



The Chronicle

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Doing the Work of God

Philip C. Bennett

While Jesus was here on earth, He was busy doing His Father's business. As early as the age of twelve when He was left behind in Jerusalem, He said to His parents: *"...wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"* (St. Luke 2:49)

In another place He 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)

A portion of a song by Philip P. Bliss states:

*"Dark the night of sin has settled,
Loud the angry billows roar;
Eager eyes are watching, longing,
For the lights along the shore."*

*"Let the lower lights be burning,
Send the gleams across the wave!
Some poor, fainting, struggling seaman,
You may rescue, you may save."*

We have been given the Great Commission by Jesus which states: *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo I am with you alway; even unto the end of the world."* (St. Matthew 28:19-20)

Although we keep saying Jesus is coming soon, how many of us are busy carrying out the Great Commission?

There is no urgency amongst us if we really believe that Jesus is coming soon. We get so caught up doing our own business while the souls of men are dying.

In 590 BC, the nation of Israel went into Babylonian captivity where they stayed for 70 years. At the end of the 70 years, God raised up Cyrus the king of Persia who initiated the return of the children of Israel to their homeland. Under the leadership of Zerubbabel and Joshua the high priest, they rebuilt the altar of the God of Israel on which to offer sacrifices (Ezra 3:2).

Satan was not happy and caused a great opposition to come against the children of Israel. This caused the work of rebuilding the House of God to cease: *"Then ceased the work of the House of God which is at Jerusalem. So it ceased unto the second year of the reign of Darius king of Persia."* (Ezra 4:24)

After this, the people of God became comfortable and left God's work to do their own work for about 16 years. God was not pleased and sent the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to encourage the people to rise and build the House of God: *"In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of*

Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built. Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste? Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD. Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit. And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands. Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the LORD. Then spake Haggai the LORD'S messenger in the LORD'S message unto the people, saying, I am with you, saith the LORD. And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the LORD of hosts, their God," (Haggai 1:1-14)

God gave further encouragement to the leaders of His people to be strong and to get

the work done: "In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the LORD by the prophet Haggai, saying, Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue of the people, saying, Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing? Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts: According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not. For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts. The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts." (Haggai 2:1-9)

That was the history of Israel, a type and shadow of The Church of God. How about us, the last days Church of God?

I believe it was in 1983 the Holy Ghost spoke to the Church and said we had drifted from a vital relationship with the Lord and had lost our burden for the lost. Some people repented, but the Church as a corporate Body continued on in Her own merry way. Again, in 1986 the Holy Ghost spoke to the Church and said unless we repented, we would proceed no further. He went on to say that because we had not heeded the call to repentance, He would take His Church out of the arm of flesh.

In 1993 God called the remnant out of the then Church to continue in the old path. Since then 23 years have passed.

Are we busy building The Church of God or building our own houses?

The call of God is the greatest call any person can have upon their lives. If God has called you to work for Him, don't stoop to be a king. From the time God called me into the ministry - especially as a Pastor, I lost all my ambitions to excel in my secular job - which became more of a distraction.

I remember how I felt after being appointed as a Pastor of the Church in Northfield. At times the then Overseer, Brother Hawkins needed my help and had to ring me at work. I felt bad that he had dedicated himself to God and I was at work pushing paper around. I went to my manager and asked to go part time to give me more time for the work of God. I wanted to reduce my hours to 3 days per week but they only allowed me to go to 4 days per week. After working a 4 day week for some time, I applied for a career break so that I could concentrate on my ministry. This was initially for 1 year, but it stretched to 4 years as I kept extending it because there was so much work to do.

Before each of these steps, the devil would show me all the money I was going to lose, *"and what about your pension, and suppose this and suppose that?"* Another voice would say, *"how do you know you will even live to see pension age?"* After we bought the church building at Long Lane, I reluctantly went back to work. We had a large mortgage and not many members, so I wanted to help as much as I could. I reduced my hours to 3 days per week. God saw me through with the reduction in wages on every occasion and I have been no worse off.

God in His wisdom has set the system of tithing in the Church to maintain the minister and the ministry. Yet even when God makes a way that we could go part time, we still continue to work full time hours and stress ourselves out with no time for God's work.

We can become accustomed to so much money coming in each month that we feel we cannot do without it.

I have heard it said and it is true that THE TITHING SYSTEM IS NOT MEANT TO SUPPLEMENT OUR INCOME AS MINISTERS, BUT TO REPLACE IT.

My desire has always been to just dedicate myself to do the work of God, but at the back of my mind was the fact that I may miss out on any redundancy package at work. The devil kept dangling this before me like a carrot. I also did not want to do anything out of God's timing. At the General Assembly of 2016, I believe God spoke to me on at least 4 occasions about dedicating myself to the work. Of course the devil also showed me all the reasons why it would not be prudent. After much prayer and agonising, I told my manager that I would not be back after Christmas 2016.

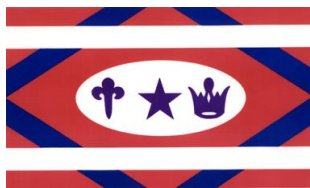
As I look around me, I see people my age and younger passing away every day. I want to make sure I do what I can, while I can. God has called us to the harvest field to work for Him. The disciples were called from fishing to catch men. When God called Matthew, he left his position as a tax collector and never looked back.

If we will not do the work God has called us to do, He will move us out of the way and get someone else who will do it.

*"Let none hear you idly saying,
There is nothing I can do;
While the souls of men are dying
And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly,
Let His work your pleasure be,
Answer quickly when He calleth,
Here am I send me."*

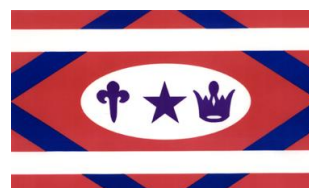
Message preached by National Overseer at the National Ministers' Convention on Saturday 12th November 2016. 📖

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Claudia Prince	National Choir Director
Rikki Prince	National Family Camp Co-ordinator
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Brenda Prince	National Reporter
Karen Richards	Assistant Editor of <i>The Chronicle</i>



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.

Since our last edition of *"The Chronicle"* we have had a number of fund raising activities including carol singing. Thanks to Brother Rikki Prince and Brother Jason Prince for organising the National Family Camp Concert on 3rd December 2016. This was a blessing to all in attendance and was a great success in terms of fund raising.

As we start another year, none of us knows what is ahead but as the words of a popular song states:

*"I don't know about tomorrow. It may bring me poverty;
But the One who feeds the sparrow, is the One who stands by me;
And the path that be my portion, may be through the flame or flood,
But His presence goes before me, and I'm covered with His blood."*

*"Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand;
But I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand."*

I pray that God will keep us true to Him and prosper us in every way in 2017; and if this should be the year of Christ's return; I pray we'll all be ready for His return. Let us live everyday as if it is our last for we do not know the day of His coming or when He will call us home in death.

*"Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.
But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."*

(St. Matthew 24:42-44)

Upcoming Events:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| National WMB Prayer and Fasting | - Saturday 11 th March 2017 |
| Annual General Meeting (AGM) | - Friday 17 th March 2017 |
| National Youth Convention | - Saturday 15 th April 2017 |
| National Men's Retreat Concert | - Saturday 6 th May 2017 |
| National Ladies Retreat | - Saturday 27 th to Sunday 28 th May 2017 |
| National Men's Retreat | - Friday 16 th to Sunday 18 th June 2017 |
| National Convention | - Friday 7 th to Sunday 9 th July 2017 |



EVANGELISM BOOST

Jason Prince - National Evangelism Co-ordinator

The new general Evangelism theme for the assembly year 2016-2017 is:

'Burn, Fire, Burn!'

(St. Matthew 3:11)



"And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

(St. Matthew 3:10-12)

Why is the analogy of Fire used?

Fire is power, energy and it purifies. A fire also spreads if the correct conditions are maintained. The conditions are a heat source, fuel, and oxygen. We want the Holy Ghost not only to spread amongst us, but also into new fields where the harvest is plenteous. We want a Holy Ghost forest fire that cannot be stopped!

That is why plans for this year are to evangelise new areas. We are instructed to tell people about the Truth. We are not told all will listen, but we have to go out into all the world and to all nations. Can we stretch our boundaries by sticking to where we normally evangelise?

There is a saying: *"If you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you have always got."* The field is not just around our local Church areas (or homes). It will require us to go out into new areas to spread the fire. Is it ok if the fire is only burning in Birmingham and London? We are all nice and hot. We are fine. I do not believe that the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire is only for the purpose of serving our local Churches. If you were sent to an area by our National Overseer, WOULD YOU GO?

I mentioned before that for a fire to spread, it needs to have the correct conditions, fuel being one of them. We can look at us individuals as the fuel, the Holy Ghost as the heat source, and the Word of God as the oxygen.

When a forest fire is occurring, a solution to stop the fire spreading can be to cut down the trees in its pathway. This eliminates the very thing that is fuelling the fire, the trees. So ... if the fuel that is fuelling a fire (us as individuals) will not spread, then the fire will not spread into these new areas. If we are not allowing the oxygen (the Word of God) to have a full effect on the flame in our hearts then we will not blaze. Just as a fire needs oxygen to burn, where would we be without the Word of God? Just like that fire without oxygen – non-existent! If we are somehow hampering the heat source (the Holy Ghost), then the fire will not blaze or spread through us. On the other hand, God does not need us to complete His programme. He can use whomever He pleases, but what an honour it is to be used on the programme of God to complete the work in these last days. We will be judged for our work here on earth.

In Acts 19:1-7, there were some that were missing the full knowledge of the truth in order to BLAZE! How did they become aware of what the full truth was? *“And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve.”*

How will they hear without a preacher? (Romans 10:14)

The people were lacking the knowledge of whether there was any Holy Ghost. This is something that may sound simple to us as WE have grown up hearing of the Holy Ghost, WE have grown up seeing the Holy Ghost manifest Himself. WE are used to preaching the Holy Ghost. There are some that do not know this, and many other Bible truths. How precious it is to share the Truth with a heart that is ready to believe and receive. The other sheep are out there but they are lost and need to be found. How will they hear without a preacher?



St. Matthew 9:37: *“Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;”* What motivated Jesus to make this statement? St. Matthew 9:35-36: *“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.”*

The compassion for their spiritual and physical state caused Christ to say **“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.”** They fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Christ knew there was a need. Is it much different today? There are people weak in spirit and scattered abroad. There are sheep with no Shepherd and we have to help. That is the vision we have to be able to see. Are we going to answer the call? Do we only rescue a lost sheep when they come close to the fold? Do we know what a lost sheep looks like? Do we know what a lost sheep sounds like?

The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few. Will you answer the call?

Sunday School Department



The Church of God

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOST

Jennifer Thompson - National Sunday School Co-ordinator

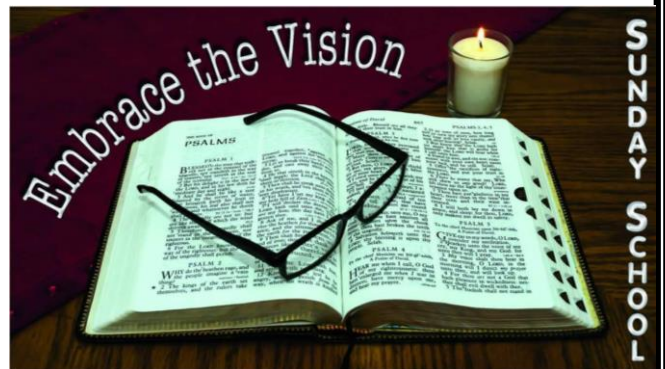
The new general Sunday School theme for the assembly year 2016-2017 is:
'Embrace the Vision'

Greetings in the worthy name of Jesus.

I would like to encourage us from the Word of God. St. John 9:4: *"I must work the works of him (His Father) that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."*

Let's work while we have the opportunity to do good amongst the people. We must be actively involved in the work of the Lord. God does not force anyone to work, we must willingly volunteer.

Let us seek the Lord for a willing mind to do His work. God bless.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family Fun Day

On 29th April 2017

At West House School

23 St. James Road

Edgbaston

Birmingham

B15 2NX

Vacation Bible School will be held in August 2017.

Date and venue to be announced.



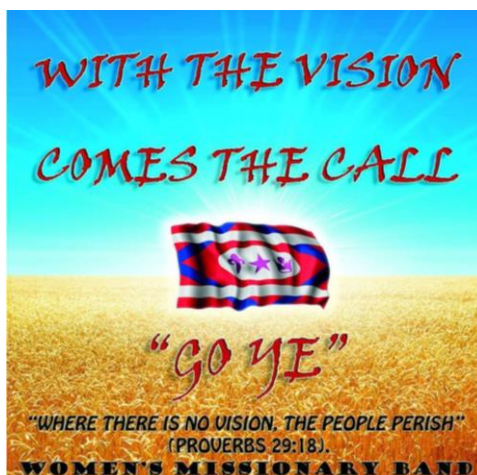
WMB BOOST

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

The new general Women's Missionary Band theme for the assembly year 2016-2017 is:

'With the Vision comes the Call: Go Ye'

(Proverbs 28:18)



Upcoming event:

National Ladies Retreat

Saturday 27th to Sunday 28th May 2017

Venue: Ramada Hotel, The Square, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3RF.

Cost: Overnight for two sharing a room is £43.00 each per night, including breakfast. For day delegates on 27th - 28th May is £37.00 per day, to include the meeting room and lunch.

The children's meal is £10.00 per day.

The cost is the same as last year and each local church is asked to hold fundraisers to subsidise.

National Ministers' Convention 2016

"We will carry the torch, we will lift high the flame. We will march through the darkness, in the light of His name. Till the glory of God, is seen by the world. We will carry the torch of the Lord." With this chorus England's National Ministers' Convention was opened on Saturday 12th November 2016.

The National Overseer, Bishop Philip Bennett welcomed the membership and visitors present, as well as introduced the theme: **"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few"** (St. Matthew 9:37).

Sister Marlene Muirhead led us in an opening prayer where she also prayed for those sick among us. Brother Justin Clarke followed with the Scripture reading taken from St. Matthew 9:27-38.

Sister Jennifer Thompson promoted the Sunday School department and its general theme: **"Embrace the Vision."** She also reported a wonderful turn out to Vocation Bible School (VBS) of about 26-31 in attendance. She read VBS testimonies from Meshach, Malachi, Rebekah, Lydia and Hannah; and acknowledged the staff that made it possible. Sister Jennifer announced a Family Fun day for 29th April 2017 and stressed that it was opened to the community as well. Sister Thompson's boost was based on the theme. She related the vision that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had to see racism and discrimination abolished to the spiritual vision we should have as God's people. She asked, "what is your vision?"

Brother Rikki Prince and Brother Jason Prince did their National Family Camp boost. They announced the Camp dates as the 20th-23rd of February 2017. They also informed us of the Camp concert in December and a Sainsbury's bag packing/carolling fundraising opportunity on Christmas Eve.

Sister Wilhelmina Brown gave her ABM boost and introduced the general theme: **"My Brother's Keeper."** Sister Brown boosted the members' emergency dollars and expenses which help maintain the work of the Lord. She spoke on the theme and said that as Christians we cannot hate. She reminded us to be very careful of how we deal with each other. This boost came to a conclusion and she asked for the chorus *"You're my brother, you're my sister"* to be sung.

Pastor Ray Prince proceeded to greet the Convention after a special song by Sister Kathleen Hamilton. He read St. Matthew 9:37 and St. John 12:1-3. Speaking on the theme, Pastor Prince stated that Mary Magdalene was a labourer who was busy taking care of the Lord's business; qualities we all need to have.

Brother Jason Prince gave his Evangelism boost and announced the general theme: **"Burn, Fire, Burn!"** He also spoke of recent experiences where he has witnessed souls seeking and being led to the Truth. Brother Jason encouraged us to have a desire to win souls for the Lord and exploring new areas. He referred to his previous pastor as she always said "pray that God puts love for souls in you if you don't have it."

Bishop Bennett proceeded with his annual address entitled **"Doing the Work of God."** He expressed the need to work for the Lord while we physically can. "We often times say Jesus is coming soon but where is the urgency? The harvest is plenteous but where are the labourers? God has called us ALL to go but we are sometimes too busy caught up with our own business while souls are dying. When God calls you, don't stoop to be a king", he stated. Brother Bennett also spoke about the glory of the latter house and reminded us what God said through Haggai, "consider your ways." He also shared his personal experience when he felt impressed by God to cut down on days from his secular work and eventually to give up his work to devote more time to the ministry. Some of the Scriptures used were Ezra 4:24, Haggai 1:5-14 and Haggai 2:3-9.

The special dedication of baby Renae Brown followed. Her parents and godparents came forward as she was anointed and presented to the Lord in prayer. It was mentioned how Renae Brown was conceived by faith without the aid of drugs.

The first session of the Convention was then adjourned.

The song leaders opened the last session with singing *"Bring them in"* and *"Let the fire fall on me."* Brother Joshua Anderson then led us in a time of congregational prayer.

Brother Stuart Brown introduced the new BTI general theme: ***"Into His Presence"*** from Psalm 24:3-4. He asked what are some of the things that we find in the presence of the Lord? The answers given were: peace, healing, love and satisfaction. He also stated that BTI was currently in progress with 29 registered students. In addition to BTI, Brother Brown proceeded to boost the CPMA department. He introduced the new general theme: ***"The Light of the World"*** taken from St. Matthew 5:14. "The CPMA department marks, beautifies, maintains the nature and identity of the Church" he stated. A short encouragement then followed from St. Luke 17:20-21. It was stated that the Kingdom of God is something we can't see with our natural eyes since it is in the heart; which is God's territory. However, the Church is a visible, physical entity. God knows His sheep need a home and it will be His Church that sends labourers to the harvest. "What will people see when they look at us?" he asked.

Pastor Angela Clarke then proceeded to greet the congregation. She made reference to the Convention theme Scripture from St. Matthew 9:37. She encouraged us to have compassion on the lost souls which need rescuing and that we cannot afford for anymore souls to go un-rescued.

Sister Claudine Brown opened the VLB boost with the chorus *"Victory is Mine."* She introduced the general theme: ***"All As One"*** and the new General Co-ordinator; Brother Joshua Farthing. It was stated that the new theme indicates a common purpose, a common belief as the Scripture from St. John 17:21-23 was read. Sister Brown demonstrated the unity within the Church by asking one person from each Church to come forward. She stated that if all four at the front were in a physical race, if one falls no one stops to help because they are each other's competition. However, in the Church this is not the case. We are not competing with one another but rather running together and helping one another if anyone falls. The Youth Convention date was given for 15th April 2017. We were encouraged to subscribe to the VLB publication – *'Greater Things'* which is at no cost. Some activities to look forward to are a social media awareness seminar, Bible studies and prayer meetings.

The National Choir, led by Sister Claudia Prince followed. The choir sang *"The presence of the Lord is here"* and *"Over and Over."*

Pastor Beverley Anderson opened the WMB boost testifying of her gratitude towards the Lord for raising her up and as Paul said, seating her in "heavenly places." The new general theme was introduced as ***"With the vision comes the call: go ye."*** The name of the new general WMB co-ordinator is Sister Sharon Griffin. We were encouraged to include our communities in our WMB plans. Sister Anderson shared her experience of receiving the call to work and referred to the Scripture where Jesus was moved with compassion when He saw the multitudes. She encouraged those that are still well able, to work while it is still "day" as many are headed into their "night" and can't do much since their strength is gone. National Ladies Retreat is scheduled to take place this Spring, as well as the WMB fasting.

"Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" (Isaiah 6:8) was the title of the last message. Sister Cynthia Opoku started by saying that throughout time, God has always found someone to fulfill His purpose. Isaiah was a perfect example as he found himself with a very tough mission. He was being called to a people that could hear "but understand not" and see "but perceive not." Likewise, God is calling us to do a job for Him. Isaiah 3:8 indicates "...their doings are against the Lord..." which is the same state the world finds itself in now. Ezra 2:3-8 was also referenced.

The Convention came to a close with an altar call. Bishop Bennett asked if anyone received a special touch from the Lord during the Convention and one of the visitors testified of being saved. Appreciation was given to all who helped during the Convention and we were dismissed with the benediction.

Sister Brenda Prince - National Reporter

What's happening in Handsworth Church?

On Sunday 8th January 2017, Sister Jennifer Thompson - our National Sunday School Co-ordinator visited. This was truly a blessing and also our Sunday School promotion day. Six pupils were promoted to other classes, with four moving into the Teen Herald class. We thank God as two of these children are from unsaved homes and have been with us since Handsworth Church was organised.

Sister Jennifer's topic - '*What time is it?*' encouraged us to wake up, see and the gaps in our churches, get up and fill them. We were reminded of the blessing that comes from working for the Lord and the encouragement to our Pastors when we are vigilant and willing.

At the end of the service, there was an altar call and two of our young pupils were amongst those at the altar. One of them (a long term Sunday school pupil) was touched by the Lord. As the Spirit of God came down, it could be felt that some work had been done in a soul's heart. At the end of the service the invitation to salvation was extended, but no one responded.

On Wednesday 11th January 2017, the same pupil attended prayer meeting and gave her testimony. It was a blessing and she looked so radiant. Please help us to pray, that the work started in her will be completed. To God be the glory.

Pastor Beverley Anderson - Reporter

What's happening in London Church?

On Saturday 24th September 2017, we held a prayer meeting at the Wilson's home. It was a blessing and we could definitely feel the presence of God with us. We give God the glory as two souls were sanctified.

On Sunday 9th October 2017, for the October World Missions Drive, Sister Beverley Wilson organised a coffee morning. We enjoyed hot and cold drinks, with a selection of homemade cakes - including scones with fresh cream (delicious!!) We also played various games and quizzes. On this day, the Church was blessed to have visitors and we raised over £70.00 for World Missions.

On Saturday 3rd December 2016, London Church attended the National Family Camp concert which was held to help raise funds for Camp in 2017. We participated by singing and the VLBs/Gleaner performed a sketch 'the good Samaritan.' This had a modern twist. The evening was wonderful and to complete the blessing, London Church won a food basket (made by Sister Brenda Prince). 😊

Also, on Sunday 18th December 2016 we had our delicious Christmas meal which consisted of: mutton, rice and peas, coleslaw, fried chicken, fritters and cake. My mouth is watering at this memory.

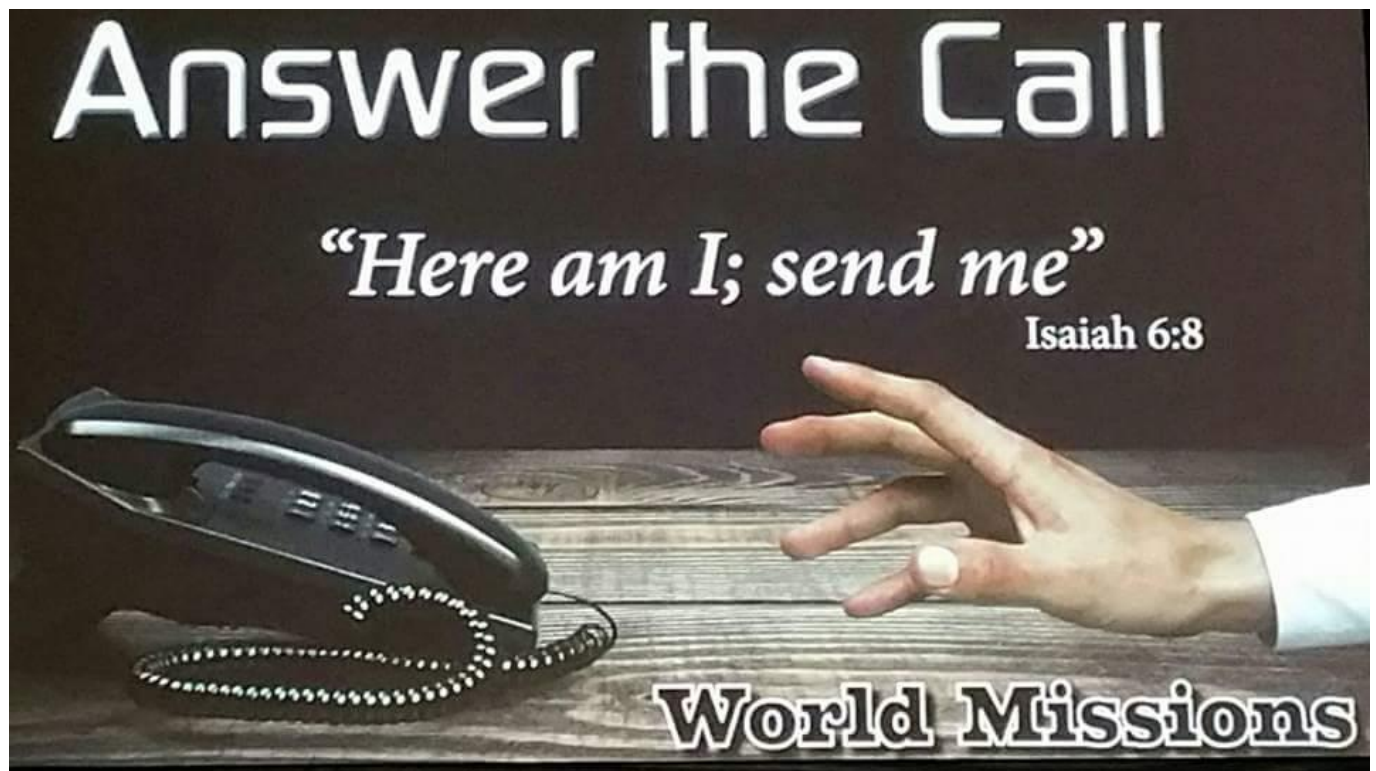
Please continue to pray for our church in London.

Sister Rebekah Wilson - Reporter

What's happening in Long Lane Church?

The Church at Long Lane has been able to enjoy a lovely season of fellowship during the last quarter. In September, we were able to enjoy a Sunday school trip to South-End-on-Sea. This was the second time we had been and it was still really enjoyable. Although it was not tropical weather, we still enjoyed the fresh air, sandy/pebbly beaches and of course the local fish and chips.

October was the month for World Mission Drive and to raise funds, we had an evening of food and fellowship. Each member was encouraged to bring a dish to share and money to buy. We all left with our bellies full and even some to take home.



To close off the season of fellowship, we had a wonderful Christmas and Watch Night service, reminding us of the year past and the year to come, giving thanks for it all.

Not only have we been fed physically but spiritually with message titles such as 'Safe from Wrath', 'Made Pure' and 'Being our Brother's Keeper'. The first message encouraged us to know God's Word and apply it with the Holy Ghost. This way we can be 'Safe from Wrath' and 'Made Pure', unlike the Pharisees who being knowledgeable in the law, did not apply it. The second message looked at the characteristics of Cain, jealousy, resentfulness, bitterness etc. These characteristics caused sin to occur in the heart of Cain. We were encouraged to be each other's keepers. 1 Peter 4:8:

“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sin.”

Sister Antonette Mwila
Reporter

WHAT BROUGHT ME HERE

Samuel Prince was born on 4th May 1928 in St. Catherine, Jamaica. He is the youngest of six children; three boys and three girls. As a young man, his friends nicknamed him "Suki".

During Brother Prince's school years, he was taught to cultivate by a cultivation inspector named Mr. Roone who taught him all the proper ways of planting different crops. He became very skillful at this trade and recalls many successful harvests of yam, gungu peas, banana, sweet potato, cassava and sugar cane - just to name a few.

Brother Prince met Frances Elisabeth Maddox in his early twenties, through his friend Irving, who was also Sister Prince's first cousin. Sister Prince would travel from Clarendon to St. Catherine, where he was from, to visit her Auntie and family. Of this account Brother Prince says, "I fell in love with her. She was feisty and would cuss me." They became husband and wife in December 1954.

During his early married life, Brother Prince ran his own shoe making business. Many orders usually came in, especially during Christmas, but the problem was that often times people did not pay. Vernall, a good friend of his suggested that they both emigrate to England where there was a lot of demand for workers. They both managed to save up enough money to pay their way. Three months after marrying Sister Prince, Brother Prince found himself on a 12 day boat journey across the Atlantic Ocean.

Once in England, Brother Prince settled in Birmingham. He found work as a factory worker and was able to send money for his wife's boat fare to England, six months later.

Sister Prince's arrival meant a more optimistic and promising future for this young family. They would soon conceive their first of three boys. In addition to this, they were also able to purchase their first property in Balsall Heath. With them being homeowners, they could rent out rooms to tenants and make a little extra money. There was a particular couple from Wolverhampton named the McEntire's who began to live with them. The McEntire's were Christians and they had relocated in hopes of starting new work for the church in the area. It was at this point where Sister Prince committed her life again to the Lord. Brother Prince's conversion came later from a hospital bed. He describes the anguish as he cried out in his illness, "Jesus, I can't back down. If You save me and get me better, I will serve You for the rest of my life." "Every time I remember, I have to cry," he expresses as he recalls the moment with tears in his eyes.

Brother and Sister Prince becoming born again Christians meant a life full of blessings for them, and those around them. They both devoted many years of service in the ministry with wonderful outcomes. Through their efforts, many souls here today, and some of those gone, were ushered into the kingdom and the Church. Brother Prince tells of the trips to Brighton when they would carry the brethren in the church van to National Convention. There were times when Sister Prince would give up her bed and sleep on the floor so the Sunday School children could sleep there. There is also the account of Brother Baker, the gentleman who was thrown out of his home by his wife who didn't want him there anymore. When the Prince family came across this gentleman, they did not hesitate to lend a helping hand. They cleaned him up, put him in a flat, but above all, they led him to Jesus. For a good five years they looked after Brother Baker and everywhere they went he was sure to be there too, until he became very ill and passed on. There are many, many other stories such as these that could be told.

Although Sister Prince has now been called home, Brother Prince continues fighting in spite of the challenges that come with age. He enjoys reliving the special moments in his life and the journey God has led him through. They say a "life is an exciting business, and most exciting when it is lived for others." Thank you Brother Prince for your years of service.

WHAT BROUGHT ME HERE

Sister Olive Veronica Buchanan was born 13th March, 1933 in Manchester Mandeville, Jamaica. She is the second of six children. Sister Buchanan was brought up by her two grandmothers, but mainly by her father's mother: Adina Gray. She was seven years old when she first met her biological mother. She says of her childhood "it wasn't easy, but I still had someone there to look after me."

Sister Buchanan had a very hard life growing up and had to work from the young age of 16 years to look after herself. Most of the work done was domestic and it ranged from a school to working for a high class Canadian family.

One of her cousins encouraged her father to allow her to come to England. She finally made the move in 1961 when she was around 28 years old. Her journey to England was by airplane through BOAC airlines. She had to borrow the money from her father and the agreement was that once she arrived and started work, she would pay it back. It was a new way of life. "I stayed with mere strangers in a crowded room so I had to find a place for myself" she recalls. Once in England, she began domestic work in a school in Edgbaston.

Sister Buchanan gave her life to the Lord in 1979. The same cousin that helped her arrive in England also introduced her to Pastor Lurline Harrison. A visit by Pastor Harrison was scheduled, and it was there where Sister Buchanan accepted an invitation to Church. She was saved there and ever since that day, she has never been the same.

By the time of her conversion, Sister Buchanan was already married and had her two boys. She describes her marriage as a very rough and testing time in her life. Although her heart was broken, she testifies of not having any animosity against her husband.

In 1984 Sister Buchanan decided to move to New York, USA after struggling to find work in England. Her older sister lived there and was instrumental in getting her to the US. Her first job in America was as a nanny for a little two year old girl. This Greek/American family was very kind and looked after her as if she was part of the family.

Eventually, she also took some courses to become a qualified carer for the ill and worked in that field until her retirement.

While in New York, she assisted The Church of God of Prophecy in Queens. "Things were very much different, it was great. Everyone stuck to the rules and the Advice to Members but since the break-up, everything is upside down." She recalls her pastor there as a great man of God.

Due to her eldest son's illness, Sister Buchanan decided to return to the UK in 1997. After many years of illness, her son passed away in 2014. Her youngest son resides in Wales with his family.

Through the tough trials that Sister Buchanan has had to endure, she is very grateful to still be able to stand. "I have proved the Lord and sometimes I just cry" she expresses emotionally. "I know the Lord looks after me. I thank the Lord I have Him by my side and He is keeping me - even on my own. I am not afraid of anything and I am quite content. I am not alone."

Sister Buchanan lives a very happy life serving the Lord and the Church as the adults Sunday School teacher. Her encouragement for all is to keep to the Advice to Members, stand firm with the Lord and close to Him. She encourages all to be examples. Whether we are young or old, people need to see Christ in us.

Thank you for your honest testimony, dedication to the Lord and example Sister Buchanan!

Sister Brenda Prince - National Reporter

Special Note:

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