



The Chronicle

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Stay Connected

Philip C. Bennett

On occasion we turn on devices at home and they fail to come on. This is normally due to a fault somewhere within the system. Sometimes the power switch is off or the device is not plugged in. There also could be a fault in the device itself or the line.

A verse in Frederick M. Lehman's hymn - The Royal Telephone says: *'Fail to get an answer? Satan's crossed your wires, by some strong delusion, or some base desire. Take away obstructions, God is on the throne, and you'll get an answer through the royal telephone.'*

As Christians we **MUST** stay connected to the Power Source because without Him we can do nothing.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing.

If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." (St. John 15:1-6)

Some Christians rejoice in the fact that they were saved many years ago and that they are a member of The Church of God. Just being a member of The Church of God is no guarantee of eternal salvation. We need to stay saved. We can lose our salvation, our sanctification and the Holy Ghost if we do not stay connected. We do not want to be like Samson who was blissfully unaware of the fact that God had departed from him.

"...And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him."
(Judges 16:20)

When we are connected, God the Power Source will talk to us and reveal deep and hidden things. Those who are connected will be able to discern things that would otherwise remain hidden. After Naaman had been healed of leprosy he departed from the prophet Elisha who refused to take any reward from Naaman. However, his servant Gehazi followed him and lied to receive some garments and silver.

He then returned home thinking that nobody knew what he had done. Elisha was connected to God - the Power Source and discerner of all things.

“But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither. And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.”
(2 Kings 5:25-27)

The Apostle Peter wrote: *“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”* (1 Peter 2:5)

We need to be lively or living stones, as only living stones are able to build a spiritual house. Dead stones are unable to offer spiritual sacrifices.

When buildings are being constructed, scaffolding is often used in the construction. The scaffolding is not a part of the actual building but is merely there to help in the building process. Once the building is completed, the scaffolding is removed and is not a part of the finished product. We need to make sure that we are a part of the building and not just scaffolding. We can all remember people who were once among us, who helped in the building up of the Church. They are now no longer with us. What happened to them? **They failed to stay connected.**

God is going to bring those who are willing to perfection; but those who refuse will be cut off.

“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)

The heat is going to be turned up and those who cannot take it will have to get out of the kitchen (leave us). The heat is designed to perfect us. Situations are going to come upon us to prove us and reveal people's true identity. At times we will not even know we are being tested.

When God called Gideon to deliver Israel, he started out with 32,000 men. When Gideon through God's direction asked for those who were fearful and afraid to go back, 22,000 returned home. After Gideon's army had been reduced to 10,000 from 32,000 God Himself chose the test to reduce the number even further. He told Gideon what to look out for but did not reveal to Gideon whom He would choose. Gideon was asked to bring them down to the river to drink water and he was to observe how they drank. Of the 10,000 men only 300 lapped the water as a dog would do, and those were the ones chosen to go into battle. (Judges Chapter 7)

Some have stayed under the radar and have gone undetected for years but the Holy Ghost is going to expose them. *“...be sure your sin will find you out.”* (Numbers 32:23)

“Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil? He spake of Judas Iscariot the son of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.” (St. John 6:70-71)

Jesus knew who Judas was but He did not expose him. He gave him time to repent.

Some have been in Church for years and do not know where they are yet. **“They take the Church for papi show.”** They do not want anyone to reprove them. In other words: **“Just leave me alone to do my own thing.”**

“The highways lie waste, the wayfaring man ceaseth: he hath broken the covenant, he hath despised the cities, he regardeth no man... Now will I rise, saith the LORD; now will I be exalted; now will I lift up myself... Hear, ye that are far off, what I have done; and, ye that are near, acknowledge my might. The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; he shall dwell on high; his place of defense shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.”
(Isaiah 33:8, 10, 13-16)

Stubbornness and rebellion will cause us to lose our connection. *“And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”* (1 Samuel 15:22-23) **Saul lost his connection with God because of disobedience.**

Korah, Dathan and Abiram lost their connection because of rebellion. (Numbers Chapter 16) They became overly ambitious

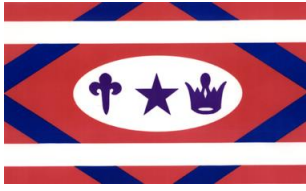
and wanted to take over the priesthood from Aaron whom God had chosen. They and all their sympathisers, 250 men of renown who were famous in the congregation were destroyed. **God is no respecter of persons.**

Writing to the members in Rome, the Apostle Paul stated: *“Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not high-minded, but fear: for if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.”*
(Romans 11:19-22)

If a branch is removed from a tree, regardless of its size, it's just a matter of time before it will wither and die. You would not believe that only a short while ago that same branch was so green and flourishing.

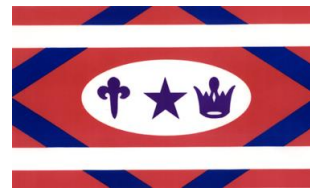
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From the Overseer's Desk

Through many dangers toils and snares we have already come. Thank God, The Church of God in the United Kingdom is finally registered as a Charity. Our God has led us thus far and we want to just follow where He leads.

On their way from Egyptian bondage to the Promised Land, God led His chosen people by a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day. When the cloud moved they moved and when it stopped, they stopped. It did not matter how impatient they became. They had to wait on the leading of God. If they endeavoured to move whilst the cloud stayed put they would have been on their own. As the last days Church of God we too need to be totally dependent upon God, for without Him we can do nothing. He has promised that He will never leave or forsake us. We need to stand upon His promises because they cannot fail.

Many of the Israelites failed because of unbelief; we do not want to make the same mistake.

“And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.”

(Hebrews 3:18-19)

“Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.”

(Hebrews 4:1)

As we approach the end of 2009 we thank God for His faithfulness towards us. We have not long had our Ministers' Convention where the admonition was to 'Stay Connected.' Let us ensure we remain connected to the True Vine in 2010.

I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, encouragement and support throughout the past year and wish you all a very happy Christmas and a blessed New Year.



CPMA/BTI BOOST

Ray Prince – Acting National CPMA/BTI Co-ordinator

The new general CPMA theme for the assembly year 2009-2010 is:
‘The Treasure of God in Earthen Vessels’

“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”
(2 Corinthians 4:7)

The new general BTI theme for the assembly year 2009-2010 is:

‘Training for the Harvest’
(St. Mark 4:26-29)

Christmas greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus.

As we are fast approaching the festivities of Christmas, let us not forget what Christmas is really about. St. John 3:16 states ***“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*** What a wonderful Christmas present, the gift of Christ and everlasting life. Not one of us could have given such a gift, but this is who God is. God is love.

It is quite easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of Christmas. The credit crunch is ever present and things are tight. Some of us may even feel discouraged or stressed because the funds are not there. We are admonished that ***“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”*** (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

At this time of the year we can feel physically and spiritually drained. We have to press, push and dig deep in order to get through spiritually. God is well aware of our problems because He is God. Let us enjoy this time of giving with our families, brethren and loved ones, for it is the gift of God. ***“And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.”*** (Ecclesiastes 3:13)

Merry Christmas to you all.

P.S. If you're struggling for an idea for a Christmas present, why not purchase a CPMA membership so that we can be 100%?

National Ministers' Convention of The Church of God (England) Saturday 14th November 2009

Theme - 'Stay Connected'

This year's National Ministers' Convention was a wonderful time of worship, fellowship and self-dedication to the Lord. We could feel His presence from the opening of the Convention as we sang the choruses 'Jesus got a hold of my life' and 'Hosanna in the highest.'

Our National Overseer Pastor Philip C. Bennett was the moderator and throughout the day powerful encouragements were given by different speakers. Sister Wilhelmina Brown preached on the topic **"...for without me ye can do nothing."** (St. John 15:5) Pastor Frances Prince preached on the topic **'Examine yourself occasionally and see if you are in the faith.'** (Advice to Members) and Pastor Beverley Anderson's sermon was **"...Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"** (St. Luke 18:8) Pastor Bennett preached on the Convention theme **'Stay Connected.'** Each member was encouraged to stay connected to Jesus Christ, the True Vine.

Boasts were made by each of the national auxiliary co-ordinators. They outlined themes for the assembly year 2009-2010 and reminded the members of God's desire for us to line up with His Word and stay connected to Him.

Special singing from Druids Heath church was a blessing and the presence of God was felt when the National Choir ministered in song.

One notable point of encouragement was the visual presentation of the sheave of corn. The sheave was removed layer by layer to reveal the good corn. This analogy was likened to our sinful nature. We must allow God to continually strip us of spiritual impurities so we can attain perfection.

We were also admonished to listen to those looking on our personal situations through spiritual eyes. We were reminded of Samson in the Bible who failed to take heed to his parents' warnings. This resulted in him being led astray, losing his strength and as such, interfering with God's plan for his life.

God clearly wanted to remind His Church that Jesus is coming back for those attached to the True Vine. We were truly blessed during the Convention and look forward to the coming year in the Church.

Sister Jenetta Hurst
Reporter

What's happening in Northfield Church?

Sunday School fund raising event

The Sunday School department of the church in Northfield held a fund raising concert on Sunday 22nd November 2009. Although a number of the members were absent due to sickness, it was nevertheless a good night.

The event was ably moderated by Sister Jennifer Thompson, the local Sunday School Superintendent. Deacon Clement Edmeade, National Sunday School Co-ordinator showed his versatility in the role of Worship Leader for the evening. Various members of the congregation displayed their talents, some we never even knew they had. Some read poems they had written whilst others sang or played musical instruments to the glory of God.

We give God thanks for a wonderful evening and the willingness of the members to give to Christ and His Church.

What's happening in Druids Heath Church?

Evangelism and Tract Drop – Saturday 29th August 2009

We thank the Lord that He enabled the Evangelism Team and Victory Leaders Band of Druids Heath Church to evangelise in the Maypole and Druids Heath areas. We met and prayed that the Lord would have His way and bless the outreach campaign.

The Evangelism Team ministered in the Maypole area. They went into the shopping precinct and issued tracts to busy shoppers. They walked around various shops to spread the Word of God. The team then dispersed and embarked upon door-to-door evangelism and witnessing. Church business cards and tracts were given out and people were told where we worship and were invited to Sunday School.

The Victory Leaders Band dropped tracts to households in the Druids Heath area. They also gave tracts to people they met along the way. All VLBs came to support along with the Gleaner Band and infants. Thank God that people have heard about Jesus and how they can be saved to the uttermost!

The Power of God in our services

The Holy Ghost has been manifesting Himself in a mighty way in our services. On one Sunday morning in October, although the benediction was pronounced it was evident that the Spirit of God was still working. A few members were lingering in prayer and the presence of God could be felt. The Holy Ghost spoke and gave this interpretation in English: **“Yes, yes, yes. You have gone too far but you must return.”**

The Pastor stated we need to maintain our daily walk with God. We were admonished to search ourselves and ensure the lives we live are pleasing to God. As members of the Body of Christ, we must live near the Cross. **“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”** (Ephesians 6:11)
Praise the Lord!

Sister Koreen Wilson – 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 27th February 2010**. These submissions will be for the Jan-Mar 2010 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: kazgirl_uk@yahoo.com

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