



# The Chronicle

A Publication of The Church of God (England)

July-September 2014, Volume 9, Issue 3

## General Assembly Report 2014

Philip C. Bennett

Thank God for making it possible for myself and Sister Victoria to travel to the General Assembly in the USA. Other delegates from England were: Brother Jason, Sister Brenda and Micah Prince from Druids Heath church, Sister Taylor-Harrison, Sister Julie Clarke and Reuel Clarke from Handsworth church.

Sister Victoria, myself and Sister Taylor-Harrison travelled together. On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August we departed from Birmingham Coach Station to Manchester Airport. From there, we travelled to Philadelphia in the USA and then to Atlanta, Georgia. We took a shuttle to Chattanooga, Tennessee where we were met by Sister Wendy Barick. Sister Wendy works at our General Headquarters office in Cleveland, Tennessee. We stayed in Cleveland overnight and travelled on Monday with Sister Wendy and her husband Brother Kryss to the Ridgcrest Centre in North Carolina. General Assembly is held in this location.

On Tuesday morning I attended the Presbytery meeting with the General Overseer, Bishop Stephen E. Smith and all the other National and State Overseers.

The General Overseer encouraged us and gave instructions for the year ahead. During this meeting, we were given statistics regarding the growth of the Church over the past few years - including:

Church membership in 2012:	19,409
Church membership in 2013:	23,113
Church membership in 2014:	26,202

Number of churches in 2012:	705
Number of churches in 2013:	677
Number of churches in 2014:	778

The church is now organised in 51 countries and in 45 USA states.

Number saved in 2014:	2,033
Number sanctified in 2014:	3,606
Number baptised in water in 2014:	846
Number filled with Holy Ghost in 2014:	1,405

The General Overseer encouraged us to hold revivals in our churches and to preach more on Divine Healing.

He encouraged us to be like Abraham who after waiting patiently for a child was willing to offer him up to God.

Brother Smith mentioned that at the time of this trial, according to Bible chronology Isaac would have been between 25 and 33 years old. Isaac would have been able to out-wrestle and out-run Abraham but he was willing to be sacrificed. Abraham brought the wood and the fire but even if he had to offer Isaac as a burnt offering, he believed that God would have been able to raise him up, give him a new body and return him back to life again.

Later in the day Sister Victoria and I went to the Presbytery luncheon. This is hosted yearly by the General Overseer for all State, National Overseers and General appointees. We were accorded a place at the top table and the General Overseer introduced Sister Victoria.

In the opening message of the Assembly, the messenger encouraged us to *"drink ye all of it"* as Jesus said to His disciples at the Last Supper. He said we could not leave anything out if we wanted to see the glory of God.

On Wednesday morning I did a report on the work in Saint Vincent. During the Church of Prophecy Marker Association programme in the evening, Brother Byers was given a standing ovation for his work in the department and his dedication to God. The General Overseer gave us an update on the Mount Hattin and Garden Tomb markers in Israel. He said that according to tourist information, the Garden Tomb is the most visited site in Israel. Our marker will be a good advertisement for the Church as it will contain our website details. He stated that above the wall of the Garden Tomb there is an Islamic cemetery with the inscription *"There is no God but Allah and Mohammed is his prophet"* but as Brother Smith mentioned, the cemetery is full of bones but Jesus' tomb is empty.

The stone for the Mount Hattin marker was then enroute from India to Israel and should be completed for the dedication ceremony in December. A delegation - including the General Overseer will travel to Israel to dedicate it. The General Overseer thanked everyone for their financial generosity. We have contacted the Israeli government about making the road to the marker more accessible

and they have given us the permission to carry out the work.

Brother Melvin McGriff preached a wonderful message using extracts from the Solemn Assembly.

On Thursday we had a progress report for the work in South and Central America. Currently we have over 4,000 members in Central America which is an area smaller than the state of Texas.

Brother Paul Sudhakar, the Overseer for Northern India preached a wonderful message about the necessity of the Word of God in our lives. Using Psalm 1, he likened the Church's 29 Prominent Teachings, Advice to Members and our financial system to the rivers of waters. He encouraged us to examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith as we are admonished in 2 Corinthians 13:5. He said that just going to Church was not enough. He encouraged us to study and meditate on God's Word. The story was told of a Christian who was unable to read his Bible after losing his sight in a tragic accident. He tried to learn Braille but as he had also lost all sense of touch in his fingers, was unable to do so. Eventually he learned to read his Bible using his tongue and because of his love for the Word he read the Bible from cover to cover fifteen times. Brother Paul then asked the question *"how many of us have read our Bibles 30 times?"* and worked his way downwards. I believe there were two people present who had read their Bibles from cover to cover 10 times.

Brother Hawkins also preached a wonderful message showing how Satan had used and was using different versions of the Bible to distort God's Word. He encouraged us to stick to the Authorised King James Version. God confirmed the word with a tremendous outpouring of His Spirit. The interpretation of the message was *"Stick to the word, don't turn to the right or the left."*

All the Overseers and their wives then sang *"There is power in the blood."* The verses were sung in English, Filipino, Spanish and the Kenyan language.

Brother James Smith encouraged us to “*avoid offences*” highlighting the number of members who have left the Church over the years because of offences.

During the World Mission programme, sisters marched into the auditorium carrying the flags of countries already in The Church of God. These flags were placed in two halves of the world globe. They then placed their hands on the Bible and were given a Church flag in return. The country of Myanmar (formerly Burma) was welcomed into The Church of God fold with 11 churches organised earlier in the year. Two young Mission Team members gave their testimonies of the blessings they had received from going on the mission trip to Panama.

This included seeing a young lady delivered from an evil spirit. One was accompanied by her grandmother as she was under 18 and unable to travel alone. The other had to ask her parents for the Christmas presents she had already given them back - which she returned to the store to get a refund and used it for her deposit.

The next mission trip would be in April 2015 to the Philippines and will cost \$3,000. This is to be followed by another one in Spring/Summer 2015 to the north eastern region of the USA and will cost \$1,000.

Following this, one young person from England contacted Brother Hawkins to say that they would be going on the next mission trip.

Video clips showing members taking the polar plunge were shown which raised over \$2,000 for mission. England were challenged to participate and to submit video clips (-:

The Holy Ghost fell after a song by the choir. One lady came up to join the Church. After this a young man jumped up on the rostrum and asked for prayer to be saved. As we fell on our knees to pray, you could hear the covenant being administered to others who wanted to join the Church there and then - including the General Overseer’s oldest grandchild.

From this time to the end of the Assembly I believe approximately 26 individuals joined the Church.

On Friday morning Sister Sharon Morrow preached what to me was the message of the Assembly entitled “*Crucified.*” She said the devil wanted to divert the Church and has tried over the years. She encouraged us not to lower our standard to keep people and that the 29 Prominent Teachings and Advice to Members were our treasures and not our enemy. She said there was an attack on holiness but we must maintain our standard and not look like the world. She said that Jesus was coming not in the winking of an eye or the blinking of an eye but in the twinkling of an eye (1/1,000 000 of a second). We were encouraged not to let anything keep us from the Rapture. The Holy Ghost confirmed the message and people flocked to the altar. One lady who had left the church 30 years earlier came and renewed her membership.

The General Overseer had to cut his address short due to the previous moving of the Holy Ghost. During his annual address he went through the deaths of the Apostles but how they maintained their faith to the end. He encouraged us to read “*The Foxes Book of Christian Martyrs.*”

Brother Dupre outlined that the cost for Evening Light would have to be increased as General Headquarters were not able to sustain the cost of production and mailing. The new costs are to be agreed but the electronic version can be obtained for \$8.00 per year. To reduce costs we may have to receive them by mailing where they are all sent to National Office and then sent out to the churches.

The new general Bible Training Institute (BTI) theme is “*Higher Heights and Deeper Depths*” taken from Psalm 61:2.

During the progress reports for Africa, Asia and Europe, Brother Hawkins showed some video clips from our year’s activities and a short clip of mine and Sister Victoria’s wedding. I then gave my report on the work in England.

Brother Paul Sudhakar from Northern India spoke of how he was robbed and beaten for preaching the gospel. Brother Mbogo from Kenya had also experienced being robbed and beaten as well as losing a son. Please remember them in prayer.

Brother Jacob Doran who preached the Healing Message was a walking miracle. He had been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and collapsed lungs over three years ago and was told by the doctors that he should not be alive. He is not only alive but still preaching the Word of God. He said that some people had more faith in their sickness than they had in God but went on to say that it is God and not Satan who holds our future. He said sometimes we ask the questions *"God where are you; why are you taking so long?"* but he used the story of Lazarus in St. John 11 to show that God is always on time.

On Saturday morning, I was ordained as a Bishop. During the Assembly Band Movement (ABM) programme, the General Overseer was appreciated and an offering was collected. Poems were read to him by his eldest grandson and granddaughter. Our General Overseer loves hats, so among the gifts presented to him were a variety of hats. We also had a moment of silence for all those who had passed on during the year including our own Pastor Dudley Browne. The new general ABM theme will be *"Giving Light to all in the House"* taken from St. Matthew 5:15. We were encouraged to have a vision of the Church and to share our vision.

The new general theme for the Women's Missionary Band (WMB) was given as *"Send the Gospel Light into the Darkness of the Night."* We were encouraged not to compromise with the devil or give him an inch in our lives. Sister Bishop said we live in a world where good is looked on as evil and evil as good. She encouraged us to win a soul for Jesus and to step out if we felt the calling.

During the break that followed Sister Victoria and I were invited to a meal by Sister Connie Wilson and Sister Janet Talley and their families.

They made us feel so welcomed and we shared a wonderful meal. I am so thankful that I'm a part of the great family of God.

During the Victory Leaders Band (VLB) programme the youth marched into the auditorium as usual with their banners. The programme was interrupted for a short time due to a child setting off a fire alarm. We had started to evacuate the building but were then told that we could remain while they found someone to deactivate the alarm.

On Sunday for the first time in a General Assembly we actually had Sunday School with Sister Cox teaching the lesson. The new general Sunday School theme is *"The Armour of God"* taken from Ephesians 6:11. Brother Strong, the General Co-ordinator mentioned that sometimes in conversation we say: *"the Church teaches"* but we were encouraged to say *"the Bible teaches"* as the Church does not have any doctrine or teachings of her own.

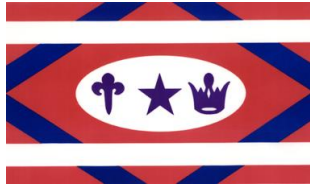
During Children's Church at the Assembly, the theme was *"The Lord is with Thee."* There were 255 children in attendance from 23 states and 1 country. There were 11 saved, 2 sanctified, 4 filled with the Holy Ghost and 4 healed. Victoria Griffin who visited England a few years ago with her parents as a small child sung a beautiful song: *"The Anchor Holds."*

During the appointments I was given some more responsibility when I was appointed as the Chairman of the Questions and Subjects Committee.

The General Assembly was viewed online by people from over 90 countries. Let's pray that something of what they saw will influence them for good and draw them to The Church of God.

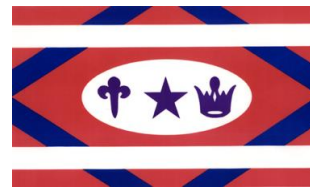
Greetings were sent to the members in England from too many to recall but they hope to see you all next year.

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## National Administration

<b>Stephen E. Smith</b>	General Overseer
<b>Philip C. Bennett</b>	National Overseer/Pastor, Long Lane
<b>Frances Prince</b>	Pastor, Druids Heath
<b>Beverley Anderson</b>	Pastor, Handsworth/National Women's Missionary Band/ National Ladies Retreat Co-ordinator
<b>Angela Clarke</b>	Pastor, London/National Treasurer
<b>Wilhelmina Brown</b>	National Assembly Band Movement Co-ordinator
<b>Stuart Brown</b>	National Church of Prophecy Marker Association/ Bible Training Institute Co-ordinator
<b>Jason Prince</b>	National Evangelism/National Family Camp Co-ordinator
<b>Jennifer Thompson</b>	National Sunday School Co-ordinator
<b>Claudine Brown</b>	National Victory Leaders Band Co-ordinator
<b>Rikki Prince</b>	National Family Camp Co-ordinator
<b>Ray Prince</b>	National Music Director
<b>Jacqueline Davis</b>	National Choir Director
<b>Brenda Prince</b>	National Reporter
<b>Karen Richards</b>	Assistant Editor of <i>The Chronicle</i>



## From the Overseer's Desk

As we start another Assembly year we are trusting God for great things ahead. Let us not be weary in well doing but let us exercise our faith and have patience in an all knowing God.

*“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.*

*Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.”*

(James 5:7-8)

I thank God for making it possible for Sister Victoria and myself, together with another six delegates from England to travel to the General Assembly. What an Assembly it was! Many have attested that this was the best General Assembly since the re-organisation. God's presence could be felt in every session with many outpourings of the Spirit as God honoured the many hours of prayer and fasting by His children that had preceded the event.

We also thank God for a wonderful National Convention and for the spirit that existed throughout. Many have said that they felt a unity as never before.

It was a pleasure to have the delegates with us from the USA who were a great blessing during the Convention. Special thanks to Pastor Anderson for helping to look after and transport these visitors, including taking them on a trip to London. Special thanks also to Sister Debra Browne for making her home available for the delegates to stay in.

Please be praying for our upcoming Ministers' Convention that God will inspire and anoint all the National Workers as they outline their programmes for the year ahead.

Please start making preparations to attend our next National Family Camp in February 2015.

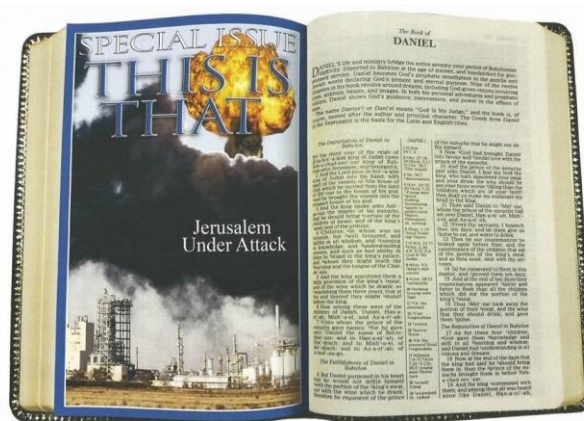
Finally our commiserations go out to Sister Buchanan who sadly lost her eldest son, Lee in August. Please remember Sister Buchanan and her family in your prayers.



# EVANGELISM BOOST

Jason Prince - National Evangelism Co-ordinator

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



EVANGELISM 2014 - 2015  
E. ROGER AMMONS GENERAL COORDINATOR

## Go preach and teach the Gospel

Inviting friends, loved ones, co-workers, people we meet on the street to Church is not bad in itself as they could come and get saved. The Holy Ghost may be working on their hearts - giving them a yearning to go to Church and through the Holy Ghost working in us, they come and visit. However, sometimes we stop at just inviting them to Church and feel satisfied that we are witnessing.

A witness (in the general sense) can be defined as the following: **someone that sees something, or someone that has a knowledge of something from observation or experience.** We are being witnesses of what we have seen Jesus do in our own lives. Sharing what we have knowledge of through our own personal experiences: which is a change of heart and mind. We believe our sins have been forgiven by God through Jesus Christ, the Son of God who died for us to bring us salvation.

The Scripture does not say “go and tell all nations to come to Church”. It says **“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”** (St. Mark 16:15). As I mentioned earlier, inviting people to Church in itself is not bad. We want our friends, loved ones, and strangers to hear the truth, and the full gospel of The Church of God. Can the words of just that invite save a soul?

What is the Gospel? It is: Jesus saves, God sent His only begotten Son to seek and save US who were lost. He loves us SO much and does not want us to perish and spend eternity in the lake of fire (see references St. John 3:16 and St. Luke 19:10). Isn't that good news!

The power is in the name of Jesus. There is power in The Church of God through the Holy Ghost but what does the word “Church” mean to a sinner? Most often it is just a building that has a cross on top and marriages happen there, but just the name “Jesus” is able to melt hearts. Repentance saves souls.

We have to step outside our comfort zones of being satisfied with stopping at just inviting people to Church. I am on about SATISFIED and will not go any further. Again, there is nothing wrong with inviting people to Church but what if that soul does not come and visit the Church? They may die, having only been invited to Church. A soul that has heard about Christ through us may visit a different church, but our involvement is that we invited them to give their heart to One who can save their soul from eternal damnation. The name of The Church of God cannot save, but the One it belongs to can.





Sunday School Department



**The Church of God**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOST**

**Jennifer Thompson - National Sunday School Co-ordinator**

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

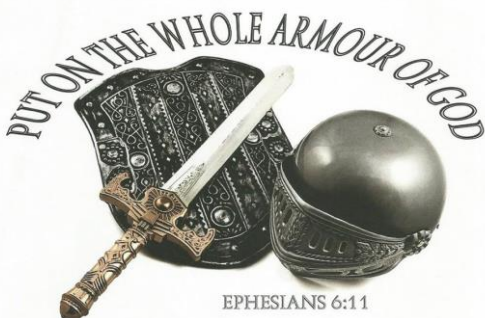
### **'The Armour of God'**

(Ephesians 6:11)

Greetings in the mighty name of Jesus. I give God thanks for the many wonderful blessings He has bestowed upon me. Ruth C. Jones wrote these lyrics - ***"in times like these you need the Bible"*** and for certain, we do.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 2014/2015

ROBERT F. STRONG,  
GENERAL COORDINATOR



**THAT YE MAY BE ABLE TO  
STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF  
THE DEVIL**

My encouragement to all (including our children) is that we use the same Bible – the Authorised King James version of 1611. The reason for this is men continue to revise and update the Bible in an effort to make it "more understandable". These efforts make it contradictory, confusing and misleading.

The Church of God recognises only the Authorised King James version. (Reina Valera Bible – Spanish) This is the infallible Word of God and without error. Many versions of the Bible have been watered down. Updated versions of the Bible cannot set mankind free from the bondage of sin. They have no power to do so but the Truth will lead them to heaven.

The revised versions omit many important words. Revelation 22:18-19 tells us what will happen if we add or take away from God's word.

Superintendents and Sunday School teachers, I am here if you need me. Please pray for the Sunday School department. I desire your prayers.

# National Convention

## 12<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> July 2014

When I asked a few people what their highlights of this year's National Convention were, we all agreed on one thing - the messages! God surely had a lot to tell us during these three days. Our theme was "*But the hour cometh, and now is...*" We were blessed to have among us a few visitors from the United States; Sister Connie Wilson, Sister Janet Talley and her grandson Drew Woods, as well as Sister Montana Thompson. We also had a visit from the Mayor of Dudley - Councillor Margaret Aston and many of the brethren's friends, colleagues and family members.

It seemed fit to the Holy Ghost to remind us on Friday of the wind that blew for centuries and will blow regardless of opposition. God will accomplish His work! The altar was opened after this message and many of the brethren and visitors found themselves there seeking God.

There is no doubt that the messages given to Sister Wilson came directly from God. On Saturday it felt as if a final warning was coming from the Holy Ghost for the Church to fix herself now because the day of the valley of decision is coming and it will definitely be too late to fix ourselves then. Sister Wilson stressed that we have gotten in the habit of complaining against God and one another just as Israel did. God will not be mocked! The valley of decision is the result of our labour and it is coming soon.

On Sunday, Sister Wilson encouraged us to be more about the 'Awe' factor rather than the Wow factor. She stated that the 'Wow' factor (impressive displays/ appearances) have to come out of the Church and encouraged each pastor to get rid of that spirit from their congregations.

There were many special moments where the Holy Ghost took full control and there was lots of worship, tongues, shouting and dancing in the Spirit. There were also anointed messages from our young brothers Jerome Solomon, Justin Clarke and Joshua Anderson. Each message was in accordance with the theme and encouraged us to serve the one true God and to follow Him.

Our National Convention came to a close on Sunday afternoon with a wonderful spirit of unity. May we all be found labouring in this spirit of unity until Christ returns for The Church of God.

**Sister Brenda Prince**  
**Reporter**

# Baptismal Service

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014 we gathered together as three young candidates went under the waters as part of their next step in obedience to the Lord. The venue was at Calvary Church of God in Christ, Oxford Road. The sisters give their personal testimonies, outlining their baptism experiences:

## **Sister Kathleen Hamilton**

The baptism was a great experience. I was able to bury the old me and spring up as the new me. When I came out of the water, I felt a difference within me. I felt J-O-Y moving within my heart. I can surely say that it made me a better person.

## **Sister Suzanne Parchment**

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at Oxford Road church I was baptized. I gave my testimony and I said before I got baptized I prayed to the Lord and said, *“God, I’m not sure if I should get baptized”* but when I went to sleep that night I had a dream. I saw an angel by a pool and he had a deep voice and he said *“if you don’t get baptized, you won’t see the promised land.”* I thank the Lord I was not forced by anyone and ever since I got baptized, I feel like a completely different person. Praise the Lord.

## **Sister Teresa Parchment**

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July, I got baptized. When I came out of the water, I felt so overjoyed. I felt so happy but it is a hard journey. The devil torments me but I pray and it all goes away. Every morning when I wake up I have a good feeling because I have gotten baptized and I’ve given my life to the Lord. That makes me feel great. It leaves me an elated feeling.

**Sister Brenda Prince**  
**Reporter**

**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 2014**. These submissions will be for the October-December 2014 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: [kazgirl.uk@yahoo.com](mailto:kazgirl.uk@yahoo.com)

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