speak unto you, I hear your cry.”***

The night closed with two being filled with the Holy Ghost and one receiving healing!

This year we were very grateful to be able to enjoy an extra day of camp with the brethren. Many testified that they wished they did not have to go back home. Camp came to an end with a wonderful awards ceremony and the announcement of this year’s camp winning team which consisted of Sister Oneaka Prince, Brother Patrick Clarke, Sister Karen Richards, Chakiah Lambert, Sister Bria Stone, Brother Meshach Muirhead and Delano Prince.

A very special thanks to Brother Rikki and Brother Jason Prince for all their efforts and time invested in such a successful camp!

Sister Brenda Prince – National Reporter

What's happening at Long Lane Church?

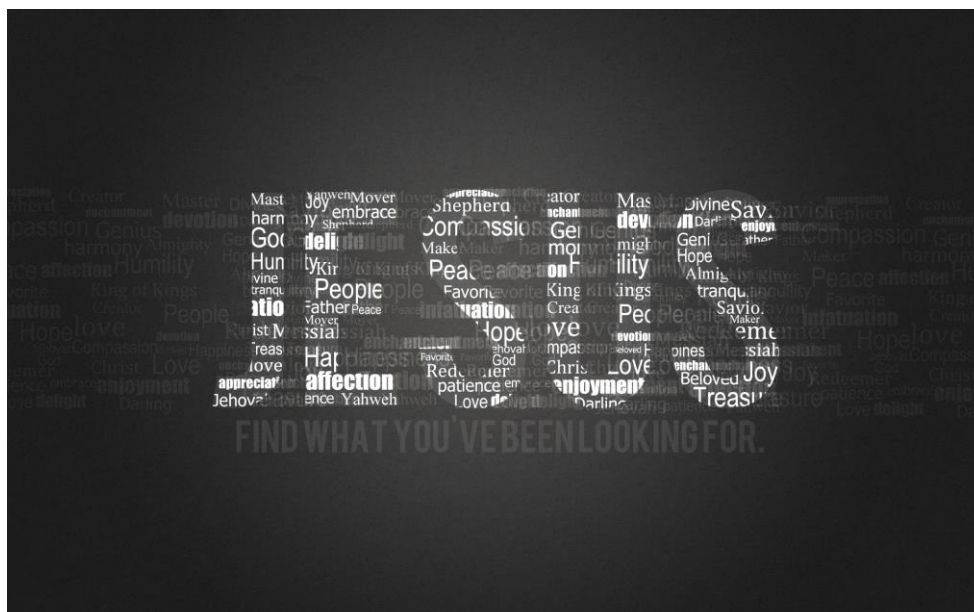
Our Sunday School and auxiliary services have been really encouraging and strengthening. The Holy Ghost has been leading our teachers and leaders and we have been truly blessed in our services. Church membership attendance has been good and even though the church is not yet full, we have had a good number of visitors who have returned to hear the Word of God. Let us continue to pray and continue encouraging people and inviting them to know the Lord.

On the 9th of December 2014 we had a wonderful evening of fellowship with brethren at Long Lane and visitors. For our Dorcas club food sale, each individual was asked to prepare a meal which would then be sold at an affordable price. It was a wonderful evening. Sister Victoria Bennett led us into our evening's devotion as we prayed for God's blessings.

Every item was sold and we had a wonderful time of fellowship. This, I believe strengthened our bond and love for one another. The proceeds were for World Mission Drive.

For our Christmas meal in 2014, Long Lane church went to a well know restaurant - FLAVOURZ! We had a lovely time in fellowship and put a few plates away at the same time. It was a pleasant surprise to see the members of Druids Heath church also at the same restaurant.

Brother James Mwila - Church Reporter



**National Ladies Retreat
23rd to 24th
May 2015**

Venue:

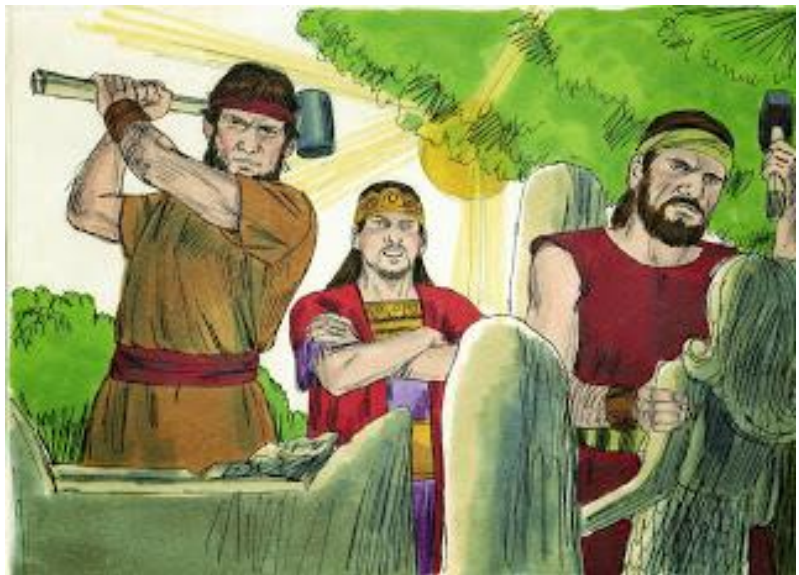
**Holiday Inn
Chapel Lane
Great Barr
Birmingham
B43 7BG**

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

Gleaners Corner

Josiah, the boy king (2 Kings 22)

- 1) Josiah was _____ years old when he began to _____. (2 Kings 22:1)
- 2) And he did that which was _____ in the _____ of the LORD. (2 Kings 22:2)
- 3) And it came to pass in the _____ year of his reign... (2 Kings 22:3)
- 4) And it came to _____, when the king had heard the words of the _____ of the law, that he _____ his clothes. (2 Kings 22:11)
- 5) And the king commanded Hilkiah the _____ (2 Kings 22:12)
- 6) Because thine heart was _____, and thou hast _____ thyself. (2 Kings 22:19)



Created by Brother Philip Bennett and Sister Wihelmina 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 May 2015**. These submissions will be for the Apr-Jun 2015 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: kazgirl_uk@yahoo.com

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