



The Chronicle

A Publication of The Church of God (England)

October-December 2015, Volume 10, Issue 4

The Lord is not slack concerning His Promise

Philip C. Bennett

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light and there was light." (Genesis 1:1-3)

After creating light, God said in verse 4 that it was good. In verse 10 after He had divided the land from the sea, God said it was good. In verse 12 after creating the trees, grass and herbs God saw that it was good. In verse 21 after creating the fishes and fowls, God saw that it was good. In verse 25 after creating the land animals, God again saw that it was good: *"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing*

that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." (Genesis 1:26, 27)

"And God saw everything he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day." (Genesis 1:31)

After man began to multiply upon the face of the earth, it was not long before we read about the first murder - when Cain killed his brother Abel and that which God had declared to "be good" was contaminated by sin.

"And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.” (Genesis 6:1-3)

As much as God is patient, loving and longsuffering, He does have a limit, exemplified by Him throwing Satan out of heaven. Man was fast exhausting God’s patience.

“And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” (Genesis 6:5-8)

Why was Noah able to find grace when the rest of mankind could not or did not?

“Noah was a just man and perfect in his generation and Noah walked with God.” (Genesis 6:9)

If Noah could have done it, so could the rest of mankind. It was a deliberate choice that they made and today, men are still making the same choice - preferring darkness to light because their deeds are evil.

God resolved to destroy every living thing that he had made and told Noah in verse 14 of the sixth chapter to: **“Make thee an ark...”** God gave him strict instructions on how to build the ark and Noah was obedient. God told him what material to use **“gopher wood,”** and he was to **“pitch it within and without with pitch.”** It was to have one door at the side and one window on top. He was given the length, the breadth and the height.

The ark was to be the only means of escape from the impending judgement of an angry God.

For 120 years Noah built the ark and as he built, he preached. What was his message? **REPENT! IT’S GOING TO RAIN.** During the 120 years there was not even one convert. The people had become so comfortable in sin that they paid no heed to the warning. Some may have comforted themselves with the thought that a good God would not create them and then destroy them. Others may have felt that there was safety in numbers and if there was a God, He would not destroy so many people.

But God is not a man that He should lie. God is still saying today **“the soul that sinneth, it shall die.”** (Ezekiel 18:4)

After 120 years with the novelty having long passed for the unbelieving bystanders, God called Noah and his family into the ark. Even the strange sight of the animals making their way to the ark did not move them. That is how much people can become hardened in sin. After Noah and his family were safely inside the ark, God shut the door and the long promised judgement became a reality. As the rain descended and the floods rose from beneath they finally realised that God meant what He had said, but it was too late. Many perished insight of the ark.

In St. Matthew 24:37 Jesus said: **“But as the days of Noe were, so shall the coming of the Son of man be.”**

Jesus is coming soon and when He returns, the Church will be the only means of safety from the judgement to come - as was the ark before it. People are still saying that God would not create His people and destroy them, calling God’s bluff.

“Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water perished: But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgement and perdition of ungodly men.” (2 Peter 3:3-7)


In the first judgement God destroyed mankind with water but He has promised that the next judgement will be with fire: *“But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless.” (2 Peter 3:8-14)*

Some who use to preach and believe the “One Fold” message no longer do so. Some have told me that the Church is bigger than a little group of people (equating the Church with the kingdom) and they now have new revelation.

In the film *Krakatau East of Java* there was a scene before the volcano erupted where a father and son had to make a decision. The father decided to take shelter on a nearby island which he felt was solid and would survive the tsunami.

The son decided to take his chance in a flimsy looking boat which the father felt would be crushed by the waves. When the volcano did erupt, the island was covered with water and everyone on it perished but the boat and those on board survived the onslaught. This reminded me of the Church, the old ship of Zion. Though at times it may be battered, it will carry its cargo to that port in the sky.

There is coming a time of separation and everyone will have to make their own decision. Brethren, let us not get too comfortable down here. This world is not our home. *“We are going up in the first resurrection.”*

What the Lord has promised that will He do. *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise.”* 

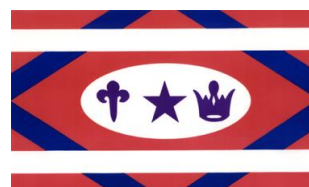


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From the Overseer's Desk

By the time you read this Christmas would have come and gone, but I trust you all had a wonderful Christmas. May the Prince of peace direct your steps during the year 2016.

Since our last edition of *"The Chronicle"* we have had a good National Ministers' Convention in October. We were blessed with excellent boosts from our National Auxiliary Co-ordinators and the preaching of God's words by those on the programme.

It was a joy to participate in London's baptismal service and to baptise Brother George Wilson - who had been attending the London church with his family for a number of years.

On the weekend of the 14th November 2015 a group of us from Birmingham travelled to London and together with the members in London evangelised the immediate area around their place of worship. The rain did not deter us as we went from house to house spreading the good news of Christ and His Church. The following day on the Sunday, we had a packed schedule comprising: Church Business Meeting where Brother Justin Clarke was set forth as a Lay Minister, administering the Right Hand of Fellowship to Brother George and culminating with the Communion and Feet Washing ordinance. We also had one visitor present from our previous day's evangelism.

On the 20th November 2015, I flew to the island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It was a joy to spend my time with Sister Browne and Sister Jackie Davis who took good care of me and showed me around the islands. The mosquitoes and sand flies were also there to welcome me.

During my visit, I was able to organise the church. Although Sister Jackie is a sad loss to us in England, she will be a great asset to the Church in St. Vincent. During our times of worship the Holy Ghost came down and sanctioned our gathering. Please remember to pray for the church in St. Vincent.

Thanks to Brother Jason Prince for organising the National Family Camp Concert on the 21st November 2015 and the Evangelism Workshop on the 12th December 2015 - both of which were a great success.

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not". (Galatians 6:9)

Upcoming Events:

National Family Camp	-	Monday 15 th to Thursday 18 th February 2016
WMB Prayer and Fasting	-	Saturday 12 th March 2016
WMB Prayer and Fasting	-	Saturday 7 th May 2016
National Ladies Retreat	-	Saturday 28 th to Sunday 29 th May 2016
National Men's Retreat	-	Friday 3 rd to Sunday 5 th June 2016
Family Talent Night	-	Saturday 18 th June 2016
National Convention	-	Friday 8 th July to Sunday 10 th July 2016

Sunday School Department



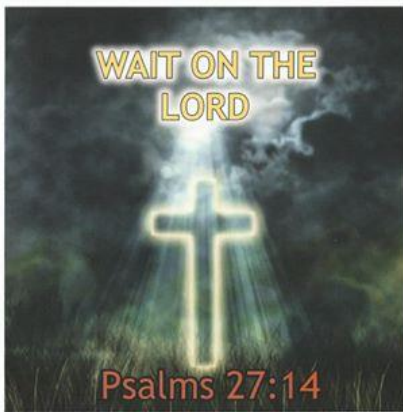
The Church of God

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOST

Jennifer Thompson - National Sunday School Co-ordinator

The general Sunday School theme for the assembly year 2015-2016 is:

'Wait on the Lord'



Greetings in the mighty name of Jesus, our soon coming King. Again, another wonderful Sunday School theme from the Word of God. I believe the Lord wants us to wait on Him. At times, we get caught up with our own agendas and plans. We struggle and end up frustrated because we did not wait on the Lord. Let us wait on the Lord by faith in prayer.

There is a song in my heart that I would like to share with you. The words are: *"Jesus is the answer for all the world today. Above Him there's no other, Jesus is the way. Jesus is the answer for all the world today. Above Him there's no other, Jesus is the way!"* He's the Truth and the Life, Jesus is the way.

Praise God, Jesus is not only the answer but He has the answer.

We are living in a world that has no peace to give with war on every side. There is hardly any good news and people are even afraid to watch the news. When you look on people's faces, you see fears, cares of life and distress. St. John 14: 27: ***"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."***

In St. Luke 2:10, the angel told the shepherds: ***"...Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings (news) of great joy, which shall be to all people."*** Everyone loves to hear good news. The birth of Jesus was to bring good news to mankind. The meaning of the gospel is good news. Jesus Christ is our Peacemaker and He is "good tidings of great joy".

I would like to wish you all a blessed Christmas and a fruitful and prosperous new year.



National Ministers' Convention

*"Ready or not, the Lord is coming, ready or not, He's coming again
Will your lamps be trimmed and burning? Ready or not He's coming again."*

The chorus above rightly reflects this year's National Convention theme: **"Therefore be ye also ready..."** St. Matthew 24:44. On Saturday 31st October 2015 we embarked in a whole day of worship, boosting and exhortation. The theme was very timely, considering the days we currently are living in.

The convention was officially opened by Bishop Philip Bennett and followed by the morning's devotion. The first auxiliary boost of the day was by the ABM department. Sister Wilhelmina Brown explained the role of the ABM and encouraged the congregation from 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10. She then focused on the theme of the convention and encouraged everyone to examine themselves and ask "Am I ready?"

The next boost came from Brother Rikki Prince and Brother Jason Prince with the National Family Camp boost. They encouraged those that have never attended camp to try and make it this coming year. They presented the next family camp date for 15th to 18th February 2016 and the approximate cost. Some cheered as they look forward to the blessings and fellowship that usually comes with family camp.

Brother Stuart Brown was next to come forward with the CPMA and BTI boosts. Brother Stuart explained that we currently live in a world that is constantly changing but The Church of God must remain the same. He also encouraged us from Revelation and asked if we can hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Brother Jason Prince was next to come forward with the Evangelism boost. He announced some of the areas to be evangelized in the near future and then proceeded to his boost with a demonstration. He blindfolded Brother Justin Clarke and asked him to clothe himself with articles of clothing that were scattered around the pulpit and altar. Brother Justin was scrambling around trying to find the clothes to put on. Some of the clothes he managed to put on were worn the wrong way, or inside out. Brother Jason explained that spiritual blindness can hinder us from having our spiritual garments on and being ready.

Some of the pastors greeted the congregation and then a session of worship followed. The National Overseer's address was in accordance with the theme. Bishop Bennett started in Genesis, listing all the things that God had created and how they were good. He stated that God did not create anything bad but it was sin that corrupted the "good". One example he gave was of Cain and Abel. He went on to speak about Noah and his preaching of 120 years. In that space of time no one else took heed to his message - outside of his sons, daughters in law and wife. However, God's judgement was sure to come. Brother Bennett stated, "If God says He will do something, He will do it." One of the scriptures read was from 2 Peter 3:3-13.

After this address, we were dismissed for lunch. The second half of the convention was opened with congregational singing by Druids Heath church.

The next boost on programme was by Sister Jennifer Thompson with Sunday School. A music video put together by this year's Vacation Bible School (VBS) class was played for the congregation. Some of the children were very excited to see themselves on screen and smiled as they remembered what took place at VBS. Sister Jennifer acknowledged those that made VBS possible and announced plans for the next school. She also stated that fundraising would be taking place this coming year for that purpose.

Brother James Mwila was next on programme with a message entitled *"And five of them were wise, and five were foolish"* from St. Matthew 25:2. Brother James spoke about the virgins in the scripture representing The Church of God brethren. He shared his experience of being filled with the Holy Ghost and said that it is necessary to have our vessels filled with the Spirit. Just as oil and water do not mix, the same way the world and the Spirit cannot. He stated that preparation separated the foolish virgins from the wise and admonished us to be prepared and ready.

The VLB boost was then delivered by Sister Claudine Brown. Sister Claudine emphasised the general VLB theme which is "Through the Gates" from St. Matthew 16:18. She stated that in the past, we believed that the gates of hell would not stand when it came against the Church. However, another way to see it is that hell's gates will not have a chance when the Church goes right through them in all its power and glory to fulfill its work. Sister Claudine also announced a social media seminar which is being planned. The intention is to educate us on the benefits and dangers of social media, if we are not careful.

Brother Justin Clarke also delivered a message entitled "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold" from St. Matthew 24:12. Brother Justin mentioned in his message that in these last days, men are lovers of themselves rather than lovers of God. We tend to invest our time on our own selves. Just like wax goes hard and cold once the flame of the candle is out, sin will cause our love for God to go cold and diminish. He encouraged us to work and love harder in these last days.

The last boost of the day was by Pastor Beverley Anderson with the WMB boost. Pastor Anderson spoke on this year's general WMB theme: "Rapture ready, perfection required." She explained the seriousness of this theme and encouraged us to be ready. Pastor Anderson also announced National Ladies Retreat and the possibility of having it in a different venue this Assembly year.

The last message of the convention was delivered by Pastor Ray Prince. The theme was: "But as in the days of Noe were..." taken from St. Matthew 24:37. Pastor Prince opened his message with some important statistics from 2014. He stated the number of divorces, same sex partnerships, marriages, abortions etc. and how our society is not really that different from Noah's time since "there is no new thing under the sun". He stated that there were many distractions in the days of Noah and we cannot allow life to distract us from making it into heaven now. This message was then followed by an altar call where many felt the need to seek God and reflect on the things heard throughout the day.

After everything we heard at convention, will the Lord find us ready?

Sister Brenda Prince - National Reporter

What's happening in London Church?

We give glory and honour to God for His continued goodness and grace towards us. Many have celebrated the anniversary of their births during the last few months. Due to God's grace upon their lives, their appearance does not reflect the age on their birth certificates.

To God be the glory – one of our regular attendees has become a member of the great Church of God. Our prayer is that others may follow.

We thank the Lord for our first evangelism, tract and leaflet drop in our new location on 14th November 2015. Some were present in body and others supported us with their prayers, making it a success.

Praise be to God for the assurance that He has given us that He will build His Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Our determination is to be faithful in what God has entrusted to us. In time, we will reap the harvest. Amen.

Sister Chika Imhoff - 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 29th February 2016**. These submissions will be for the January-March 2016 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: kazgirl_uk@yahoo.com