



The Chronicle

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Do You Dress To Be Chased Or To Be Chaste?

Philip C. Bennett

Chased: Pursued or followed in order to catch or catch up with.

Chaste: Morally pure in thought and conduct; decent and modest.

Our "Advice to Members" states: *"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. The wearing of extremely sheer fabrics is unbecoming to a saint and the wearing of shorts in public should never be practiced."*

Whilst the advice does not give specific dimensions for example regarding the length of dresses or skirts, the need to display modesty as a child of God is at its centre. As a guide, ladies your hemline should be below your knees whether you are standing or sitting. You should not have to sit cross legged or place objects upon your laps to preserve your dignity. Our brothers should feel comfortable when they come to God's house as they have enough temptations to contend with in their workplaces and on the streets. Some may smile but it is a serious matter in God's eyes.

God has instructed us and our Advice to Members reinforces how we should adorn ourselves. Therefore, when we blatantly disregard God's instructions, we wilfully sin and will be judged for our actions.

We live in a world where the trend for hemlines is forever upwards while the trend for neck lines is constantly downwards. The result is that less and less of one's body is being concealed and more and more is being revealed. The world says: *"it's my body and I'll dress how I like,"* but we have no such custom in The Church of God. The Bible clearly teaches obedience and a consideration to the feelings of others - even when we do not think we are doing anything wrong. *If you are embarrassed to wear to church what you wear to work, then you should not be wearing it at all.*

The Bible clearly outlines how we are to adorn ourselves as children of God and ambassadors of Christ: *"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works."* (1 Timothy 2:9-10)

It would seem that women's appearance was a concern in the day of the Apostle Paul. His concern seems to be that the Christian women be good testimonies for the Christian faith, even in their attire. Many pagan women dressed indecently and immodestly, without any bashfulness or shame. They wore costly clothes, jewellery and extravagant hairstyles. Christian women were not to dress the same way as those pagan women did. In contrast to pagan women who adorn themselves to draw attention to their attractiveness or wealth, Christian women are to be adorned with good works.


The serious Christian will not follow the fashions of the sinful world. The world is not interested in living a life patterned after the Bible. The unregenerate prefer dress that draws attention to their bodies and which reflects extravagant and changing fashions. Modern dress is nothing short of exhibitionism. Women who choose to display their breasts, thighs, or buttocks, either mostly uncovered or with *form fitting clothes*, to public view must at best endure the public attention that it brings. At the worst, they must enjoy this kind of exposure. While many Christian women believe strongly in chastity and purity, their dress does not always reflect those convictions. Any clothing that accentuates the figure of a woman's body or shows portions of her body that only her husband should be allowed to see can cause a man to lust after her. No Christian woman wants to knowingly cause a man to lust after her. This results, in effect, with her participating in his committing adultery.

The impact made by a Christian lady is not something she just puts on. It is a product of the heart that leads her to dress as she does. In this day of inconsistent, cheap Christianity, it is not uncommon for women to take on a somewhat schizophrenic approach. One day she might enjoy the attention she gets while wearing clothing that reveals or accentuates her body.

Another day, she might feel like playing the role of a chaste, honourable Christian lady. The problem is not solely about the clothes she wears but it's the condition of the heart. Someone once said: *"The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart."* If she dresses to please men, or to fit into modern fashion rather than solely to be pleasing to the Lord, it tends to come out when she cannot resist that 'slit' or that certain 'fit' to suggest her physical desirability. A woman who has not surrendered her heart in obedience to Christ in this area will not likely discern true modesty from feigned modesty. We are encouraged by the Apostle John to: *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever."* (1 John 2:15-17)

Sometimes we do not place much emphasis on certain Scriptures in the Bible, almost as if they are not important. Everything that God has seen fit to put in the Bible is important and we must obey God's Word if we are to go on to perfection: *"And the times of this ignorance God winked at: but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent."* (Acts 17:30)

Once a truth has been revealed unto us we can no longer go on as usual and plead ignorance.

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."
(James 4:17) 

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From the Overseer's Desk

Since our last edition we have held a National Ministers' Convention and were privileged to have Bishop Robert J. Hawkins Jnr, our General World Mission Co-ordinator as a guest speaker. We thank God for His presence in our midst and for the confirmation of His Word. During the Convention, one person testified of feeling a distinct call into the Ministry.

We also held a National Youth Concert to raise funds for the Victory Leaders Band department. Sister Claudine Brown and those who assisted her are to be commended for the way they organised. The building was almost filled to capacity, with members and friends of the Church in attendance.

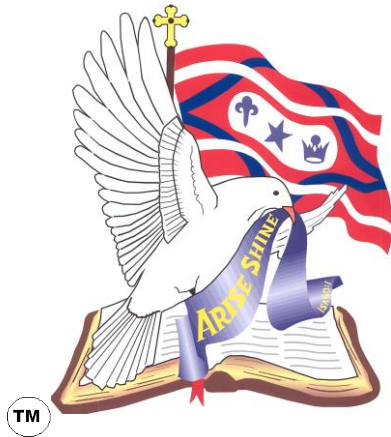
In November 2013, I was appointed as the National Overseer for St. Vincent in the West Indies following the death of Deacon D. Browne. This will entail me travelling to and from this island a few times per year. This is in addition to my other positions including that as National Overseer for England. I crave your prayers that God will anoint and strengthen me for the work ahead.

I will be travelling to the USA on Friday 24th January 2014 and returning on Monday 3rd February 2014 for a week of meetings as part of my duties on the Questions & Subjects Committee. In an emergency, I can be contacted by phone at our General Headquarters building or you can send me an e-mail.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a blessed New Year but do remember during all the festivities and giving of presents that "Jesus is the reason for the season."

Upcoming Events:

- National Family Camp - 17th to 19th February 2014
- National Youth Convention - 19th April 2014
- National Ladies Retreat - 24th to 25th May 2014
- National Convention - 18th to 20th July 2014



CPMA/BTI BOOST

Stuart Brown - National CPMA/BTI Co-ordinator

The new general Church of Prophecy Marker Association theme for the assembly year 2013-2014 is:

‘What is Truth?’

(St. John 18:38)

The new general Bible Training Institute theme for the assembly year 2013-2014 is:

‘Shew me, Lead me, and Teach me O LORD’

(cited from Psalm 25:4 and 5)

Greetings in the mighty name of Jesus from the CPMA and BTI departments!.

So it's a new year! We have more challenges to face, more battles to go through and more temptations. In all these things, as long as we are in Jesus and walking in the light, we can overcome every challenge, win every battle and resist every temptation. We serve a risen Saviour and He lives!

As members of The Church of God, we are living markers. Through our lives, the word of our testimonies and example, we will show our families, friends, neighbours and colleagues that we're on the winning side.

We are in the end times and closer to Christ's soon return. The CPMA department of The Church of God will be committed to promoting the Biblical identity of the last days Church, encouraging its members to stay focussed and continue steadfast in the doctrine and the will of God!

Some "Christians" may drift into worldliness, being luke warm and forsaking the old paths: ***“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.”*** (2 Timothy 4:3)

The Apostle Paul, a great CPMA representative, encouraged us by stating: ***“Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.”*** (Titus 1:9)

My encouragement is to hold the fort! Whosoever ***“...soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”*** (Galatians 6:8)

Do we know that the more we immerse ourselves into studying the Bible and its doctrine, past and present Church literature, prayer and fasting, is the more we are not only maintaining our relationship with God but shining His light for the Church! This will draw those who are looking for a place where God dwells, love abounds and truth is taught! Shine on!

I would like to acknowledge Handsworth Church for being 100% in CPMA membership, and would like to boost us all to continue to collect offerings for this department.



EVANGELISM BOOST

Jason Prince - National Evangelism Co-ordinator

The new general Evangelism theme for the assembly year 2013-2014 is:

'Blow wind, blow'

(Psalm 147:18)



Blackheath Town Centre Evangelism

On 21st December 2013 the Evangelism team went to Blackheath Town Centre. Many were rushing around doing their Christmas shopping but some stopped to talk and left with an encouraging word. Others were told prayers would be said for them and some stopped to hear the singing and received tracts from us.

Before speaking to one gentleman, the question was asked of us, "are you Jehovah's Witnesses?" This was because the man had required many pints of blood to help him in the past. This gentleman said he had faith but wished it could be stronger. We said that we would pray for him. This is something that many wish for, that their faith could be stronger, or that they could feel the presence of God. How will this happen if there are not those to share personal testimonies, offer a prayer for them, or give an encouraging word?

Another man actually confessed that he was on his way to do something bad to the people who were making his life a misery! Brother Stuart spoke to the man and left him a tract which gave the man something to think about. The man said that he had tried turning the other cheek, but did not know what else to do. Maybe Brother Stuart's conversation with him was God showing him another way



As it was the Christmas period, we came together to sing Christmas carols and people stopped to listen. As we were singing, we also gave out tracts as people passed by.

Here is Brother Justin Clarke's testimony of the day:

Before arriving for the Evangelism outreach, I was thinking a lot about the souls that I would come across. I prepared my mind through prayer and meditation on God.

Upon arrival at the place where we were to evangelise, I felt apprehensive. I had to remind myself that fear is not of God but power and a sound mind is what God provides.

There was a balance of positive and negative responses but the people I came across were polite and pleasant. I overheard Sister Claudine singing Christmas carols which attracted the attention of many people. It led to the Evangelism team singing together in the town centre. Many people responded very positively to this and we seemed to reach more souls this way. There were a few occasions where people would join in and even ask us to sing some more.

The experience on a whole was a pleasant one and I look forward to the next outreach.

Brother Justin Clarke.

Please pray for the Evangelism team as they work.

Evangelism Team:

Brother Justin Clarke, Brother Stuart Brown, Sister Claudine Brown, Sister Vicky Rowe, Brother Jason Prince, Sister Brenda Prince.



SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOST

Ray Prince - National Sunday School Co-ordinator

The new general Sunday School theme for the assembly year 2013-2014 is:

'The Spirit of Truth'

(St. John 6:13)

Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus our soon coming King.

What a year 2013 has been. It has had mental, spiritual and financial challenges, but I am glad to say that Jesus has surely brought me and my family through. As the song writer declares *'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His Word'*.

Our general Sunday School theme is *"The Spirit of Truth"*, taken from St. John 16:13. To have the truth in these days is precious and we must uphold it.

St. John 8:32:

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”.

When we walk in the truth we please God for we do that which is pleasing to Him. Also, walking in the truth will attract attention, because we will be different and stand out.

Galatians 5:25:

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit”.

In the New Year, I will be contacting the Sunday School Superintendents to arrange visits to the local churches.



VICTORY LEADERS BAND BOOST

Claudine Brown - National Victory Leaders Band Co-ordinator

The new general Victory Leaders Band theme for the assembly year 2013-2014 is:

'Marching in Victory'

(Hebrews 10:39)



Greetings to *The Chronicle* readers in the name of our Lord and soon coming King! Our nation recently observed Remembrance Day on 11th November and at work we were encouraged to hold 2 minutes silence at 11.00am in memory of all those who died in the line of duty during World War One. I was silent yes, but chose to meditate on the One who died for the sins of the whole world – "...spotless Lamb of God was He" and as another song puts it, "born to die for me." "Yes I thank You, Oh Lord!" I could go on!

The new general theme for the Victory Leaders Band this year fits us like a hand in glove: "Marching in Victory" - and YES WE ARE! **"But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul".** (Hebrews 10:39)

Forward is the direction in which we move. We have no desire to "draw back". We understand the value of the price that was paid for our salvation and God's promises are enough for us! The world has no attraction and we cling to Jesus Christ the lover of our souls!

Drawing back into apostasy is not an option for those marching in victory as it causes offence to God! Hebrews 10:38 states **"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him".** As Jesus said in St. Luke 9:62 **"No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God".**

Many have marched with us and then somewhere come off track and fallen out of step or changed direction. When you break from the ranks, you step out of the protection of God and make steps towards your own ruin. ('Perdition' as referred to in Hebrews 10:39 is a state of final spiritual ruin; loss of the soul.)

Although our hearts mourn for soldiers who have stopped fighting, we pray for them but we do not follow them. We keep our eyes upon our Commander and our ears are fixed on His voice. Unlike the enemies in World War One, ours are not made up of flesh and blood. We are fighting a battle that is not of this world and if we stay with Jesus – WE WILL WIN!

Soldiers of this world practice marching in step together until it becomes natural – the sound of their feet, the rhythm of their step, and the cut of their uniform is all about unity. Let us take a lesson from that. Jesus prayed to His father about us: ***"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me"***. (St. John 17:21)

Anyone who draws away from God has desperately LOST their victorious status, but SATAN with his devices will make it appear as though leaving the Lord sets you free! This is a vicious lie from hell! VLBs stay in the fight and keep marching! ***"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown..."*** (Revelation 3:11)

As we march together in unity, wearing our armour and wielding the Sword of Spirit, we send a clear message to the enemy's camp - we know what we are doing. You will never be able to penetrate our Defence and ultimately you will LOSE!

In a recent VLB service, we looked at how to march in victory by assigning a word to every letter of the word 'victory':

V – Vision: We need a vision of the 'bigger picture' to keep us on track.

I – Integrity: We need to maintain it in order to be victorious, just as Job did.

C – Courage: Be bold and be strong! The Lord is with us!

T – Total surrender: Partial surrender will not cut it – you won't be able to stand the fight.

O – Overcome! As the song says – *"In Jehovah's might put the foe to flight and the victor's crown we shall wear at last!"*

R – Run!

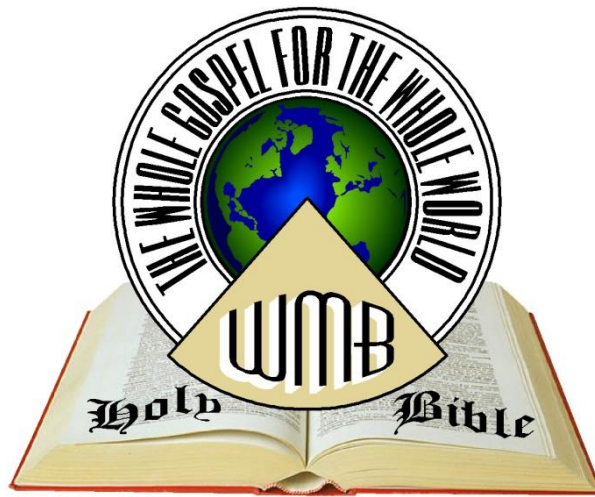
Y – Yield to the Spirit.

As a Bible study, can you find scriptures that back up each of these words? Perhaps you could look at them in your local services also.

Finally, just a few announcements: Our National Youth Convention will take place during Easter weekend on Saturday 19th April 2014.

Please remember that our 5p competition is still ongoing! Please give 5ps to your VLB leaders. Which local church will be able to collect the most? We will see during Convention!

Please continue to pray for Brother Stuart and me as we labour for Christ and His Church. God bless you all.



WMB BOOST

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

The new general Women's Missionary Band theme for the assembly year 2013-2014 is:
**'Faithfulness of the Women's Missionary Band;
Past, Present and Future'**
(Ecclesiastes 9:10)

As I think of faithfulness and this article, a song floods my mind that I used to sing years ago - *'I will remember'*. The lyrics are:

“When you work unto the Father, always abiding in love
When your name they don't even remember, oh do, Lord remember me.

And He said, “I will remember, your labour will not be in vain
I will remember, and a reward waits in your name”.

There is nothing we do for God that He will not remember and reward us for. Also, keep in mind that the Lord may bless us right here on earth in this very life we are living.

God told Abraham: **“...Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward”**. (Genesis 15:1)

The good that we do that only the Father knows about will be rewarded. Continue to do good: **“...thine alms may be in secret but thy Father which seest in secret himself shall reward thee openly”**. (St. Matthew 6:4)

We must continue to work faithfully, even if no-one pats us on the back. Let us look into the house, see what can be done and do it with all of our hearts. That is faithfulness unto God.

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ”. (Colossians 3:23-24)

“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works”. (St. Matthew 16:27)

Let the faithfulness of the Women's Missionary Band of the **past** continue here in the **present** that it may go on in the **future**.

Let 2014 be filled with the faithfulness of the Women's Missionary Band.

National Ministers' Convention

National Ministers' Convention took place on 5th October 2013. We had a special time in the Lord with the theme ***“The Harvest truly is Plenteous, but the Labourers are Few...”*** Among us was General World Missions Co-ordinator: Bishop Robert J. Hawkins, Jnr.



The Convention was split into two sessions, morning and afternoon. In the first half of the Convention we were blessed with beautiful singing where the power of the Holy Ghost moved as we proclaimed that **“Jesus Saves!”** During this session we also had boosts from the following auxiliaries: Evangelism, Victory Leaders Band and Sunday School.

One of the highlights of the Sunday School boost was when Brother Hawkins played a recording of Sister Jeanie Jones from Turkey. Sister Jeanie testified of once being a Muslim who was saved through the Sunday Schools held at her father's home. During this session, we also enjoyed special singing by Abigail from the church in Handsworth and Brother Nigel Davis from the church in Druids Heath.

Following, was our National Overseer's address entitled, **“The Urgency of the Harvest”**. In his message Pastor Bennett admonished the membership against standing idle as Satan works overtime to destroy the harvest.

The second session of the Convention was again filled with glorious singing and more boosts and messages. Pastor Beverley Anderson delivered a glorious message entitled, **“Why Stand Ye Here All the Day Idle”**. During this message, Pastor Anderson encouraged the young members in particular to yield to God's call and work for Christ and His Church. Bishop Hawkins also delivered a powerful message during this last session as he asked the question, **“Where are the Men?”** He challenged the men of The Church of God to do more for God, as it seems that some ladies are willing to stand in the gap when some men will not.

This Convention came to an end with many seeking God's will for their lives at the altar. Praise God for speaking to us at National Ministers' Convention!

Sister Brenda Prince – National Reporter

Evangelising Birmingham City Centre

A National Evangelism event was scheduled on 19th October 2013 by the Victory Leaders Band (VLB) department. Victory Leaders (aged 12 to 35) along with some of our Boosters (aged over 35) met in Birmingham City Centre. Some came in their red VLB tee shirts, representing the beautiful Church of God and ready to share the good news of the gospel with people from all walks of life.

Although intimidating at first, it did not take long before we all stepped out of our comfort zones. We began to hand out tracts to those that would take them or stop to listen. It did not seem as bad if we were rejected or despised, as we were all in unity working for the same team and cause.

Immediately after we were done, we shared stories of our encounters with each other. Surely this must have been the same feeling the disciples felt while working for the Master and taking the message of salvation to the lost sheep.



God truly was with us and He showed this by sheltering us from the rain until our work was done. Now, let us trust God for the increase!

Sister Brenda Prince – National Reporter

National Evangelism Workshop

On Saturday 26th October 2013, The Church of God met for a National Evangelism Workshop. Among the attendees were young teenagers as well as some of our elders. The workshop initiated with a powerful prayer by all those present.

All the brethren were then divided into teams and asked to write down different evangelism scenarios as well as Scriptures to biblically challenge some of the erroneous beliefs that are prevalent. Some of those beliefs included the ***theory of evolution, once saved always saved*** and ***disbelief in the holy Trinity***.

During the workshop, Pastor Philip Bennett taught a session on ***“The Approach in Evangelism”***. Pastor Bennett gave a few pointers when street witnessing such as taking our opportunities, introductions, and appropriate attire.

Pastor Beverley Anderson also taught us on the theme ***“Using the Word”***. She shared God’s plan of salvation for mankind and equipped us with key Scriptures to remember when evangelising.

We were also blessed with testimonies and experiences from two of our seasoned Evangelists - Evangelist A. Taylor-Harrison and Pastor F.E. Prince. The dedication, time and effort our sisters put into soul winning made many of us realise the need to do more.

Our workshop came to an end with some role plays where we put into practice the techniques discussed during the day. Overall, this workshop was very encouraging and educational. Many of the attendees have gone back to their local churches with a greater zeal and desire to win souls for Christ and His Church.

Sister Brenda Prince – National Reporter

**National Ladies Retreat
24th to 25th
May 2014**

Venue:

**Holiday Inn
Chapel Lane
Great Barr
Birmingham
B43 7BG**

**Please make plans for this annual event and pray
for the anointing of God.**

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 28th February 2014**. These submissions will be for the Jan-Mar 2014 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: kazgirl_uk@yahoo.com

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