



The Chronicle

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Be sure your sin will find you out

Philip C. Bennett

As the Children of Israel journeyed to the Promised Land, the tribes of Reuben, Gad and half tribe of Manasseh asked if they could have their possession on the near side of Jordan. They promised first to help their brethren possess their possession and only then would they return to claim theirs. Moses reluctantly agreed but gave them this stern warning: *"But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out."*

(Numbers 32:23)

What is sin?

"Sin is the transgression of the law."

(1 John 3:4)

"All unrighteousness is sin..."

(1 John 5:17)

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

(James 4:17)

God gave Adam and Eve strict instructions in the Garden of Eden: *"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."* (Genesis 2:16-17)

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened,

and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” (Genesis 3:1-6)

The death that God told them of did not happen straight away, but there were immediate consequences: *“And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.” (Genesis 3:7-8)*

The fellowship they had experienced with God was broken and they hid themselves. Whenever sin is in the life of an individual, they will start to hide from God and from those who are close to Him. Sin can seem appealing, but there is a consequence. The pleasures of sin are sweet but the sweetness is only for a season. When people give in to sin, they do not think of the consequences until later on. Speaking of Moses, the Bible states: *“Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;” (Hebrews 11:25)*

The long term consequence of sin for Adam and Eve was expulsion from the Garden of Eden - which was a type of the Church. Ultimately, they experienced spiritual and physical death, resulting in an everlasting separation from God.

Adam and Eve may have reasoned, “I thought God said if we ate of the fruit of the tree we would die, yet we are still alive?” Some people leave God and say, “see, nothing has happened!” I’ve heard it said of some that since they left the Church things have never been better. Sometimes we may see some who have left us and think that indeed nothing has happened to them and they are still the same, but this is not true. They are not the same. The Scriptures declare: *“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.” (Ecclesiastes 8:11)*

God is patient and God is kind but: *“...be sure, your sins will find you out.”*

“Some men’s sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after.” (1 Timothy 5:24)


Some people have sin in their lives which they have never repented of or confessed. They live with this year after year; but sins un-confessed are sins un-forgiven. TIME DOES NOT HEAL SIN.

When we get saved, we need to make restitution. *‘Restitution is the act of restoring something wrongfully taken or the satisfying of one who has been wronged.’* God requires those who become converted to perform such a task if at all possible. A failure to perform restitution is sin. When Zacchaeus was born again the Bible states: *“And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; behold Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.” (St. Luke 19:8)*

Because God loves us He will sometimes bring our sins back to our remembrance for us to do something about them. David was described as a man after God's own heart but he failed God. David committed adultery with Bathsheba; he lied, committed murder by proxy and broke up a marital home. He "wrapped it up" and felt that was the end of it, but God is no respecter of persons: *"And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword,*

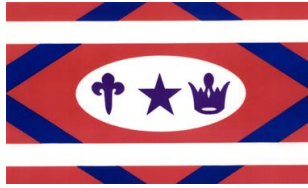
and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun. And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die." (2 Samuel 12:1-14)

When we sin, we give occasion to sinners to blaspheme God and there are always consequences to our actions. Sometimes they catch up with us in our old age. I've seen the effect so many times when I visit the elderly on their sick beds.

"...be sure your sin will find you out." 

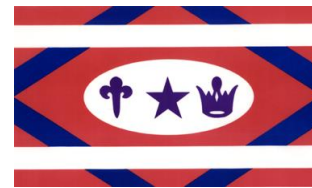


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Brenda Prince	National Reporter
Karen Richards	Assistant Editor of <i>The Chronicle</i>



From the Overseer's Desk

By all accounts, the National Family Camp in February was a great success with a record breaking attendance (including Sister Whitter). As usual, the only complaint was that it was too short. Well done to the Co-ordinators: Brother Jason Prince, Brother Rikki Prince and their staff.

Sadly, I wasn't able to attend due to the Questions and Subjects Committee meetings in the USA. Thank God the Committee had a good week of meetings, fellowship and managed to respond to a number of outstanding questions. The brethren in and around Cleveland, Tennessee send their love.

The reports from the evangelism in Jamaica are promising. Let us continue to pray for those who have heard the Word of God, that He will do a work in their hearts.

As the world gets darker and darker and sinks deeper and deeper into sin and degradation, we need to maintain our testimonies and shine for Jesus. The people of the world are brazen in declaring their life styles, so let us as God's children get radical for God:

"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."

(St. Matthew 11:12)

Upcoming Events:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Ladies Retreat Concert | - | Saturday 23 rd April 2016 |
| SS Sponsored walk | - | Saturday 30 th April 2016 |
| WMB Prayer and Fasting | - | Saturday 7 th May 2016 |
| National Ladies Retreat | - | Saturday 28 th to Sunday 29 th May 2016 |
| Family Talent Night | - | Saturday 18 th June 2016 |
| National Convention | - | Friday 8 th July to Sunday 10 th July 2016 |
| International Youth Camp | - | Friday 19 th to Monday 22 nd August 2016 |
| General Assembly | - | Tuesday 23 rd to Sunday 28 th August 2016 |
| National Men's Retreat | - | Friday 30 th September to Monday 2 nd October 2016 |



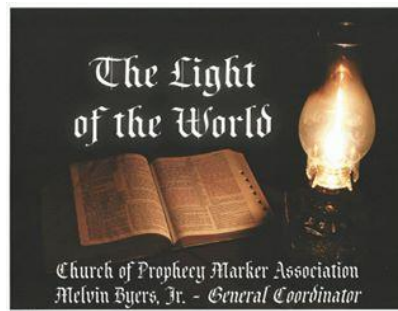
CPMA/BTI BOOST

Stuart Brown - National CPMA/BTI Co-ordinator

The general Church of Prophecy Marker Association theme for the assembly year 2015-2016 is:

'The Light of the World'

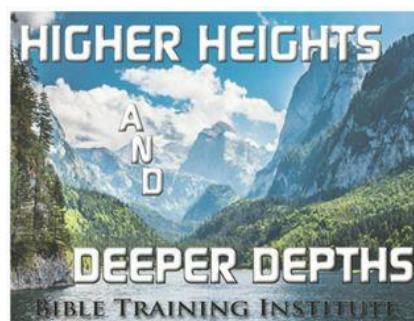
(St. John 8:12)



The general Bible Training Institute theme for the assembly year 2015-2016 is:

'Higher Heights and Deeper Depths'

(Psalm 61:1-2 and St. Luke 6:48)



KNOCK, KNOCK! WHO'S THERE?

Greetings in the name of Jesus. I thank the Lord for His love, mercy and goodness towards us! I thank God for the grace He has bestowed upon me and I look forward to experiencing more of His blessings in His Church.

This thought came to me and I would like to explore it and encourage a little. "Knock, knock! Who's there?" is usually the start of a joke with a quirky punch line. If we were to apply this to our spiritual lives, there is much to learn.

Knock, knock:

There are many things trying to gain entrance into our lives - Satan and his temptations, the influences and enticements of this present and evil world are constantly knocking at our hearts door. The loving counsel and guidance from the Holy Spirit is also knocking on our hearts. He wants to instruct us into holiness, blameless living and effect every area of our lives. This is so we can please the Lord, shine as lights in this world and be caught up to meet Him in the air.

Who's there?

One of these knocks comes from a sinister intention to deceive and destroy us. The other is there to save us. Who will we answer to? It's very important to ask "who's there?" before just opening up to receive everything that comes knocking. The Bible tells us in 1 John 4:1 to ***"...try the spirits whether they are of God..."***

As we listen to messages, study at Church and in the home, look into the teachings of the Church, have prayer meetings and closet prayers, let us be open to the Holy Ghost. As we are at work, in education, shopping, watching TV, surfing the internet, keep the door closed to the devil and this world. If the wrong thing gains entrance, the joke will be on us!

Notices

Interest for the Bible Training Institute is gaining momentum!! Thank the Lord. People are signing up for the new proposed scheme. More specifics will be given during my national visits to your local church.

Do you want to learn more, be edified with the meat of the Word, gain greater understanding, and secure your foundation in the Church? THEN DON'T MISS OUT!!

Any questions, feel free to contact me. Email: stip0p001@gmail.com mobile: 07951 024603





EVANGELISM BOOST

Jason Prince - National Evangelism Co-ordinator

The general Evangelism theme for the assembly year 2015-2016 is:

'Flow River, Flow'

(Psalm 46:4)

Be ready always to give an answer



EVANGELISM
2015 - 2016
E. ROGER AMMONS
GENERAL COORDINATOR

It is true that the darker the world gets, the brighter The Church of God will shine - just like a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid (cited from St. Matthew 5:14). The Word of God is truth. Pure truth is absolute - you cannot get anymore truth than this. I am glad that The Church of God takes the whole Bible, rightly divided, not missing anything out, truly undiluted truth that will save our souls!

As the return of the Lord gets nearer, more and more people will be searching for this absolute truth, the undiluted Word of God. As they come, they will come with questions and we must be ready to always give an answer.

Here is a task for us all. Can you answer the following questions?

(Taken from The Church of God BTI study course: *Who is She? – The Church the Fullness of Christ* page 99.)

- 1. Is it true there is but one Church?**
- 2. Aren't the denominations really a part of the one Church?**
- 3. How is the true Church to be recognized among the many Christian bodies?**
- 4. What will become of the denominational bodies in the end?**

In the next edition of *The Chronicle* we will look at the answers. If you are not sure about what the answers are, and you would like to know before the next edition, please ask your local Pastor or Band Leader.

Sunday School Department



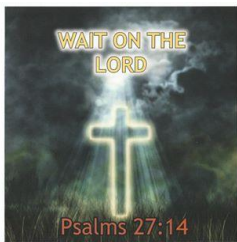
The Church of God

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOST

Jennifer Thompson - National Sunday School Co-ordinator

The general Sunday School theme for the assembly year 2015-2016 is:

'Wait on the Lord'



STOP! WAIT! NOW PRAY!

"My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him." (Psalm 62:5)

Brethren, God will do for us what we are unable to do for ourselves. Let us wait in expectation upon Him. God's time is the best time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Sunday School Sponsored Walk
on Saturday 30th April 2016**

**at Cannon Hill Park,
2 Russell Road, Moseley,
Birmingham,
West Midlands B13 8RD.**

Starts at 11.00 am to raise funds for Vacation Bible School.



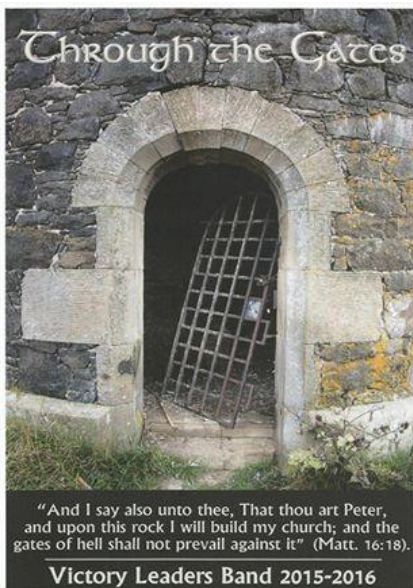
VICTORY LEADERS BAND BOOST

Claudine Brown - National Victory Leaders Band Co-ordinator

The general Victory Leaders Band theme for the assembly year 2015-2016 is:

'Through the Gates'

(St. Mathew 16:18)



Greetings to you all in the precious name of our Saviour Jesus Christ. A special greeting to our VLB readers, I am praying that God will keep you as you continue to live for Him.

I write to encourage you in relation to our 2015-16 general VLB theme **"Through the Gates."** The theme scripture is taken from St. Matthew 16:18: **"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."**

This is an excerpt from a familiar conversation between Jesus and Peter, one of His disciples. Shortly before this, Peter acknowledged that Jesus was "the Christ, the Son of the living God." (St. Matthew 16:16) This knowledge had been divinely imputed to Peter and, as we see in the verse above, Jesus knew exactly who Peter was also. This mutual understanding became "the rock" upon which the Church, the Body of Christ that we belong to today, was built upon. What a foundation! A foundation that qualified Jesus to make the mighty declaration that "...the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Jesus said it – I believe it, and it is so. The gates of hell have no power to withstand the Church as she advances forward. Sometimes we think of the fight with Satan and his kingdom and see the Church as being on the defensive. If Christ intended His Body to retreat from the enemy and the gates of hell, He would not have said what we read in St. Luke 10:18-19: **"And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."**

Don't you want to start exercising this power? Why do we need to go "Through the Gates?" Our General VLB Coordinator Brother Dustin Hays wrote this in an edition of The Evening Light: **"...We must go through them, for if we will not, then who will? ...In large part to rescue what is trapped there and to take back territory that Satan has wrongfully taken from us. It is also our responsibility to just destroy his kingdom, wreak havoc there and not leave one stone left upon another..."**

We can only do this in the power of God – not our own. If we operate in our own power – we will meet our match in Satan but through the power of Christ, Satan and his demons will have to flee. "...the gates of hell **shall not** prevail" is a solid promise that we can depend on.

With that promise though, comes responsibility and much needed vigilance on our part. This is the most serious time to be a youth of the Church of God. We totally lose our effectiveness and ability to burst through hell's gates if we like what Satan has to offer. If we do, he will laugh at us as we sing "I went to the enemy's camp..." and "he's under my feet." When we go to the enemy's camp, we are there to snatch back anything that was stolen from us, and we are reaching out to lost souls. Some need to retrieve their joy, their peace, their faith... But if we are over there liking the look of the world, we cannot bring those worldly items with us back to the Church undetected!

When we go over to the enemy's camp through the gates, we should immediately be seen as trespassers and as a nuisance to Satan. And in these last days we have to be about our mission – part of an army that are not afraid to proclaim the name of the Lord, with made up minds.

There are youth out there crying out for truth, there are youth bound up in addiction and depression. They are around us every single day! There are people stuck in the enemy's camp who are waiting on the Church to burst in through Holy Ghost prayer, Holy Ghost inspired evangelism, in the spirit of God-given agape love. The enemy's camp has family members, friends, work colleagues... are we ready to go through the gates? We already have Christ's promise that the gates of hell will not be able to prevail. It is time to stand on it. May God bless and keep you all.

Announcements

Listen out for your local announcements for further VLB events this year. Please also check the general Church website for free access to our VLB magazine 'Greater Things'. (www.thechurchofgod.org)



National Family Camp 2016

Monday 15th February 2016 - the long awaited day when many of us headed out to National Family Camp for three whole days of fellowship and seeking the Lord.

This Camp was one of the most attended Family Camps in recent years with 49 registered campers. It was a bit different from previous years in that it catered to campers of all ages. Some as young as 8 months old and to the more seasoned as well.

The theme this year was '**Final Hour of Preparation.**' We felt the Lord urging us to make our spiritual preparations as the Church may be living its last moments on this earth.

Brother George Wilson delivered a thought provoking presentation entitled '*Five Wise/Five Foolish.*' He highlighted how the wise virgins made enough preparations while there was still time. They were also full of the Spirit; which we will also need in these last days. While this presentation took place, the teenagers had their own presentation entitled '*The World and The Rapture.*'

The first competition of the day was a team task on flag making. Each team was to produce their own team flag with drawings represented by each of its members. Some used their artistic skills and produced some very colourful and creative drawings on their banners.

After dinner, we gathered together for evening service. We had a wonderful praise and worship time as we reflected on the Lord and making ourselves ready. Most of the teenagers and children started to make their way to the altar where many of them tarried for some time. Truly, the Holy Ghost was at work in their lives.

Tuesday was another day full of more exciting spiritual and physical activities. We all came together for a wonderful devotion led by Brother Jerome Solomon. Brother Rikki Prince presented a timely message entitled '*...and his chains fell off...*' taken from Acts 12:7. He spoke about Peter being imprisoned by Herod and how God delivered him from those physical chains. Brother Rikki presented some chains which were very solid and heavy and stated how God is able to break through them. He demonstrated by ripping apart a bit of tissue paper to show how easily God can break through any spiritual chain or bondage causing them to effortlessly fall off. There is nothing too hard for our God!

After our morning devotion we headed out to do some outdoor recreational activities including the zip wire, abseiling and high ropes. It was interesting to see some conquering their fear of heights by jumping off the zip wire tower while tightly grasping onto their ropes for their lives. Others were a little more adventurous and resorted to a more audacious zip wire challenge, by hanging upside down from their harness (Brother Jason) or even taking selfie's while on board (Brother Jerome). One of the challenges on the high ropes station was the leap of faith. It consisted of climbing a very high post while strapped to a harness and once at the top, the aim was to do an extended leap and grasp the horizontal bar hanging in front. Some missed while others managed to get a hold of the bar. Many saw these activities as spiritual metaphors of how there is safety in God and how He is able to sustain us, just as the harnesses did.

A sister's discussion was arranged to take place after the afternoon's devotion while the brothers also met and had their own. Many interesting things were discussed such as marriage, health issues and Christian modesty for males and females.

Wednesday was another full day of activities. One of the highlights was the morning devotion led by Brother Justin Clarke. The Spirit of God was truly there as we all worshipped and praised during the worship service.

We had a sports session scheduled in the sports hall which many were glad to take part in. We were dismissed for lunch after these activities.

After lunch we assembled together once again for devotion. During this session, we had a Skype teaching session from the USA with Bishop Robert Hawkins, Jnr. He spoke on the theme of the camp and highlighted how the very last moments of the Church's stay on this earth will be crucial. He spoke on subjects including faith, divine healing, the Advice to Members and perfection.

Another one of the highlights of this day was the evening service when we came together for the Lord's Supper which was administered by Brother Stuart Brown. It was beautiful to have a large number of brethren gathered together around the table. The sweet presence of the Holy Ghost was among us as we reflected on the great price paid for our souls' redemption. Feet Washing took place in the second part of this session.

On Thursday, we closed with our last devotion of the camp led by Brother Joshua Anderson. A sister present at the facility from a different church felt impressed to come into devotion. She shared how throughout the duration of the camp, she felt drawn to come into the service. Some of the sisters provided her with more information about the Church.

We had many seasons of prayer and reflection throughout our stay. It was stated that when we are home, often times we do not pray like how we do at Camp.

Sadly, all good things on this terrestrial sphere must come to an end, and Camp was no exception. We closed with an award's ceremony where certificates were handed out to each camper. Some examples of the recognitions were: Most daring: Sister Jennifer Thompson, Camp chiller: Tobias Mwila, Best scream: Sister Hannah Wilson, Best effort: Sister Elouise Whitter.

The winning team (Team Elijah) was also announced. The team was composed of Sister Elouise Whitter, Sister Beverley Wilson, Sister Claudine Brown, Sister Karen Richards, Katie Prince, Meshach Muirhead, Keziah Brown and Sister Brenda Prince.

Now...who is ready for National Family Camp 2017?? Don't miss out!!

Sister Brenda Prince
National Reporter



What's happening in London Church?

Greetings in the mighty name of Jesus.

Over the past few months, God has been speaking to us about being ready for His return. Every service, Bible study, prayer meeting, Sunday School lesson and camp has been leading and encouraging us to lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us (Cited from Hebrews 12:1).

Just like the early Church, God knows humans have the tendency to become complacent and the enemy who is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour can devour us if we are not watchful. What a wonderful God we serve who can protect us from Satan's devices.

We were blessed to have Sister Lydia Wilson graduate from the Gleaner Band into the Victory Leader's Band department. We give God praise and thanks for the growth of the VLB department.

Sister Chika Imhoff – Reporter

What's happening in Long Lane Church?

God has really blessed Long Lane Church. The love amongst the brethren is so strong, and this is only through the love of Christ that is within us.

We have been encouraged by the Word of God in numerous messages to get closer to God, to have a connection with Him, to strive for perfection and live holy. Hebrews 12:14: ***"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:"***

Our annual Sunday School Challenge between two teams Caleb and Moses is well under way. The challenge encourages us to invite others to Sunday School, learn our Golden Truths, to be more involved in our Sunday School lessons and to boost our offerings.

Family Camp 2016 was wonderful!! We heard some great testimonies from the brethren at Long Lane. Thank God for the Co-ordinators - Brother Rikki Prince and Brother Jason Prince. Let us all pray for them that God will continue to lead them in all their ways.

We are looking forward to what the Lord has for us with great expectation in 2016. Let us all encourage and pray for one another to grow spiritually and strive for perfection.

Brother James Mwila - Reporter



Lengthen Thy Cords,
and Strengthen
Thy Stakes

(Isa. 54:2).

World Missions

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 2016**. These submissions will be for the April-June 2016 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: kazgirl_uk@yahoo.com

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