



The Chronicle

A Publication of The Church of God (England)

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Yet Once More

Philip C. Bennett

The term “yet once more” signifies the repeating of something that has happened before: *“See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.”*

(Hebrews 12:25-27)

Right now, there is a shaking taking place in (Zion) The Church of God, as God is purifying His Church. If we do not fasten our seatbelts, we are going to be shaken out of the Church. This purifying process is much like the refining process used to purify gold and silver. As the temperature increases, we will discover that not all impurities are removed at the same time. Some are stubborn and will only be removed at a higher temperature.

What or who are those things that will be shaken? Those who heard the Word of God and took no notice. Those who did not adhere to the Advice to Members to attend every regular service where possible.

Conversely, what or who are those things that cannot be shaken? Those who heard the Word of God and took heed. Those who adhered to the Advice to Members and attended every regular service where possible. Those who have a strong connection to God.

As a child, I remember seeing people shake fruit trees and saw those fruit that were not strongly connected fall to the ground. But with some fruit, it did not matter how hard the tree was shaken, they remained firmly connected to the branches.

There are some Christians who are very lazy. They spend little or no time reading the Bible. They spend little or no time in prayer, but time will find them out: *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;”* (1Timothy 4:1-2)

Sometimes, when people leave us we can feel like it is an indictment against us and a failure on our part, but prophecy has to be fulfilled. **Just don't let it be fulfilled on you.**

It is sad when we see those we have worshipped with for years decide to leave

us: *"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia."* (2 Timothy 4:10)

Demas had been Paul's companion in suffering and in the work for many years, but he had a love for this present world. There was something that attracted him that was stronger than his love for God.

Sometimes when people fail God they blame others for their circumstances. When we fail God, it is because of some weakness or sin on our part. People and circumstances only brought the fault or the sin to the surface: *"Then Jerubbaal, who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod: so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley. And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me. Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand. And the LORD said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; bring them down unto the water, and I will try them for thee there: and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go. So he brought down the people unto the water: and the LORD said unto Gideon, Every one that lapped of the water with his tongue, as a dog lapped, him shalt thou set by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink. And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.*

And the LORD said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save

you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand: and let all the other people go every man unto his place." (Judges 7:1-7)

This past year I've seen Gideon and his army in a new light. The various tests that came their way brought to the surface what was already in the individuals.

1. Those who were **fearful** and **afraid** made up more than two thirds (68%) of the army. (Verse 3)

2. Those who were **careless** and **lacking in vigilance** made up 97% of those that remained. (Verses 5-6)

3. Of the original 32,000, God would use 300 which was (0.93%) of the original number. But God used this remnant of 300 men to win the battle - against all the odds.

We do not want to lose anyone, especially as we are already small in number, but, for the Church to prosper and succeed those who **refuse** to be perfected **will** have to go. Sad to say but I've witnessed occasions with churches in the past where unity only came when those who were causing division left our ranks. God is going to shake out and remove all the hindrances from His Church: *"But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel."* (Joshua 7:1)

Because of one person's sin, the whole congregation of Israel was not able to stand against the enemy. The little city of Ai was able to put Israel to flight: *"And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads against the children of Israel."* (Joshua 7:6)

"And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Israel hath sinned, and they have also

transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.” (Joshua 7:10-12)

God told Joshua on the following day to bring all the tribes of Israel before Him and the person found with the accursed thing would be taken, stoned to death and burnt with fire along with his family and everything he possessed: *“So Joshua rose up early in the morning, and brought Israel by their tribes; and the tribe of Judah was taken: And he brought the family of Judah; and he took the family of the Zarhites: and he brought the family of the Zarhites man by man; and Zabdi was taken: And he brought his household man by man; and Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken. And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me. And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it. So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it. And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD.*

And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his

sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called, The valley of Achor, unto this day.” (Joshua 7:16-26)

Maybe Achan thought he would never be discovered among so many people. But I can imagine the fear as the search was narrowed down to his tribe and then his family. Possibly, if he had owned up earlier, his life may have been spared. **His sin did not just affect him but his family, his animals and all that belonged to him.**

After all the shaking is over, only the remnant will be left and God will have a perfect Church: *“In that day shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. ³And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: ⁴When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.”* (Isaiah 4:2-4)

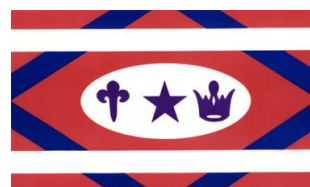
Church, let us fasten our seatbelts and make sure we are still on board when the shaking ends.

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From the Overseer's Desk

For the first time in many years we had an all-night prayer/tarrying service. This was well attended - not only by our members but also by friends of the Church. It was a great blessing to all who attended. Although the outward man was deprived of the comfort of sleep, the inward man feasted on manna from above. Thanks to Sister Claudine Brown for taking the lead in organising this event.

Our National Family Camp was also a great blessing to all the campers who attended. There were 61 in attendance, the same as 2018, and this included a number of first time visitors. The presentations as usual were excellent and were still spoken about long after the camp had concluded. Brother Rikki Prince and Pastor George Wilson are to be commended for all the preparation that went into making the camp a great success.

We were saddened at the passing of Trevor Prince and offer continued condolences to all the family. Be comforted by the fact that Jesus whom Isaiah described as *"... a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief..."* understands and shares the grief.

As we progress further into the Assembly year, let us individually continue to place our trust and confidence in God and not in the arms of flesh. Solomon encourages us to:

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

Upcoming Events:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| National Youth Convention | - Saturday 20 th April 2019 |
| Vacation Bible School | - Thursday 25 th to Friday 26 th April 2019 |
| National VLB Prayer Meeting | - Friday 3 rd May 2019 |
| Family Fun Day | - Saturday 18 th May 2019 |
| National Ladies Retreat | - Friday 24 th to Sunday 26 th May 2019 |
| National Men's Retreat | - Friday 7 th June to Sunday 9 th June 2019 |
| National Convention | - Friday 5 th July to Sunday 7 th July 2019 |



CPMA/BTI BOOST

Stuart Brown - National CPMA/BTI Co-ordinator

The new general Church of Prophecy Marker Association theme for the assembly year 2018-2019 is:

'Heritage'

The new general Bible Training Institute theme for the assembly year 2018-2019 is:

'Walking by the Same Rule, Minding the Same Thing'

(Philippians 3:16)



Why The Church of God?

In today's climate of confusion and unrest, there needs to be an answer to this valid question.

Let us lay a foundation for an answer **"...For we walk by faith, not by sight..."** (2 Corinthians 5:7)

Our sight is the primary way of processing what is around us. We see, we take it in, we process that information, make a judgment and then we react. That is the natural process. When it comes to our spiritual lives, the natural approach is **not enough**. 1 Corinthians 2:14: **"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."**

The Church falls under the "things of God," so in approach to the question, "Why The Church of God?" it is going to take **eyes of faith to see, divine revelation to process and the Spirit of God** to help us react to it.

In St. Matthew 24:37-39, Jesus highlighted how things will be in the last days. The Church has a last day purpose - much as the Ark had a purpose in Noah's day. Let us draw similarities:

1. Noah received divine instruction from God Himself. He knew what to build and how to build the Ark.
2. God's instructions were clear and specific.
3. These instructions were not given to "average Joe", so average Joe would not see the point of it. They were given to a righteous man.
4. There was a time of building.
5. During the building process, its function was not relevant or obvious to passers-by. It was not ready to take on the flood whilst being built.
6. "Why this Ark?" people must have said, but this was like no other and it was being prepped for an event like no other!
7. Its purpose was not in effect while on dry land. It was just another structure to the natural eye, but for Noah, it was his source of obedience. (Hebrews 11:7)
8. Throughout the ages, there have been many boat builders, but only one Ark builder!
9. The Ark's purpose was apparent when God called the inflow! God called Noah and his family in, and HE SHUT THE DOOR! Then the floods came and the Ark came into full effect!

Why the Ark? - When the fullness of time came, its purpose was met and in the meantime it was Noah's means of obedience and safety!

The same can be said of The Church of God. It is God who established her, revealed and delivered to His chosen, and gave instructions on how to build. We are commissioned to work and build upon the foundation which has already been laid. God will initiate inflow, and is calling us and our families to get inside! Safety! Some may question *"but Brother Stu, there's other churches where people are saved and being saved, so why join The Church of God?"*

These brethren in the faith chapter (Hebrews 11:39-40) received a good report with God, yet were subject to death. They were unable to see the final product, the completed, perfected Church. These are the dead in Christ. Jesus is from the beginning, so those who died in righteousness have died in Him.

Question: *"If all those brethren in Hebrews were alive in the fullness of time, would God have them in His Church?"*
The answer is YES!

Time will not permit to show how the denominational world churches are being swallowed up one by one. Organisation after organisation are being stripped of godliness and sound Bible doctrine. There must be one who will not go along with this tide. The Church of God will not!

Sheep are seeking! There must be a place where the Builder and Maker is God - a safe place that is waterproof. The Church of God is that! Some may state *"Brother Stu, there are other places like that!"* The answer is God will bring them home to His Church!!! **"And other sheep I have..."** (St. John 10:16)

What significance does it hold for you and me? Working to build the Church is our source of obedience to the Lord, to build and keep to His blueprint. It is our safety! **"Feed the flock..."** (Acts 20:28) feed the inflow and remember 2 by 2 is still inflow. 1000 by 1000 is not the only example of inflow!

The day the flood came and **"...destroyed them all."** (St. Luke 17:27) would we prefer to have been in the Ark or outside if it? When there's a famine of the Word of God (Amos 8:11-12), where do we want to be? When false prophets are deceiving and being deceived where do we want to be? When people are being led away by the cunning craftiness of men, where do we want to be? When the devil himself parades as an angel of light deceiving many, where do we want to be?

As the world church continues causing departures, apostasy, fornication, and all abominable things, where do we want ourselves and families to be? In The Church of God, in **the Ark of the last days!** Above our own personal desires, where does **God want us to be?** The answer is in **His Church!** Why The Church of God? Because **He** wants it so! Revelation 22:17: **"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come."**



EVANGELISM
DEPARTMENT

EVANGELISM BOOST

Claudine Brown - National Evangelism Co-ordinator

The general Evangelism theme for the assembly year 2018-2019 is:

'Power of Prayer'



Greetings to all our precious Chronicle readers in the name of Jesus. I pray that we continue to be heartened by Apostle Paul's encouragement to the Galatians that we be ***"not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."***

(Galatians 6:9).

So, to reap in due season, we must 'do well' without fainting. Let us pray that the Lord directs our steps in doing well for Him, and that He gives us the strength to do it.

The Lord has been good, is good, and will always be GOOD. I can testify of our theme ***'Power of Prayer'*** in a new way, having recently suffered the loss of my father. Somehow, the grace of God has allowed me to feel cocooned during this difficult period - I cannot explain it. But the Lord is doing a work in me, and in the lives of my family. Thank you for your prayers - they are indeed, powerful.

My mind is on the work. I feel dreadfully inadequate when I look at the size of the fields and the millions of souls who are living, oblivious to Christ and the sacrifice He made for them to live eternally. But we are not independent workers, labouring on a sole project. ***"...we are labourers together with God"*** (1 Corinthians 3:9) and it is ***"God that giveth the increase."*** (1 Corinthians 3:7).

As I tour the local Churches in England, I am bringing the same encouragement to all. I first heard this term at a General Assembly and it has been a sub-theme in my head for a good while: ***"Each One, Reach One"***. While looking at the world at large may seem a daunting task, if each born again believer would work towards reaching just one soul, this would bear much fruit for the kingdom of God. By work, I mean to pray, visit, witness, encourage, teach, invite them to our Church services and events, labouring with the Lord to win the soul.

Jesus showed us the value of 'one' when he taught of the joy that shall be in heaven "**over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.**" (St. Luke 15:7) Can we pledge to work on one soul this year? This initiative has

fuelled me, and I pray that it will do the same for you. I am excited by the prospect that if each one reach one, bit by bit, we can complete the Great Commission given to us by Jesus in St. Matthew 28:19-20.

Let me leave you with the words of a song by Babbie Mason with the same title "*Each One Reach One*"



Today a man is somewhere proclaiming the good news
Bringing families to Jesus all around his neighbourhood.
He tells them that God is able to make their house a home,
He wants to win this world for Christ, but he can't do it alone.

**But each one, can reach one
As we follow after Christ, we all can lead one
We can lead one to the Saviour
And together we can tell the world that Jesus is the way
If we each one reach one.**

The message is unchanging go ye into all world
And share the love of Jesus far away or door to door.
You see just like somebody told you that Jesus loves you so,
You must tell someone who will tell someone
Until the whole world know...

So will you go and labour, will you hold out your light?
Saving one by one and two by two,
We can win the world for Jesus Christ.

Prayer Requests:

I have written to two universities offering to bring the gospel there through a concert, but have not had a favourable response as yet. Please pray for this endeavour and that God will direct me to the right universities to approach.

Please pray for local evangelism activities. If you cannot go along yourself, your prayers are powerful and will help those who are out on the field.

God bless you all as we strive to 'do well' for God.

Sunday School Department



The Church of God

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOST

Jennifer Thompson - National Sunday School Co-ordinator

The continuing general Sunday School theme for the assembly year 2018-2019 is:

'Embrace the Vision'

A vibrant, colorful poster for Vacation Bible School (VBS). The background is a mix of green, blue, and white. At the top, a green box contains the text '26 April'. Below this, a butterfly is shown flying. The text 'VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL' is written in white on a green background. In the center, a large white circle contains the text 'Sunday School presents' and 'VBS' in large white letters, with 'The Church of God' written below it. To the left of the circle is a small flag with a red, white, and blue design. Below the circle, a green bird is flying. At the bottom, a blue bird is shown. The text 'TIMES TO BE CONFIRMED' is written in white on a green background. Below this, the text 'HANDS'NORTH BAPTIST CHURCH' is written in white on a green background. At the very bottom, the address '38A VICTORIA RD, HANDS'NORTH, B21 0SA' is written in white on a black background. The poster is framed by a black border.



VICTORY LEADERS BAND BOOST

James Mwila - National Victory Leaders Band Co-ordinator

The general Victory Leaders Band theme for the assembly year 2018-2019 is:

'Enemies on the Run'

(Judges 7)



VLB 2018 - 2019

HIGHER
GROUND

The song writer Johnson Oatman Jr penned these lyrics:

*“I’m pressing on the upward way,
New heights I’m gaining everyday;
Still praying as I onward bound,
Lord plant my feet on higher ground.”*

High ground is an area of elevated terrain, which is useful in battle. In the military, leaders are advised to take up high ground and let the enemy try to attack from a lower position. Fighting from an elevated position (high ground) is said to be easier for tactical reasons. Holding high ground offers an elevated vantage point with a wide field of view, enabling surveillance of surrounding areas in comparison to being low down in the valley.

It is easier to move on higher ground, less energy is required and there is a clear vision of where the enemy is located. Communication is better on high ground as there is a stronger signal.

It is easier and more advantageous to fight from high ground, due to being able to see the enemy, read their plans and movements. Gravity is also in your favour. The enemy, on the other hand is handicapped. Gravity is against them, the terrain is against them, their ammunition will have less of an effect or impact because their opponent is too high up.

Victory Leaders Band! How wonderful will it be when we are all lifted up on higher ground, spiritually. The Lord is sitting up on high and He has asked us to draw nigh unto Him. The Lord desires us to seek Him with our whole hearts and we shall find Him. We must first seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

We are the Victory Leaders Band, our hearts should have no desire to stay down in the valley, deep down in worldliness, where doubts arise and fears dismay. Even though some may choose to dwell where these abound, our PRAYER and our AIM should be higher ground.

Sometimes, we wonder why this journey is so hard, why the battle is so tough and why we are struggling to get to higher ground. Maybe we are so wrapped up in this world and its cares, and as a result, we are weighted down.

James 4:7:

***“Submit yourselves therefore to God.
Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”***

The enemy will run from us once we follow and obey God’s Word. Resist the enemy!

Pray for me, as I continue to pray for you that we continue to fight the good fight of faith. God bless you all.





WMB BOOST

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

The general Women's Missionary Band theme for the assembly year 2018-2019 is:

'The Lifeboat'

(St. John 3:15)

THE CHURCH OF GOD (ENGLAND)
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MAY
24-26



PLEASE COME JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

NATIONAL LADIES RETREAT

venue to be held at

**The Ramada Hotel,
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What's happening in Long Lane Church?

2018 saw the Church at Long Lane do a lot of firsts. We were able to have two fundraising sales and our Sunday School trip to Stratford upon Avon. At the end of the year, the children performed Long Lane's first nativity play - assisted by their Sunday School teachers.



Our Sunday School trip looked like it was going to be a wet, drab day but started off with blessings.

To everyone's surprise, a 72 seater coach turned up instead of a 36 seater. This meant we all got to stretch out around the coach. At the drop off point, we were left to our own devices. Some activities we embarked upon were exploring the food festival, having some delicious tea and discovering the sites on a tour boat. Although the weather was not great, I believe most, if not all had a lovely time.

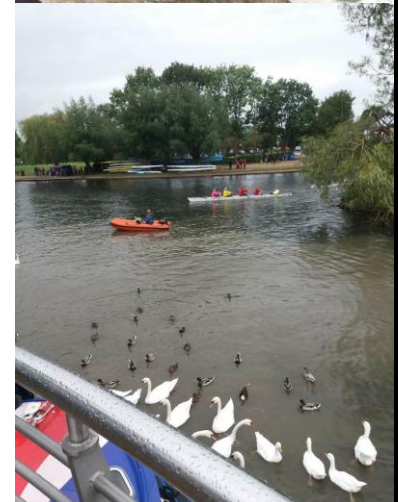


The nativity play was a blessing too. Our children blossomed as they took on the characters of Joseph, Mary, the wise men and King Herod. The Sunday School teachers also participated and it was fantastic. We definitely have some budding performers.

In 2019, the Church has not slowed down. During a local Evangelism service, the Evangelism team went out to the local town centre - the remaining brethren stayed and prayed for them. A number of tracts were distributed and some local people were spoken to and encouraged about the Lord. There was a lot of positive feedback upon the team's return.

The Church has also continued character Bible studies this year with a study of Mary and Martha. There was also a Bible study on Christian finances, which was very informative. Continue to pray for Long Lane Church, as we strive for perfection.

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



National Family Camp 2019

National Family Camp 2019 began on Monday 18th February 2019, at Whitemoor Lakes, Lichfield. Our theme was **'We have an Anchor'** and focused on the necessity of being anchored to Jesus Christ. We had great attendance, with even more newcomers than last year.



We delved into various topics based upon the theme, through workshops and messages. A recurring question throughout was *'what are we anchored to?'* One workshop explored **Jesus Christ as our Anchor**. Jesus experienced literal storms and the storms of life through grief, rejection, betrayal and temptation. Through it all, His anchor held because He maintained a strong bond with His Father.

Another workshop focused upon being **fastened to the Rock**. We were admonished to beware of subtle spiritual currents of the world, which could sweep us away. We are also not to become spiritual driftwood, but to remain alert through fasting and prayer. We gain spiritual strength in **God's 'workshop'** through Bible study, auxiliary and mid-week services and adhering to the Advice to Members.





The theme of one workshop was **Stability versus Instability**. Things which can make us spiritually unstable are double-mindedness, half-heartedness, complacency, moving with the times to our spiritual detriment and trusting in the arm of flesh. **Weak links** spiritually will occur if our spiritual anchors are not fastened securely to the solid Rock. Our link to Jesus needs to be unbreakable.

Throughout the week, we were filled with encouraging devotions; enjoyed wonderful fellowship, created Bible covers, tested our

target practice and swordsmanship during archery and fencing. Some tried their agility and faith as they climbed and then leapt from a small platform on high ropes.

We thank the Lord for His presence and cannot wait until National Family Camp 2020.

Sister Beverley Wilson - National Reporter London Church



Special Note:

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