



The Chronicle

A Publication of The Church of God (England)

July-September 2010, Volume 5, Issue 3

National Overseer's Address at National Convention, July 2010

Philip C. Bennett

This has been an eventful year for The Church of God here in England. We were finally registered as a Charity and the church in Northfield was able to purchase this beautiful building.

It has also been a year of many battles on different fronts, but we thank God for His continued grace. To be forewarned is to be forearmed. God showed me some of what was coming before it happened so I was not surprised. Many scriptures in the Bible have become more real this year.

This year has truly been the year of the Holy Ghost as designated by our General Overseer. God is going to bring the Church to perfection with or without me. The Church can do without me. Brother Kevin Werkheiser drew the analogy a few years ago of the Church being like a bus with people getting on and off at different stages. These are the last days and we need to be on the alert. Jesus told us in St. Matthew 24:12-13 *"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."*

I am going to be looking at some portions of our *"Advice to Members."* I have noticed a reduction in the commitment of some of our members over the years. Many are getting into the habit of missing church services for no good reason other than they do not feel like going. A part of our Advice to Members states: *'As a member you count one and should attend every regular service as far as possible. Remember no one can fill your place and the service will be that much hindered without your presence.'*

It is so easy for us to drift without realising. The Advice further states: *'Examine yourself occasionally and see if you are in the faith.'*

The Bible encourages us in 1 John 4:1 *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."*

It is frightening how these spirits are able to influence members who you thought were strong and convince them that what they are doing is right and everyone else is wrong. That is why they are called seducing spirits.

'Your dress should be with moderation, neat and clean but not for show. Moderation includes paying moderate prices for clothing, wearing dresses of high-enough necklines, low enough hemlines, sleeves of reasonable length.'

In the world in which we live, moderation has 'gone out of the window.' People feel they are being oppressed when moderation is spoken about. As children of God we must practice moderation.

There is a growing trend in the world for women to wear skirts of a much smaller size than they are - which hug their bodies and even restrict movement. These skirts are designed to draw attention to their figures and cause others to lust after them.

Our younger members can feel that this advice is old fashioned and out of date but it is there to keep us in line. Sometimes I see some of our members, even on the rostrum wearing skirts that make male members feel embarrassed, as they do not know where to look. The devil gives us a hard enough time and we do not need to help him.

Another increasing trend is for our sisters to wear trousers to more and more events. The only time some sisters wear a skirt is when they are going to church. Again, some of these trousers are so tight that we are no different from the world in our appearance. Much has been said over the years about "personal conviction" but if we know that we offend a brother or sister with our clothing, we should refrain from it.

'Always tithes your income and put it in the church treasury. Make freewill offerings other than your tithes.'

God has done so much for us. Tithing and offerings are ways of saying thank You. They are a part of our worship yet so many times you observe members playing 'pass the plate' like 'pass the parcel.' Young people you need to practice tithing and giving.

It is not only for the older members. When we fail to do so we hinder our own blessings.

Leaders For Such A Time As This

The role of spiritual leadership is not one which an individual chooses for himself. God chooses His leaders. In the scriptures, God is frequently represented as searching for a man of a certain type. Not men, but a man. Not a group, but an individual.

Ezekiel 22:30 *"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."*

Often we find that those who were chosen did not feel worthy or others did not feel they were worthy, but God had already done the preparation.

Moses felt inadequate: Exodus 3:11-12 *"And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain."*

Exodus 4:10-12 *"And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant; but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say."*

In essence what was Moses saying to God? God send somebody else, I am not able. God was displeased with him but agreed to use Aaron as his mouthpiece.

Jeremiah felt that he was too young and could not speak. This is found in Jeremiah 1:4-9.

For those who have been chosen by God, the challenge has never been greater than that which this present time demands. We are the generation upon whom the end of the world has fallen. This time demands leaders that will leave the ordinary and get into the extraordinary or supernatural realm.

It is time to come out of self and get into God. Auxiliary leaders you need to pray and invite God to take control of your auxiliary so you can have anointed services.

Today in The Church of God there is a great need for spiritual leaders who do not just **“know how”** but will **“show how.”**

People will follow you if you seem to know the way. Sometimes I am driving behind a car on the road and I can instinctively tell when the driver is lost or does not know where they are going.

They drive slower than the traffic around them in a hesitant and erratic manner. We tend not to get too close because they are liable to stop abruptly or make sudden changes in direction. Their passengers or those following do not have much confidence in them.

There is a great need for leaders who are following the leading of the Holy Ghost. We can then say like the Apostle Paul, **“follow me as I follow Christ.”** Leaders must have an understanding of the times. Sometimes if we are not careful people who are fearful and do not understand will sap your courage and get you discouraged too. The devil will use them without them even realising, to discourage you like Sanballat and Tobiah tried with Nehemiah.

I remember going on a long car journey with family members a few years ago.

Everyone started out in a good spirit laughing and talking but when the passengers thought, *“we should have reached by now”* and they did not like the look of the surroundings you could sense the uncertainty in the air. There was no more laughing and talking. The concern could be seen on the faces. Although no one said anything, you could almost hear the questions: *“I wanda if him laas?”* (“I wonder if he is lost?”) *“But a wey Philip tekking us?”* (“Where is Philip taking us?”) Although others were uncertain, I had directions that I was following. I had to trust that the one who gave me the directions knew the way.

Leaders, we need to have faith in the Author of this road map (the Bible) even when we may get concerned too. As you go along you will recognise some landmarks to reassure you that you are on the right road.

When Christopher Columbus went on his journey of discovery, there was near mutiny aboard his ships. The men had been at sea for a long time and expected to have reached land already.

They said, **“Columbus let’s turn back”** but he said **“Sail on.”** **Church of God we may be in unchartered waters but we cannot turn back now. We have to sail on.**

During Paul’s journey to Rome, he warned them not to sail but as he was not a sailor they took the advice of the ship’s owner instead. It was not long before the ship was enveloped in a great storm and there was no sight of the sun or the stars for many days. The account is given in Acts 27. Due to Paul’s confidence in God’s deliverance, the two hundred and seventy six men on board were saved. Leaders we need to display this same confidence in God in our times.

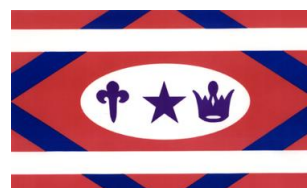
God is searching for leaders for such a time as this. 📖

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From the Overseer's Desk

It has been another busy quarter for The Church of God here in England. We thank God for a good National Convention back in July 2010 which saw a record number of people in attendance. Most of all we thank God that His presence was and is with us.

August 2010 was another record breaking month which saw a delegation of 28 people from England attend the General Assembly in North Carolina, USA. It was a great sacrifice for many, but I do not believe anyone returned to England feeling disappointed. Surely the presence of God was in that place. The love and the fellowship which was prevalent let me know that The Church of God is going on to perfection.

We have another year ahead of us and we need to do all that we can while we can. Jesus said:
“I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.”

(St. John 9:4)

The quality of our work will be tested by fire and only that which endures will count towards eternity.

“Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”

(1 Corinthians 3:13-15)

There is a great work ahead of us as The Church of God here in England. Let us water the ground with our tears as we sow and depend on God to give the increase. Together we will do great exploits for God.

In closing, I would just like to say that it is a great honour that God has bestowed upon me to place me in this position. If I can be of assistance to you in any way please do not hesitate to contact me. God bless.



CPMA/BTI BOOST

Stuart Brown - National CPMA/BTI Co-ordinator

Do you have a hunger and a thirst?



Greetings to all from the C.P.M.A. and B.T.I. departments! I pray that we are all growing in God's grace and I am thankful to the Lord Jesus for keeping us thus far. He is faithful to us so it's only right that we are faithful to Him.

For this article I feel impressed to ask this question to each reader. Do you have a hunger and thirst? For what I hear you say. The Bible says in St. Matthew 5:6 "*Blessed are they which do **hunger** and **thirst** after **righteousness*** (The dictionary definition of hunger and thirst is: **hunger**; a strong or compelling desire or craving. **Thirst**; a sensation of dryness in the mouth and throat caused by need of liquid) ... *for they shall be filled.*" What a promise from the Lord!

Each one of us should possess a desire to pursue righteousness. We cultivate this spiritual appetite by prayer and study of God's Word. It does not stop there though! God has blessed The Church of God with an abundance of literature, media and study material. This seasoned spiritual food will help us to grow in the knowledge of God and His Church. These Holy Ghost inspired materials are rich in **wisdom** and **instruction** and will give us a firm foundation about our history as the Church. If we truly see the need and have a hunger and thirst for God and are willing to take those extra steps, we will find ourselves investing more into our personal study and spiritual growth. We will want to snatch every opportunity to "**learn of me**" as Jesus said in St. Matthew 11:29.

In these closing days of time, we must sow more into the Spirit so that we can "*...of the **Spirit** reap life everlasting.*" (Galatians 6:8) I would like to encourage you all to take practical steps in investing into our church's resources. Do visit our church's international website: www.thechurchofgod.org and have a look at the many new options such as the online bookstore, "Streams in the Desert" podcasts and much more. Be blessed, encouraged and inspired to go on for Christ and His Church.

This issue's feature is what I call "The Real Deal Chart." Please consider these facts and pray to the Lord to lead you in all things. God bless you.

ITEM/COST	PURPOSE	BENEFITS/RESULTS
 New DVD/Game/CD for £15-45	A few hours of entertainment. Kills time, desensitises the Spirit and keeps you occupied.	No real benefits. Will want to play and watch some more. No spiritual growth.
 The Will of God BTI course book for \$6/£3.65	To educate you on the will of God and show what the Bible teaches. Lets you see what God requires.	A closer walk with Jesus, a faultless life, a renewal of the mind. Bible training course participation.



Victory Leaders Band

VLB/EVANGELISM BOOST

Claudine Brown - National Victory Leaders Band/Evangelism Co-ordinator

It's the start of the Autumn term again folks!! For our young people, this means back to school, college or university. It may also mean moving from one learning institution to the next. It's an exciting time of year as our youth settle down into their new classes, set about making new friends and taking on new challenges. For those moving from school to college or sixth form it can be slightly disorienting - not having to abide by school rules and for those starting university, it's a whole new world altogether!

Many of you have testified about how God has brought you through your exams and helped you to excel in your studies. So what does God expect from you as another term begins? St. Matthew 5:14-16 says:

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Whether you are at school, college, university or work, shine **your** light in **your** corner! Let it be that someone will see that there is something different about you! When they start to ask questions, tell them who you are and hold that light up. Do not hide it under a bushel! Your light could lead a sinner to Christ this year! Your school, college, university, work place is the field of labour that God has allotted to you. Do not waste your opportunity.

I would love to see growth in the VLB department this year and that is going to take us all working together, telling others about Christ and letting them witness our “good works.” Be encouraged youth, not one thing you do for God will go unnoticed by Him. My prayer for this year is that our youth step up, start working for God and become the fire core of the Church! We have just returned from an awesome Assembly and the VLB theme we have for this year is very serious indeed: ***“Lovers of the Truth.”*** We will be exploring this in various ways and I will go into this more at Ministers' Convention. Our general VLB Co-ordinator this year is Brother Dustin Hays. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

May God continue to bless you all. Let's go forward for God.

Dedication Ceremony of The Church of God, Long Lane, Halesowen, England

The evening of Saturday 29th May 2010 saw the official opening of the new church building of The Church of God at Long Lane. This is the first church building to have been purchased by The Church of God in England since the re-organisation. We are thankful to God for His almighty hand in the acquisition of the new building.

Members, visitors and friends joined with ministers from the surrounding churches in the area. Our dear friends from St Christopher's Church in Northfield (our previous rented accommodation) and a number of dignitaries from the new area were present to help us celebrate the dedication of our new church building.

The National Overseer, Pastor Philip C. Bennett opened the ceremony and welcomed the congregation. The evening proceeded with songs of reverence to God and thanksgiving including 'We are Standing on Holy Ground' and 'How Great Thou Art.' Sister Claudine Brown, our National VLB Co-ordinator read the night's lesson which was taken from 2 Chronicles 7:11-16.

For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.

(2 Chronicles 7:16)



Members of The Church of God at Long Lane blessed the congregation with a rendition of the song 'The Church's One Foundation.' Prior to this, an address was given by Mr I. Williams from the former congregation that owned the building. Mr Williams gave an informative history of the United Reformed Church that was built 100 years ago. It provided a church home to the then 64 members. God faithfully answered the prayers of a local lady who had prayed earnestly for a

church to be established in the area. Who would have known that this would 100 years later become the premises for worship and thanksgiving of the great Church of God in England!

Pastor Beverley Anderson of The Church of God at Handsworth sang the song '*Because He Lives.*' This was followed by an address from Reverend Richard Tebbs from St. Christopher's Church in Northfield. Reverend Tebbs referred to good times shared during our time in Northfield and told of how the members had blessed him through their singing in thanksgiving to God. He talked of the "more mature voices" and was surely blessed one more time when Sister Wilhelmina Brown gave a moving rendition of the song '*I am still here.*' Thanks be to God that we can *all* proclaim this wonderful truth. It is God and God alone that is keeping each and every one of us.

The Church of God at Druids Heath sang the song '*I'll say yes Lord, yes.*' After this the National Choir of The Church of God blessed the congregation with the songs '*A blessing from the Lord is here*' and '*Total Praise.*'

The Deputy Mayor Elect for the Borough of Dudley addressed the congregation to welcome The Church of God into the area. He began with a brief history of the Church which he had gleaned from the internet – later elaborated on by Sister Angela Clarke. We heard of how the Church had met at Frogmill School, moving on to meetings in the homes of Church members. The Church then went on to various venues throughout Rubery and Frankley. A Church building was purchased on the Bristol Road, Birmingham and now our church home in Long Lane, Halesowen. The Lord has done great things, bless His holy name.



The sermon was delivered by Pastor Frances Prince of the Druids Heath Church who read from 2 Chronicles 5 and exhorted on the dedication of the temple. As the people gave thanks to God for His wonderful blessings His glory came down in the place.

"It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God." (2 Chronicles 5:13-14)

The evening concluded with an Act of Dedication by the National Overseer and a prayer of dedication by the ministers. We then had a time of wonderful fellowship together in the annex building.

Sister Jenetta Hurst - Reporter

The Sin of Unbelief

If you were to ask a Christian, "Do you believe there is a God?" the answer you would get is a firm "yes," perhaps followed by a puzzled look due to the obviousness of the answer. "Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God?" Again, another easy one, the answer would be an absolute "yes!" How about the question, "Do you believe God?" Please take a moment to think about this.

We hear about the sin of unbelief and automatically think about the lost and dying world of unbelievers who have not accepted Christ into their lives. We are familiar with St. John 3:18 which tells us that *"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God"* and perhaps we feel safe in the assumption that this scripture does not apply to us. We know that unbelief is a sin because of what Revelation 21:8 tells us - *"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."* Surely, this message is for sinners only?! **No.** Let us consider the dictionary's definition of the word **'believe'**: *'to have confidence in the truth, the existence, or the reliability of something, although without absolute proof that one is right in doing so.'*

It is not enough to believe that God exists. Do we really believe in the reliability of Almighty God? We will look at this in more detail later. 'Unbelief', by contrast means: *'the state or quality of not believing; scepticism*, especially in matters of doctrine or religious faith.'* *Sceptical means doubtful, unconvinced.

Did you know it is possible to become a sceptic right in the Church? Convinced about the fundamental things but doubtful as to all that is written in God's Word. It is possible for all of us to fall into the trap of unbelief. God wants His people to believe in Him, believe in what He says, believe in what He has done, believe in what He is doing and in what He will do. The moment we stop believing in God, not only is that a sin but it will lead to us committing further sin. If you do not believe in someone, you will not want to do what they say. Eventually, lack of belief in God will turn into blatant disregard for Him altogether. You often find people in the world who do not believe in the law or in the authority of the police and so they rebel against it all the time.

Let us consider the type and shadow of the Church, the post-Exodus nation of Israel. They had been first-hand witnesses to God's almighty power. They had seen Him bring the plagues in Egypt in order to free them. They witnessed the parting of the Red Sea and walked across dry land and they were the first to hear the law after it had been given to Moses. We believe these things happened by faith but they saw them with their own eyes! The Bible tells us that there were times when the children of Israel believed God and glorified Him (see Exodus 4:29-31 and Exodus 14:30-31). I noticed that these times were generally straight after God had done something for them. Yet, the children of Israel walked right into the sin of unbelief before long. Exodus 17. To place this scripture into context, the children of Israel were in the wilderness and God had been miraculously providing manna and quails for them to eat. There came a time when they became thirsty for water and they began murmuring against Moses. They said (verse 3) *"...Wherefore is that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?"* How quickly they forgot that God had freed them from captivity in the most amazing 'jail-break' of all time. How quickly they stopped believing in the God who had been providing them with food to sustain them. God was tempted by the people but He provided them with water from a rock in Horeb all the same. Moses named the place where the rock was 'Massah' (which means 'strife') and 'Meribah' ('temptation') *"because they tempted the LORD, saying Is the LORD among us or not?"* (Exodus 17:7)

Later on when ten of the twelve spies returned from Canaan with a negative report about the land of promise, we see again where the children of Israel reveal their unbelieving hearts. They asked in Numbers 14:3-4 *"And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt."* Oh Lord. A message could be preached on these two verses alone. Something stirs within me whenever I read them!

Once believers in God and His power, they became unbelievers craving for what they considered to be the comparative comfort of Egypt. They did not go unpunished for this. God made them wander in the wilderness for 40 years until the unbelieving generation died out. They did not live to see the promised land. You can read about God's wrath upon them in Numbers 14.

So what does all this have to do with us today? The plight of the unbelieving generation of Israelites is a warning to us now. Unbelief will lead us in the wrong direction and eventually to spiritual death.

Please read Hebrews 3:7-19. Space will not permit me to print all the verses and to comment on each but I will draw your attention to verse 12 which says *"Take heed, brethren, (Paul was preaching to Christians here!) lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God."* and verse 14 which says *"For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold **the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end.**"* Amen. Remember that confidence we had in God when we first knew Him? We must hold it fast until the very end! We serve the TRUE and LIVING GOD for whom NOTHING is impossible!!

As The Church of God, after seeing what God has done for us throughout the years, we should not be asking "Is God with us or not?" like the children of Israel. OF COURSE He is. This Church belongs to Him! We must have confidence in the God of The Church of God. When we come upon hard times, let us not forget what He has done and wander off into unbelief. What is our confidence in today? Our wealth? Our family? Our friends? The world? Ourselves? To quote a well-known song by George Duffield *"...the arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own."*

King David knew about the confidence in God that I am talking about. Imagine how strong his belief in God was when he proclaimed *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."* (Psalm 27:3) *"Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident."* (Psalm 27:4) *"Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea."* (Psalm 46:2) Praise God, these are the things you will say when you BELIEVE GOD.

When we really believe in God and who He is, it will show in the way that we behave ourselves. A true believer who knows about the majesty, sovereignty and power of Almighty God will conduct himself in a different way to the unbeliever who will not have any respect for God's laws or His divine will. If we really believe in God, we will fear Him and respect His house.

As I mentioned at the beginning, all Christians would say they believe in God but do we believe all that He has said? Do we believe in His government? Do we believe in His truth and His doctrine? Do we believe in His infinite power? One question that came to me is, how can we believe in the Head and not believe in the Body of Christ or what it stands for?

Where there is unbelief, God will not work – it is not that He cannot work, He just will not. After all we have seen Him do for us and others, it would be an offence to Him if we stopped believing in Him.

Christ's attitude towards unbelief is plain to see throughout the Gospels. What did He do with the unbelievers who were laughing Him to scorn when He told them that Jairus' daughter was not dead, she was asleep? He put them out! We do not know whether He asked them to leave or whether He physically ushered them out. All we know is that they had to be removed from the scene before Jesus could tell Jairus' daughter to arise!

Then in St. Matthew 17, the disciples could not understand why they could not cast the devil out of the lunatic boy. Jesus told them plainly in verse 20 *"Because of your unbelief."* How sad. The closest people to Jesus who had seen Him perform miracle after miracle, did not have enough faith to cast the devil out.

Let us take heed not to allow unbelief to creep into our hearts. It is sin that will render us powerless and ineffective in the work of God. 📖

Sister Claudine Brown – Long Lane Church

The Church of God (England)

56th Annual National Convention, 9-11 July 2010

Our National Convention started with some congregational singing after which Pastor Philip C. Bennett, National Overseer welcomed all present. Special greetings were extended to our General Headquarters Representative, Evangelist Jackie Zimmerman and Sister Vicki Smith, the wife of our General Overseer. Brother Bennett then declared the convention open.

The theme for the convention was *“For such a time as this”* taken from Esther 4:14. The night’s scripture was read by Sister Victoria Rowe from Esther 4:1-14 after which Sister Eloise Whitter led us in a congregational prayer. Sister Cynthia Opoku preached a good message on the topic: *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith...”* Brother Ray Prince then directed a wonderful *Church of Prophecy Marker Association* and *Bible Training Institute* programme. This culminated with an altar service where we were encouraged to seek more of God’s presence.

Our Saturday session started with congregational prayer and a scripture reading by Brother Rikki Prince from 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. Deacon Cranston Harrison and Brother Stuart Brown did the Bible and Flag pledges respectively. Sister Wilhelmina Brown moderated the Assembly Band Movement programme and preached a good message on the separation of the wheat and the chaff in the purification process of the Church. Sister Karen Richards did a boost for our national magazine, *The Chronicle*. Pastor Frances Prince preached an outstanding message entitled, *“Men with an understanding of the times.”* Her text was taken from 1 Chronicles 12:32. Our Overseer boosted the Church’s national website and encouraged us to use it, emphasising its link with our international website. After special singing from Sister Vicki Smith, Sister Zimmerman preached a message on the work of the Assembly Band Movement auxiliary.

After lunch the Handsworth church led us in some congregational singing followed by prayer led by Sister Olive Buchanan. Sister Claudia Prince led a lively Women’s Missionary Band Programme which was followed by a message on Divine Healing by Evangelist Taylor-Harrison. The Healing Line was directed by Deacon Samuel Prince. Many members of the Church went through the line seeking the Lord. They were anointed and prayed for by the ministers. Only heaven will be able to declare the full extent of all that took place. We had reports on the activities of the churches in Long Lane and London followed by reports from the National Treasurer and the National Finance and Appropriation Committee.

After the break we had further reports from the churches in Druids Heath and Handsworth. After some wonderful singing from the Druids Heath choir, Sister Angela Clarke preached on the topic, *“This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come”* taking her scripture from 2 Timothy 3:1. The rest of the evening was left to Sister Claudine Brown and the Victory Leaders Band (VLB). As the VLB’s marched around the building they were joined by one lady who came as a visitor. She got a flag and joined enthusiastically in the march and was further compelled to go up on the rostrum to give a testimony encouraging our youth to keep up the good work.

On Sunday, the last day of the feast we were led into congregational singing by Long Lane church. Brother Jason Prince led the congregational prayer. After this, Sister Duncan from London church read the morning’s scripture. This was taken from 2 Timothy 3:1-17. The Sunday School programme was directed by Pastor Beverley Anderson who did a wonderful job. After some angelic singing by the National Choir, our National Overseer gave his annual address. He highlighted various aspects of our “Advice to Members” including church attendance, modesty in our attire and tithing and giving. Sister Vicki Smith again blessed the convention with some wonderful singing after which Sister Zimmerman preached the final message. She emphasised on the value of a single soul and how we should do all in our power to save the lost.

Finally our Overseer thanked everyone for the part they played in making the convention a success and made the appointments for the new Assembly year. All too quickly our convention had come and gone for another year.

Take a Grip

*Take a grip, my brother, take a grip another grip
Hold fast and never let go
No matter what the people of the world may say
Hold fast and never let go.*

The Church of God is the pillar and ground of the truth. Those that feel any concern or confusion about the Church should be encouraged to “hold fast.” When someone tells you to “hold fast” it suggests that there may be a quick movement about to take place which could move or disturb you. Jesus encourages us to “hold fast” as a warning for something that is about to happen.

To take - meaning ‘to **grasp**; to **grip** something.’

*“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without
wavering: for he is faithful that promised.”*

(Hebrews 10:23)

What will you do when people of the world mock you? HOLD FAST! Our enemy will do everything in his power to discourage us. This attack can be extremely problematic for those with a tendency to be indecisive, inconsistent or ‘wishy-washy’. HOLD FAST! Those in the Church that are double minded are encouraged to make their choice. In 1 Kings 18:21 Elijah said to the people “...How long halt ye between two opinions? If the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him...”

Revelation 3:11 reads “Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” Your crown can easily be taken from you. Remember that “...your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, SEEKING whom he may devour.” (1 Peter 5:8)

Remember the wonderful encouragements given at our National Convention in July 2010. Sister Angela Clarke admonished us to be careful about who we choose to sympathise with. The topic of Sister Claudine Brown’s message was “The one [that] shall be taken away.”

In Galatians 5:7-8 the Apostle Paul encourages that we should not be moved by those that cause trouble and that God will be the ultimate Judge. The scripture reads *"Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you."*

The implication of the word 'who' in this instance is that an individual or persons have caused the hindrance – held someone back – gotten in someone's way.

Anyone who discourages is not of God. We serve a God that knows and sees all things. Verse 10 of the same chapter reads *"I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be."* We receive a wonderful assurance that the Lord will judge this individual or persons. Paul also goes on to state in verse 12 *"I would they were even cut off which trouble you."*

Those who are not strong in the Lord, be careful. Do not listen to discouragement. As Christians we are in a race and must HOLD FAST! Like the relay racer who holds on to a baton we must hold on to our salvation as we run the race.

God's grace is sufficient to keep us, even in spite of discouragement. As Proverbs 17:7 says *"Iron sharpeneth iron..."* and we are our *"brother's keeper"* (Genesis 4:9). We should be able to correct one another.

There are a number of tools designed by Satan to weaken us and to eventually cause us to let go if we are not careful: *fear, doubt, distraction, mistrust, self*. We should not be holding on by the skin of our teeth. Each individual should stand upon the Solid Rock which is Christ Jesus.

In St. Luke 13:24, Jesus said *"Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able."* The Apostle James stated in James 4:8 *"Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you."* Paul said in 2 Timothy 4:7 *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."*

There were MANY things that the Apostle Paul went through and at the end of it all he won his crown. Do not lose your grip. HOLD FAST because your own and other people's lives depend upon it. We should remember that there are always others watching us as Christians. They watch for our example or to see what we will do in various situations. Be encouraged. 📖

Submitted by Sister Jenetta Hurst – Long Lane Church

What's happening in Druids Heath Church?

We thank the Lord for His continued blessings towards us. Most of the members at Druids Heath Church attended the 105th General Assembly of The Church of God, held at the Ridgecrest Centre in North Carolina, USA. This event occurred in August 2010. One member also attended the International Youth Camp that was held at the same location, prior to the Assembly.

The members testified and declared that it was a struggle financially to go to the General Assembly. God made a way for His people as we prayed continuously and fasted for Him to intervene.

On returning, the members gave their accounts about feeling the presence of God in a powerful way. They also stated it was very good to attend the Assembly. The opportunity arose for them to meet other members from all over the world who belong to the great Church of God.

Glory to God for placing us into His marvellous Church. The Church of God is moving and destined for glory.

The outpouring of the Holy Ghost at The Church of God in Druids Heath

On Sunday 5th September 2010, the Sunday School Superintendent was teaching the lesson and mentioned that he was glad to be chosen by God. Suddenly, there was an outpouring of the Holy Ghost upon those present in the class. The lesson could not finish as the presence of God was strongly felt. There was one visiting friend amongst us who witnessed God move upon His people.

On Sunday 12th September 2010 during the Women's Missionary Band service, the Holy Ghost moved mightily upon the congregation. A message was given out in tongues and an interpretation followed in English: **"NO MORE.....NO MORE.....NO MORE!"**

After the interpretation, the moderator said that we should know what the *NO MORE* is. Whatever it is we need to do it *NO MORE*.

The Holy Ghost moved again and teenagers were speaking in tongues. Another Holy Ghost message and interpretation in English was given: **"NO.....NO.....NO!"** One teenage girl was sanctified during the service.

Praise the Lord for manifesting His power and being in our midst to bless us.

Sister Koreen Wilson – Reporter

London Outreach

Saturday 6th November 2010

Location:

The Chestnut Community & Arts Centre
280 St. Ann's Road
Tottenham
London
N15 5BN

Please join us as we evangelize this community and let them know about the love of God and His one Church for all.

*For further details, please contact Acting Pastor Angela Clarke
www.churchofgod.org.uk*

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 30th November 2010**. These submissions will be for the Oct-Dec 2010 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: kazgirl_uk@yahoo.com

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