



The Chronicle

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...and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful

Philip C. Bennett

As we gather here today in our National Ministers' Convention, the new general WMB theme: "*Arise and go...the work is not yet finished*" is reminding us that we still have work to do.

Sometimes, we have little or no urgency towards the work we have been called to do. It is as if we have all the time in the world, but the work of God requires haste. We cannot put anything or anyone before Christ and His work: "*And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*" (St. Matthew 13:3-9)

Jesus then went on to explain the parable to the disciples: "*Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word*

of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

(St. Matthew 13:18-23)

Today, I will be looking at "*He also that received seed among the thorns.*" The Bible said of such a person: "*...and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.*"

"*He which received seed by the way side*" did not last long, as the experience was only superficial. There was no depth.

Likewise "he that received the seed into stony places" only "dureth for a while." The Bible does not give any indication as to the time span for the person "that received seed among the thorns" before these things became embedded. This person may have been among thorns for some time, but managed to keep on top of them by regular weeding.

This is like the person who is saved, but fails to move on to sanctification - or the person who has lost their sanctification. They treat the symptom but fail to address the root cause. It is not enough to keep cutting down the weeds. They need to be rooted up and eradicated - otherwise they are going to choke and make one unfruitful.

God knows that we have to live in this world. When we allow the cares of life and the desire for material possessions to overwhelm us to the point where they take up all our time and attention, we become unfruitful. We become good for nothing, like the salt that has lost its savour.

The Bible has a great deal to say about the dangers of riches: *"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."* (1Timothy 6:6-12)

Lately, my attention has been drawn to Christ's message to the seven churches of Asia. I preached a part of this to my local church in my last message:

"Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." (Revelation 2:1-7)

There was only one indictment against this Church, but very serious "...thou has left thy first love." Their first love was more than likely their love for Christ at their conversion. Notice, they had left their first love, not lost it - indicating that they had abandoned it, or left it behind; whether knowingly or through negligence. If love is not in a relationship it will grow stale and will not last.

When someone loses their love for God, the relationship becomes mundane to the point where one just carries on out of duty or because they took a covenant. They still do their duties, but their heart is not in it.

Are you still in love with Jesus like when you first met Him or has the relationship grown cold? Christ's encouragement to them in verse five was: *"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."*

The Pastor or the Overseer will not have to remove us. God Himself will. Over the years, I have seen people in Church who were not living right but in many instances I did not have to do anything; God did the removing.

Some of us are like the Church at Sardis. They were only living off their past reputation: *"And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."* (Revelation 3:1-6)

We need to rekindle our love and passion for Christ and the work He has called us to do. We need the Holy Ghost and fire to help us.


Every month the Pastors have to make out a report stating how many are saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost. Most of the time, this is just based on historical evidence. The fact that we were saved, sanctified and filled at one time does not mean that is the case today. In fact the evidence in some lives indicates that we need to go back to Calvary and renew our works.

Some people claim to be filled with the Holy Ghost but have not spoken in tongues or moved in the Spirit for years. We cannot do the work without the Holy Ghost and fire. As we start another Assembly year, it is worth re-emphasising that this is the

National Ministers' Convention so it is centred on ministers - whether licensed or unlicensed. However, in one sense we are all ministers and have been called to minister and to bring forth good fruit: *"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."* (St. John 15:16)

Have you ever observed what use to be a fruitful branch after it has been detached from the tree for a day or two? Its appearance changes drastically. It loses its vitality.

In closing, let us look at Christ's final message to the seven churches: *"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."* (Revelation 3:14-22)

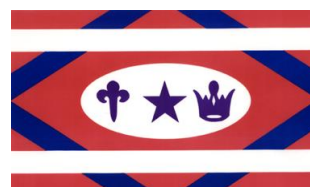
Let us be careful that *"the care of the world and the deceitfulness of riches"* do not choke the Word and cause us to be unfruitful. 

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Stuart Brown	National Church of Prophecy Marker Association/ Bible Training Institute Co-ordinator
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Jennifer Thompson	National Sunday School Co-ordinator
Claudine Brown	National Victory Leaders Band Co-ordinator/National Choir Director
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Justin Clarke	National Men's Retreat Co-ordinator
George Wilson	National Family Camp Co-ordinator
Beverley Wilson	National Reporter
Karen Richards	Assistant Editor of <i>The Chronicle</i>



From the Overseer's Desk

I must begin by wishing you all a very happy 2018. I trust that you all had a wonderful Christmas, as you spent time with your families and reflected on the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As a nation, we have had a busy few months since the last edition of *The Chronicle*. It was a joy to attend the concert at Druids Heath, especially as it was my first visit to their new place of worship.

I was not here for the National Family Camp Concert, but the feedback was that it was a great success and valuable funds were raised to help subsidise the overall cost of the Camp. Other fund raising activities included carol singing at a local supermarket.

Our National Ministers' Convention with the theme: *'And because iniquity shall abound; the love of many shall wax cold'* (St. Matthew 24:12) was a sobering reminder of Jesus' warning concerning the last days. As we start a new year, let us maintain a strong love for Christ, the Church, the work we have been called to do and not allow this prophecy to be fulfilled on us.

I was privileged to visit the island of St. Vincent in November and the early part of December. I spent time with Sister Browne and Sister Jacqui Davis. During my visit, I administered the right hand of fellowship to two new members joining the Church. Please remember Sister Jacqui and the saints in St. Vincent.

On Wednesday 31st January 2018 we will have our first District Meeting for a number of years. We trust this will be a continuing event, which will be a blessing to the Church here in England.

Upcoming Events:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| WMB Prayer and Fasting | - Saturday 17 th March 2018 |
| Annual General Meeting (AGM) | - Friday 23 rd March 2018 |
| National Family Camp | - Monday 2 nd April - Thursday 5 th April 2018 |
| National Youth Convention | - Saturday 7 th April 2018 |
| District Meeting (Druids Heath) | - Wednesday 11 th April 2018 |
| National Ladies Retreat Concert | - Saturday 28 th April 2018 |
| National Ladies Retreat | - Saturday 19 th May - Sunday 20 th May 2018 |
| Sunday School Family Fun Day | - Saturday 2 nd June 2018 |
| National Men's Retreat | - Friday 15 th June - Sunday 17 th June 2018 |
| National Convention | - Friday 6 th to Sunday 8 th July 2018 |



EVANGELISM
DEPARTMENT

EVANGELISM BOOST

James Mwila - National Evangelism Co-ordinator

The general Evangelism theme for the assembly year 2017-2018 is:

'Evangelism from the Inside Out'

Greetings in the WONDERFUL and MIGHTY name of JESUS to whom all glory and honour is given.



"Create in me a clean heart, O God; And renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; And take not thy holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; And sinners shall be converted unto thee." (Psalm 51:10-13)

I thank God for His goodness, grace and mercy. The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

The Lord has opened doors for The Church of God to share the good news to the world, be it in love, kindness, singing praises to the Lord and encouraging others.

The Church has been invited to visit elderly care homes. In these, we have prayed, sang songs of praise and carols to encourage the residents and glorify God - showing the joy we have in Christ. The feedback has been very positive. The Church has been asked to make more visits, not only to sing but to read Scriptures and encourage the residents.

We have invited the local communities to our coffee mornings, made donations to food banks and a home. This is all due to the love of Jesus Christ.

Let us continue to work for the Lord: *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord"* (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Continue to pray for the souls out there and for God to open more doors. Also, pray for an abundance of willing workers.

Preparation is important. Without preparation there will be failure and disappointment. Sometimes we tend to have plans but make little or no preparation. St. Matthew 25:1-13 gives a good account on the value of being prepared. *"And five of them were wise and five of them were foolish."* The wise were prepared as they took oil in their vessels with their lamps. The foolish took their lamps, but carried no oil with them. All ten virgins had a **plan** which was to go and meet the bridegroom, but when there was a delay in meeting him, the foolish virgins were caught out. They missed their opportunity, due to lack of preparation. They had a plan but it was not good enough and too late for preparation at the final moment. On the other hand, the wise virgins had pre-prepared before they even set off to meet the bridegroom. The delay in meeting him did not affect them at all and they seized the moment.

Let us seek the Lord and allow Him to prepare us. We are on a spiritual battlefield every single day. Continue to call upon the Lord in prayer and fasting, in reading His word and be in line with him: *"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers..."* (1 Peter 3:12).

1 Peter 3:15 also encourages us to prepare and be ready: *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"* There are souls out there searching for righteousness, hope and Jesus. We as workers need to be ready to tell them of the hope we have and lead them to Christ. God bless you all and have a blessed 2018. *"Be Prepared."*

Sunday School Department



The Church of God

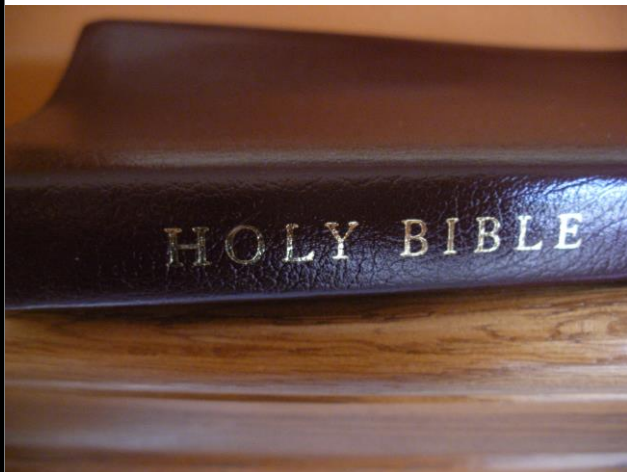
SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOST

Jennifer Thompson - National Sunday School Co-ordinator

The general Sunday School theme for the assembly year 2017-2018 is:

'Embrace the Vision'

Greetings in the mighty name of Jesus. I give God thanks for His WORD. One of the things the WORD of God does is to give us instructions. If we are to instruct others, we must be willing to receive instructions.



We have started a new Assembly year so be encouraged with the chorus of this song which was laid upon my heart:

***"Hold on to Jesus, never let go of His hands.
He will see you through whatever faces you.
Don't let go of His hands."***

The greatest resources in the time of trouble or any situation are faith, trust and total dependence on God. 2 Corinthians 12:9: ***"...My grace is sufficient for thee..."***

No matter what the circumstance may be, God is with us. He supplies us with grace for every situation that we face. His grace is limitless. His grace is sufficient for thee. AMEN. Please remember the Sunday School department in your prayers. God bless.

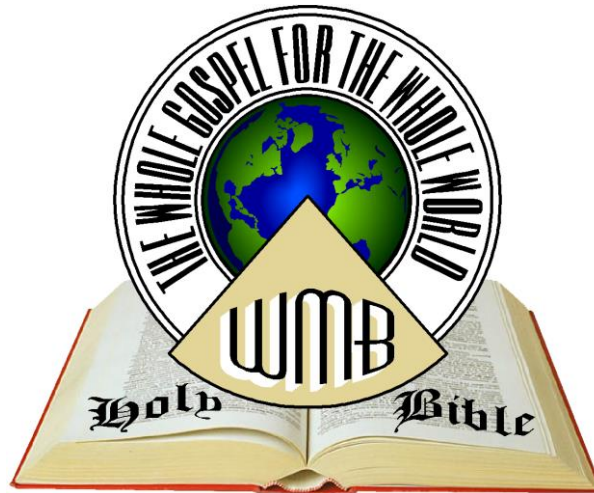
Sunday School Department Announcements:

Due to change of date of our General Assembly and prior arrangements made by myself, I regret to announce Vacation Bible School is cancelled for this assembly year. Also, Family Fun Day has changed from 28th April 2018 to **2nd of June 2018**. The venue will be at West House School, 23 St James Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2NX.

Please invite your friends and families. We are anticipating a wonderful day, well spent with brethren, family and friends. I am open for ideas for these events, within reason.

Please accept my sincere apologies for any disappointment or inconvenience. May God bless you all abundantly. Be blessed and be a blessing.

Respectfully submitted by Sister Jenni Thompson



WMB BOOST

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

The general Women's Missionary Band theme for the assembly year 2017-2018 is:

'Arise and go...the work is not yet finished'

(Song of Solomon 7:11)

ARISE & GO...



THE WORK IS NOT YET FINISHED

Our general theme is 'Arise and go...the work is not finished.' In Ezekiel 16, God sent Ezekiel to Jerusalem because they had become unfaithful. Ezekiel 16:49: ***"Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread and abundance of idleness was in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy."***

We need to look carefully that '*pride, fullness of bread and abundance of idleness*' does not over take us in our work for the Lord, and that we do '*strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.*'

One of our duties as missionaries is to reach the poor and needy. In a time of fullness of bread and abundance of idleness, let us, 'arise and go', because the work is not yet finished. Let us remain faithful to the call.

March World Mission Drive is almost upon us. Let us work towards raising funds to make a difference. Sister Griffin, our General WMB General Co-ordinator has set a goal of raising \$100,000. Let us do our best here in England to support this endeavour.

God bless you all as we work together.



**National WMB Prayer & Fasting
on Saturday 17th March 2018**

**at Handsworth Baptist Church Centre,
38A Victoria Road, Handsworth,
Birmingham,
West Midlands, B21 0SA.**

Starting at 10:30 am

The Church of God (England)

National Ministers' Convention

National Ministers' Convention convened on 11th November 2017 and the theme was '***And because iniquity shall abound; the love of many shall wax cold***' (St. Matthew 24:12).

Sister Wilhelmina Brown gave the ABM boost and introduced the new general theme '***All Things Common***'. The National Family Camp boost followed. The date for Camp 2018 will be 2nd - 5th April 2018. Fund raising initiatives were announced for this endeavour: a National Family Camp concert, Carol Singing in December 2017 and a Sponsored Walk, scheduled for February 2018.

We were blessed with special singing by Sister Bria Anderson and Sister Zhane Stirling. They sang '*You made a way*' and God was in this song.

Pastor Beverley Anderson boosted the Women's Missionary Band auxiliary. The new general WMB theme for 2017-2018 is '***Arise and Go...the work is not yet finished***'. Pastor Anderson encouraged the Church to keep Dorcas Club alive and displayed waist coats made by Handsworth's Dorcas Club. Activities for the department this Assembly year will be National Ladies Retreat on 19th-20th May 2018, National WMB Fasting on 17th March 2018 and a national WMB revival. Pastor Anderson proceeded to encourage the congregation from St. Matthew 24:12 stating, we fight the enemy on our knees and when the flesh is weak, the Holy Ghost empowers us.

The CPMA/BTI boosts were given by Brother Stuart Brown. The continuing general BTI theme is '***Into His Presence***'. A song was played: '*Who shall be able to Stand?*' and a Scripture reading from Psalm 24:3-4 given. Brother Stuart thanked God for the Church being able to complete 1st Term of BTI in 2017 and announced plans for 2nd Term in 2018. The new general CMPA theme for 2017-2018 is '***Identity***'. Handsworth and London churches were congratulated for achieving 100% in their CPMA memberships and Emergency Dollar offerings. As an incentive, the General CPMA Co-ordinator - Bishop James Horne will award certificates to churches that are 100% in CPMA membership.

Bishop Bennett gave his annual address entitled '***...and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful***' (St. Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23). Bishop Bennett stated seeds planted by the wayside do not last long - note the Bible does not give a time scale. Root up the weeds and thorns. Eradicate them, otherwise they will choke us. He said it is the cares of this world and deceitfulness of riches that makes us unfruitful. It was stressed material possessions cannot satisfy. The analogy of a pregnant woman carrying her child in the womb was used in referring to the Holy Ghost. At times the mother feels the child moving inside of her. The question was posed "so how can we say we have the Holy Ghost and not feel anything?" (1 Timothy 6:10-11, Revelation 2:1-7, Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22).

Sister Claudine Brown encouraged the VLBs with St. Mark 6:35-44 to be anointed by God. The new general theme is '***Anointed to Serve***'. She stated as anointed servants, we need to meet the needs of others.

Brother Justin Clarke boosted the National Men's Retreat and gave the date for next retreat: 15th - 17th June 2018. The Evangelism Boost followed by Brother James Mwila. The new general theme for the Assembly year is '***Evangelism from the Inside Out***' (Psalm 51:10-13). He set out some of his plans for the year, which included visiting residential homes and hoping to gain access into prisons to teach and encourage prisoners.

Sister Jennifer Thompson boosted the Sunday School department. The continuing general theme is ***‘Embrace the Vision’***. Sister Jennifer spoke of the initiative given from Sister Marlowe, the General Sunday School Co-ordinator. This encourages local Schools to forge connections with other Sunday Schools around the world, with the aim of sharing knowledge of how we teach and learn the Word. Planned events for the department were a Family Fun Day on 2ndth June 2018 and Vacation Bible School.

The final message of the day was preached by Brother Justin Clarke, entitled ***‘But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved’*** (St. Matthew 24:13). Brother Justin used Job’s trials as an example to endure to the end of our Christian journey. He declared we are all one Body and have a responsibility to each other. We should live in the spirit of meekness (Galatians 6:1). He stressed, if we are to endure to the end, we need to be resilient. It may mean we have to repent and this is okay if we desire to be saved (Psalm 51:1-13).

The Convention concluded as we sang *‘Create in me a clean heart’* and the altar was filled with brethren and visitors. Appreciation was given to all who worked during the Convention and we were dismissed with the benediction.

Sister Beverley Wilson - National Reporter

National Ministers’ Convention Testimony from Sister Chelle Brown, Druids Heath Church

“Well, the Word declares that they which hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be filled. Boy, was I hungry...thirsty for the Word. This sister was eager, anxious, prayed up and awaiting Convention. I wanted to see my brethren and visitors of The Church of God (England). I arrived early... 3 minutes early and that equates to hours for me and greeted my brethren with joy. I could already feel the presence of the Lord. Bless His name.

The Convention began wonderfully with the Assembly Band Movement boost. This was given by the seasoned and sober woman of God - Sister Wilhelmina Brown. The sound words spoken on the general ABM theme **“All Things Common”** sank directly in my heart with immediate effect. The Lord was clearly with Sister Brown, enabling her to stand strong and confident with the Word as given by the Lord. The phrase/Scripture that stood out to me from this was ‘itching ears’. God was speaking to His people and it was my desire to hear.

In the National Men’s Retreat boost, you could truly feel the love of God as this boost was given. God bless our brothers in the Lord!

The gentle warm spirit of love continued in the CPMA/BTI boost. Although called away to perform ushering duties, I was able to hear a song said to embody the spirit of the CPMA: **“Who shall be able to Stand?”** This was a thoughtful and compelling song that was deep and resonated within all who had an ear to hear.

Our National WMB Co-ordinator, Pastor Anderson spoke succinctly and soberly, without wavering on what Mission work is about. She stated that some think the work has stopped. This was a soul searching comment which clearly involves self-examination. I am doing this for Christ and His Church. I feasted and searched myself as each word was given.

Again, ushering duties meant I arrived late for some of the Sunday School boost. Did this halter my blessing? No way! I was blessed by this boost. We learnt of the sister Sunday School initiative that has begun in our churches in the USA. This encourages local Schools to share ideas and link with other Sunday Schools around the world. An interesting and exciting opportunity was unfolding – dare I say it ‘walls’ coming down. This leads to fellowship and sharing the Word with our brethren across the ocean. What a mighty, way-making God we serve! Hallelujah...I am excited...All things common...unity...love in action. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Am I excited about what I am hearing? Oh yes, I am!”

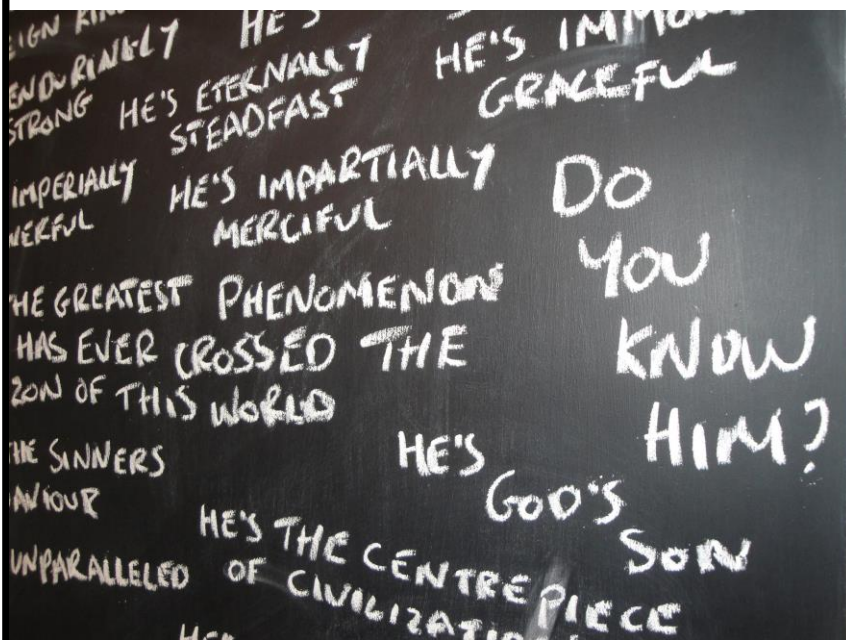
District Meeting

The Church of God in England held District Meeting again, after a number of years at Long Lane Church, Birmingham. The revival of the District Meeting was welcomed by the presence of the Lord as we sang *'Someday, I'll go where Jesus is'*. Bishop Bennett, the moderator welcomed the congregation and our visitors from The Church of God in Alabama, USA - Brother and Sister Deitz. Bishop Bennett read Isaiah 41:8-15.

We were encouraged by testimonies from Brother Rikki Prince and Sister Deitz. This was followed by special singing from the National Choir. They sang *'I never lost my praise'* and *'You are worthy'*.

Brother Deitz then delivered a thought provoking message based around the theme of 'Love' and 'Loving God right'.

The following is an adaptation of Sister Claudine Brown's testimony which she shared about his message. "The basis of the message was 'Love'. One thing that Brother Deitz spoke about that really stuck with me was his analogy of the Voyager, a rocket ship which was launched into outer space in the 1970's. Its mission was to study the solar system and send pictures back of what it saw. At first no pictures were seen, but eventually pictures could be seen of planets and stars. The further it went, the more pictures of new discoveries were transmitted back to Earth. He compared this rocket ship launch to our relationship with God. God is so big and vast, there is so much to explore. Can we, like the rocket ship launch out in the Lord? Can we



discover more and more about God? Brother Deitz said, 'when we have our love for God right, everything will fall into place, such as righteousness and holiness'. He added 'we focus a lot on being righteous and holy, but if we love God right, holiness will naturally follow and our impact on others will also have an effect'. Sister Claudine expressed that the message was a blessing. She declared in closing, Brother Deitz set a challenge. He asked the Church to see the altar as a launch

pad to reach out to God and discover new things about Him.

I thank God that the relaunch of our UK District Meetings was such a blessing. This is a call to revive our love for God.

Sister Beverley Wilson – National Reporter

What's happening in Long Lane Church?

What a mighty God we serve! We have made it through another quarter and what a quarter it has been. God has blessed us with Holy Ghost filled messages, a baby dedication, visitors and lots of laughter.

This quarter, Sister Cynthia Opoku surprised us with a pop quiz during our Dorcas service. There were only 10 questions, but they even got our church scholars sweating. We definitely learnt something that night.

During a midweek service, the Evangelism team went out to witness and distribute tracks in the local community. The Church also had another opportunity to visit a local nursing home. This time the Church sang Christmas carols and was spoilt with sweet goodies afterwards.

The end of 2017 saw the yearlong competition between the Sunday school groups - Moses and Caleb come to an end. If you do not know, at Long Lane the Sunday school is split into two groups and they compete against each other for points. Points are given for attendance, offering, learning the golden text and bringing someone to Sunday school. This year we saw Moses WIN. Well done Moses. It has been a long journey but we arrived there in the end.

To celebrate the Christmas period, we had a church dinner.

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity,”

Psalm 133:1.

We had a lovely time. We ate, played games and watched a film - or did the film watch us? Also, how can I forget our first Christmas performance from our Cradle Roll class. They did a lovely rendition of “*Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*” followed with “*Little Donkey*.” It was a wonderful close to the year.

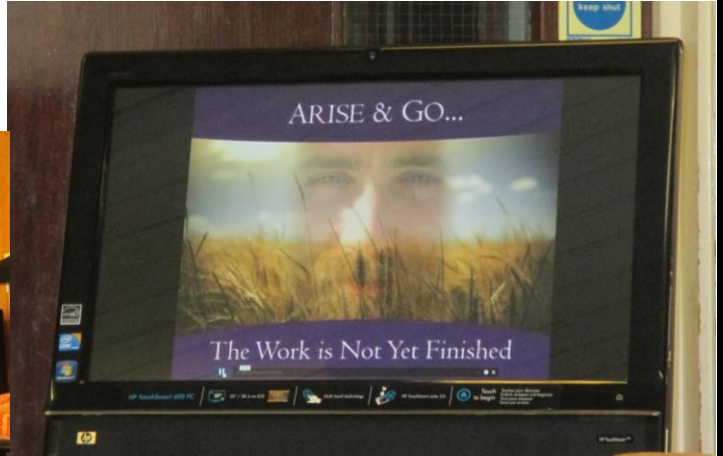
We thank God for what He has given us in 2017 and for the blessing that awaits us in 2018.



Sister Antonette Mwila - Reporter

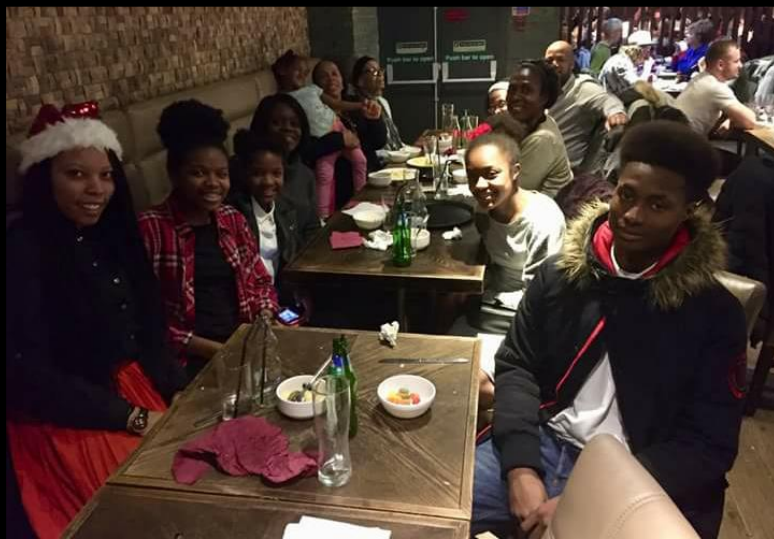
What's happening in London Church?

On Sunday 8th October 2017, we helped raise funds for World Missions, and sold cakes, scones, sandwiches. We also watched a video of the world missions entitled 'Arise & Go: the work is not yet finished'. With the help of the local church and visitors we raised over £130 for this endeavour.



The joint winners this term of our Sunday School challenge were Junior Defenders and Treasures of Truth. To rub salt into our wounds, the losing team (Teen Herald) had to present the trophy to the winners.





To end our year, on 16th December 2017 we celebrated with a lovely Christmas meal at a restaurant in Wood Green. Also, we have to give God thanks as we had our first Watch Night service in London at the Wilson's home. We were blessed to have Brother Rikki, Sister Oneaka Prince and family present to see in the New Year with us.

During the second week of 2018, our VLB's came together to have our very first Skype Bible study. We read through Genesis chapters 15-22, and discussed various topics that we noticed, such as

God's promise to Abraham and the testing of Abraham and Sarah's faith. It was a blessing to be able to have a Bible study during the week.

On Saturday 27th January 2018, we had prayer meeting at the Clarke's home. The main theme of the prayer meeting was to 'Count our Blessings'. We shared the blessings that God has been and still is giving to us all.



In February we had another first - our very first Dorcas Club meeting. We all had a great time making prayer cushions to use at Church.

During this quarter, we have also had visits from our National Sunday School and Assembly Band Movement Co-ordinators. They told us of their plans for the year, as well as encouraging us in the Lord.

Please continue to pray for the Church in London.



**Sister
Rebekah
Wilson
Reporter**



What's happening in Handsworth Church?

In November 2017, we were privileged to have the Date family back with us after 7 years away. They are two adults and four children. I am sure you can see the strength to the congregation with six more in attendance. To God be the glory for His divine protection.

We also have Sister Sandra (who was saved in our National Convention). Weekly, we can see her steady growth. God bless Pastor Clarke for her work on the field.

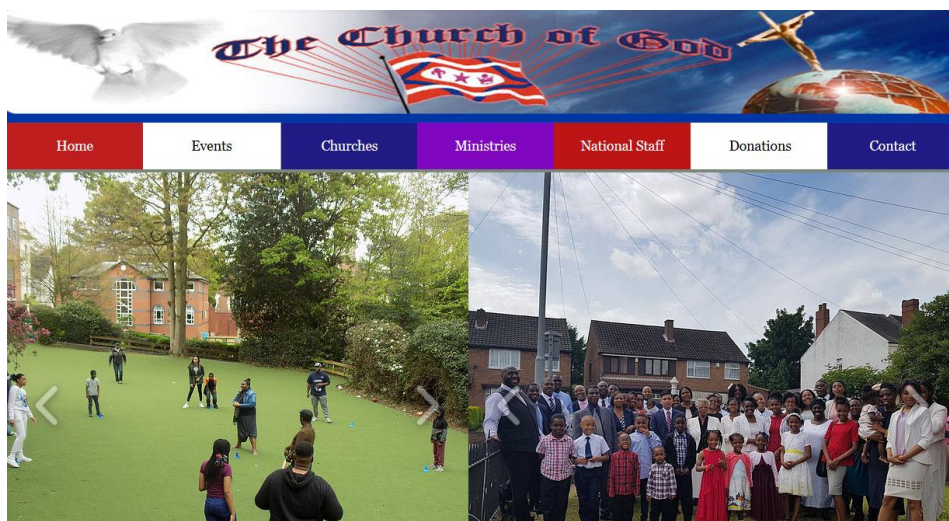
During the months of August to November, we had a visitor each week in attendance. She came to our services and continued to attend. However, in November she stopped coming. It was great when Pastor had a call from her. She had moved quite far away and was unable to attend. She missed the Church and really enjoyed visiting. We are keeping contact and praying that the Lord will house her back into the area. Please continue to pray with us.

In December 2017 Sister Jennifer Thompson, our National Sunday School Co-ordinator visited. One child was promoted to another class and our Sister Jenny was a blessing on the day. Please continue to pray for our national auxiliary co-ordinators.

On Friday 22nd December, the Church in Handsworth and our National Evangelism Co-ordinator visited a care home in Handsworth for some carol singing. It was good to have Brother James Mwila with us. It was also a blessing to see the residents joining in and singing with us. The home would like us to return on a regular basis to have praise and worship. Please pray for us.

We are also asking the Church nationally to continue to pray for Sister Buchanan and Evangelist Taylor-Harrison, who are still ill and need our prayers for restoration.

National Website Update



Our National website has been revamped and refreshed. Please visit on <https://www.churchofgod.org.uk> to learn more of The Church of God in England and see what wonderful things God is doing in our midst.

National Family Camp

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Psalm 133:1

National Family Camp presents a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and unity that we experience together in Jesus Christ. This year's Camp has been scheduled to run through Easter week - 2nd to 5th April 2018. We look forward to seeing you there. Here are some of the fund raising activities that were held to help support our campers. *“...for God loveth a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7*

Christmas Concert

On 2nd December 2017, a Christmas concert was organised at Aston Manor Academy, which worked wonderfully in two ways. It was a superb fundraiser and also brought awareness of The Church of God to a new audience.



Carol Singing

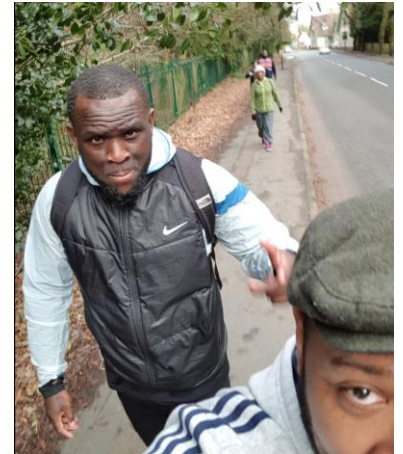
On 23rd December 2017, we had another opportunity to sing carols at Sainsbury's in Kings Heath. The blessings flowed into our collection buckets that afternoon as our voices filled the store. There was a wonderful spirit that day.

Camp Sponsored Walk

Saturday 17th February 2018 was the final fund raiser for the Assembly year before National Family Camp. Although the sky was a little over-cast, the weather was dry and not too cold. The walkers completed the 11 miles in under 3 hours.



God has been with us on every occasion and the generosity we have received has been a true blessing.



On behalf of Brother Rikki and myself, we would like to say a huge thank you for all of the support that has been given.

Submitted by Brother George Wilson and Brother Rikki Prince

National Family Camp Co-ordinators



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 31st May 2018**. These submissions will be for the April to June 2018 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: kazgirl_uk@yahoo.com

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