



# The Chronicle

A Publication of The Church of God (England)

March/April 2007, Volume 2, Issue 2

## Who is Who

**A.J. Tomlinson - Portion of Eighteenth Annual Address,  
Twenty-Third Annual Assembly, 1928**

Submitted by Robert J. Hawkins, Jr.

“Do any of you remember of a conflict coming up between two prominent men of the early Church? The trouble rose between Paul and Barnabas. On their first missionary journey they had John Mark with them for a while, but by and by he became homesick, or concluded the hardships were too great, or the persecutions too severe, or something, and deserted them and went back home. When it was decided to go on a second journey Barnabas insisted on taking the young man with them again, but Paul thought it not good because he forsook them and went back home before. The contention became quite sharp between them. Paul was filling the place as Overseer over the churches of that region and Barnabas was a companion in labor. But when this conflict arose between them Barnabas refused to submit to his superior in office. As a result of this parting asunder one from the other, Barnabas took Mark and sailed unto Cyprus, while Paul chose Silas and departed to his field of labor, where they went about confirming the churches and pushing out into new fields. It was on this trip that Timothy was found and harnessed up in the work.”

“But the important matter to which I wish to call attention is that concerning Barnabas. His name was there dropped from the record by the historian as if he had died. Luke, the writer of the book of Acts, makes no more mention of him. Had he submitted to Paul, who was over him in the Lord, doubtless his name would have been carried right on in the record.

But on account of failing to recognize constituted authority under God’s order which He put in The Church of God, his name was carried no further.”

“Those who have studied our records have been able to trace quite a number of names up to certain times and places and then they are not found any further. What is the cause of this disappearing of names? Well, here it is in short. When names of ministers have disappeared along in the records when there is no notation given of their death, it is a sign that they have failed to submit to God’s order in some manner, and others have enlisted to fill up the ranks. Some have rebelled against the Overseers - those who are over them in the Lord; some have done just what Paul said they would do, spoken perverse words to draw away disciples after them. This class has undertaken to set up something over which they could have the rule and preeminence.”

“All of these uprisings, rebellions, heresies and names disappearing from the records, have occurred to prove who is who. John explains it very clearly when he says, *“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”* (1 John 2:19)

“In other words, John shows that they went out in order to show who is who. And this cleansing process is still going on.

During the past year some names have been expunged from our records that may never appear again. This disintegration has been caused by a spirit of rebellion against constituted or established authority. The minister that bluntly refuses to recognize the authority, instructions, advices and counsels of the Overseer that is over him in the Lord will sooner or later go on the rocks. It is sorrowful, it is pitiful to look on the faces of some of these I know, but they have done it to themselves by refusing to submit to the wise counsel of those who are over them in the Lord. And the sooner the balance of our people learn who is who according to the Bible way of putting it, the better off they will be. It is the self-willed, the rebellious, the insincere, those who despise dominion and government that sooner or later fall on the rocks and are usually ruined forever. Very few of such people ever recover. I have seen them try, yes, apparently they have made tremendous efforts only to fall back again into the whirlpool of discouragement, or still further and deeper rebellion, to never rise again. Truly it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living and angry God. He is determined to have His order of government recognized and obeyed. If some will not do it because they love to have the preeminence themselves, He will let them go to the rocks and get others that will follow His order of government. The minister that stands up boldly before his congregation and irreverently declares he is going to do thus and so whether it suits the Overseer or not, and at the same time knowing he is running over the counsel and advice of him that is over him in the Lord will sooner or later go on the rocks so his name will disappear from the record in the future.”

“It might be considered a light thing for Barnabas to have rejected the counsel and advice of Paul who had evidently been placed in the position as Overseer of the territory to which they were going, but by his doing so, even that little, left his name off the record thereafter. And whether it would be considered a light offense or a grave offense the effect was just the same. No more mention of him is made in the book of Acts. And if he ever did retract, repent, and come straight so he served further in the early Church, there is no mention of it made in Luke’s writings, who was evidently the historian of Church work in those days. But whether he did or not, this incident is surely a danger signal hung out to show others the danger of disregarding the wise counsel of those who are over them in the Lord.”

“Paul had good reasons for thinking it was not best for John Mark to go back over there. He might have acted in a way that he lost his standing or reputation as a preacher over in that country. Paul felt the responsibility and wanted things to be carried on in good order in his territory, as every good State Overseer desires. I have heard some of our State Overseers make statements in a similar manner. Referring to a certain minister they have said, “I’d rather he would not come into my state.” Doubtless Paul knew it was not best for John Mark to go back over there again. It was the duty of Barnabas to submit to Paul and let John Mark go to other fields, because it was Paul’s territory as Overseer. And even as General Overseer I would not knowingly send a minister into a state contrary to the wishes of a good, dependable and faithful Overseer. And when those ministers went up from Jerusalem to Antioch representing themselves as having been sent by James to teach that the Gentiles must be circumcised and keep the law, it was learned afterward that their representation was false for James declared he never gave them any such instructions.”

“It is evident that those false teachers learned who was who before they got through with James and that council of apostles and elders, of which James was presiding officer as well as General Overseer of all the Churches, including the churches in Paul’s territory as well as under John, Peter and all the others. I tell you, I am afraid to depart from God’s order. And on the other hand I feel a tremendous lift in my spirit when I speak or write in its defense. I agree with Paul that it was not best for John Mark to go on that trip into Paul’s territory without knowing his reasons, because of the position Paul held.

It has been said that some who were our preachers, but are gone now, used to lay special emphasis on Hebrews 13:17 as long as they could put it to the members of the congregation under them, but when the same rule was to be applied to them by the Overseers who were over them they disobeyed, rebelled and bolted. Then a few of the State Overseers in the past have been very attentive toward having the ministers in their territory to obey them, but then when it became necessary for the General Overseer to call them to account and give them counsel, advice, and instructions, it was another thing.

And some have even uttered words of defiance which has thrown them into the rank with those mentioned by Peter and Jude in their last days' messages who were not afraid to speak evil of dignities - those who are above them in rank and position. This is quite serious because of what will follow such disregard for constituted authority. Of them Peter says, *"But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption."* (2 Peter 2:12)

"Peter states further that such people have forsaken the right way, which shows they were once in the right way, and were probably good workers in the Master's service. But they have gone wrong some way and gone so far that they utter words of defiance of any rule or authority over them. Then, look out, matters are becoming serious for them, and Peter mentions them as cursed children, wanting more money than they

are getting, and will put into practice any kind of a covetous or dark scheme to get it."

"All of these references have been given to illustrate who is who after the Bible order. And in concluding this topic I wish to make an attempt to express my gratitude to the many of my fellow helpers and co-workers for their loyalty, sticktoitiveness, uprightness and co-operation, and for their honor and respect toward their General Overseer. Many of these are here in this presence today, into whose faces I can look while this message is going forth. To say I love you is putting it very mild. Many of you have ravished my heart, enchanted and charmed me by your valiant service during this five years' period of special conflict. Your noble deeds and brilliant victories you have achieved in the hard fought battles, in my estimation have made many of you worthy of a badge of honor and the applause of angels. I say, hurrah for the faithful soldiers who have fought heroically for liberty and truth up to this hour." ✍

## National Administration

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Stephen E. Smith</b>       | General Overseer  |
| <b>Robert J. Hawkins, Jr.</b> | National Overseer   |
| <b>Philip Bennett</b>         | Field Secretary/Pastor, Northfield  |
| <b>Frances Prince</b>         | Pastor, Druids Heath  |
| <b>Beverley Anderson</b>      | Pastor, Handsworth  |
| <b>Sydney Dias</b>            | Pastor, London  |
| <b>Angela Clarke</b>          | National Treasurer  |
| <b>Delzie Reid</b>            | National Assembly Band Movement Co-ordinator                              |
| <b>Julie Clarke</b>           | National Church of Prophecy Marker Association/B.T.I. Co-ordinator        |
| <b>Clement Edmeade</b>        | National Sunday School Co-ordinator                                       |
| <b>Dian Bennett</b>           | National Victory Leaders Band Co-ordinator                                |
| <b>Claudia Prince</b>         | National Women's Missionary Band Co-ordinator/<br>National Choir Director |
| <b>Ray Prince</b>             | National Music Director   |
| <b>Karen Richards</b>         | Assistant Editor of <i>The Chronicle</i>                                  |



## From the Overseer's Desk

Greetings to all of you from The United States in the mighty name of Jesus! Sister Hawkins and I, along with my mother, Mary Hawkins, would like to thank all of you for your prayers, words of encouragement, and expressions of love shown to us during our family's time of trial. As most of you already know, my mother had a minor heart attack the day after we arrived in The United States. She was taken to the hospital by emergency services and eventually wound up having open-heart surgery (triple bypass) at St. Vincent's Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida. Thanks be to God Almighty, Mom is now home and is recovering slowly, but surely. God has certainly shown us his tender mercies and lovingkindnesses and we are humbly grateful for all that He has done for us.

God has certainly let us know that He is in control of our lives. As we were waiting for the ambulance to arrive and were calling upon God, Mom said, "Thank you, God, for allowing my son to be here to help me." Just a week or so before this incident I asked the Lord to allow me to be with Mom if anything was to ever happen to her, and He answered my prayer. I wasn't thousands of miles away in Africa, India, or England. I wasn't several hundred miles away in revival in Virginia. I was in the same house, able to respond to my mother's call for help. As I write this with tears, I can say that God is worthy to be praised. I want to devote my whole life to His service. We do not have any time to waste in this life. I want to use it all for God and for the sake of precious souls that He loves so much and gave His life for.

Mom, our family, and Mom's friends are certainly overwhelmed by all the love that has been shown to us by the members and friends of The Church of God. It has certainly been a witness to all of us of the love of God dwelling in the hearts of the children of God. Galatians 5:22, *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love..."* St. John 13:35 also states, *"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one **to** another [not just **for** one another]."* If I have something **for** you, I have not given it to you. In some cases, you might have to come and get it yourself. But the real love of God comes to us, doesn't it? And sometimes it comes a very long distance [overseas or beyond the sky] 1 John 4:9, *"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."*

While we were in the hospital we met a minister and his family from the Church of God of Prophecy in Georgia. His wife had open heart surgery the same day that Mom had hers. We had some nice talks and good fellowship and could certainly feel the Holy Ghost in our prayers to the Lord with one another. Please remember Sister Johnson's recovery and the Johnson Family in your prayers. I am sure that they would be glad to know that their brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ in England are praying for them.

In addition to this, right before Mom went into surgery, we began to talk to a nurse that was taking care of her. The nurse was from the Philippines and we found out that she was a Christian. She told us that she had also worked in Saudi Arabia as a nurse and let us know a little about living as a Christian in that country. She had to worship God in secret and her life was literally in danger when she went to church services. Near the end of the conversation she stated, "It's worth it." It's not that often that we get to talk with someone that has been in such a situation, and considering the burden that I have for the mission work, I counted this as a sign from the Lord that He was with us and doing something special in all of this. She called another foreign Christian nurse over to her that would be with Mom in surgery and stated that they would be praying for Mom.

Certainly, God is good to us all. All of us can recount and testify of God's right hand working miracles in our midst. We must witness to others of the great gospel and salvation of Jesus Christ. Our job is to save and keep souls and present them perfect before the Lord. May God help us in this Great Commission.

Sister Hawkins and I have extended our trip and will be returning to England, God willing, on April 25, 2007. We look forward to seeing you all again. Please keep our upcoming National Youth Convention and National Convention in your prayers. Again, saints, thank you for everything and please keep us in your prayers. We will do the same. In Jesus' mighty name. Amen!

You are welcome to attend and to fill up on the blessings of God at  
The Church of God (England's)

# Annual National Convention

22nd -24th June 2007

Theme:

## "A Covenanted People"

*"They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten."*

Jeremiah 50:5

"Will you sincerely promise in the presence of God and these witnesses that you will accept this Bible as the Word of God, believe and practice its teachings rightly divided, the New Testament as your rule of faith and practice, government and discipline, and walk in the light to the best of your knowledge and ability?"

Location: Kings Heath and Moseley Baptist Church  
80 High Street, Kings Heath B14 7JZ

[The venue is on the Number 50 Bus Route, Road A435 and opposite Somerfield supermarket]  
Don't miss the blessings that God has prepared especially for you! See you there!

### General Headquarters address



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**Victory Leaders Band**

## **VLB BOOST**

**Dian Bennett -  
National VLB Co-ordinator**

Greetings to one and all. The following Events Calendar outlines the activities and events planned for the VLB department. I pray that you will find the information useful, as it should help us keep track of those dates we need to keep free. Updates will be added as necessary.

### **National VLB Events Calendar**

1. **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2007**  
National Youth Convention at Handsworth Church
2. **Ongoing**  
Promote Youth Life Team (Churches can work together and help each other)
3. **Ongoing**  
Promote Tract giving (Tract a day, please keep a record of tracts given out), appoint person for tract distribution/recording
4. **May or June (provisional date Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2007 - Bank Holiday)**  
National Sports Day
5. **August 2007 (11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> August 2007, provisional dates)**  
Senior/Junior Camps
6. **Summer Month June - August 07**  
(Date and venue to be confirmed with host Pastor Dias)  
London Visit/Outreach.



## **CPMA/BTI BOOST**

**Julie Clarke -  
National CPMA/BTI Co-ordinator**

### ***The Church of God***

*She's one of her kind, the beautiful bride,  
Chosen of God to reign by His side  
Dressed in her robe of righteousness,  
Pure elect of God, safe and secure  
Her banner of love, the standard to hold  
Unites together, the beautiful fold  
Her mission to seek those that are lost  
Whatever it takes, whatever the cost  
Her message is plain to all who will hear  
Come as you are, and draw near  
And see a Man who saves from sin  
Whose cleansing blood makes you pure within,  
For with His blood, He bought His Bride  
Destined to live and reign by His side  
She is but one, the only one of her mother  
Fair as the moon, unlike no other  
The great speckled bird, the purchase of God,  
Represents the beautiful great Church of God.*

**Written and submitted by Julie Clarke -  
Northfield Church**

# Occupy till I come

In **St. Luke 19:12-27** Jesus told the parable of the noble man who went on a journey to a far country and told his servants to occupy until his return.

Definitions of the word *occupy* includes:

1. To live or be established in a house
2. To keep busy or engrossed; engage the attention of
3. To take up a certain amount of time or space
4. To take and hold possession of
5. To fill or hold a position or rank

They all were given one pound before the master departed. We know the parable relates to Christ and the Church. We are the servants that have been left to occupy and await our Lord's return.

In **2 Timothy 2:20, 21** Paul makes reference to a great house which we know refers to The Church of God, but in a general term can relate to any house. The term; *to honour or to dishonour* does not refer to the material, but to the usage of the vessel. You can have gold and silver vessels that are still dishonourable.

An *honourable vessel* is one that is frequently used. Because it is used frequently, it is cleaned and polished regularly. There is no time for dirt, rust or dust to settle upon it. A *dishonourable vessel* is one that is of no use. It may be cracked, chipped, rusty or dirty and so cannot be used. Have you ever wondered why some members are always being used and not others?

You don't mind displaying your honourable vessels, but you keep your dishonourable ones hidden out of the way. They will put off your visitors if you use them to offer them food or drink. If I come to your house and you give me food out of a dirty vessel, I may eat it out of politeness but I won't come back in a hurry. If we are going to be used to serve God's Word we must make sure that we are clean.

Some in the great house (The Church of God) enjoy the privileges but do not want any responsibility. Every house must have organisation and division of responsibilities, for example one may clean, and one may cook. In some homes, some just eat but don't want to do anything. The homeowner may not throw them out because they are family, or they don't have anywhere else to go, but he can't be pleased. They are just abusing his hospitality. Nobody likes to be used, not even God. Such a homeowner will not go out of his way to do much for the occupiers; he'll just do the bare minimum. On the other hand, he will do anything for the faithful and diligent person.

Parents you know what I am talking about with your children who are obedient or disobedient. Someone who cares about their house or where they live will do all that their hands find to do to enhance the house. If you see something that needs doing, don't wait for someone else to do it or say it's not my responsibility. There was a task that needed doing. **"It was a task that anybody could do. Everybody agreed that somebody should do it, but in the end nobody did it".**

If you have a house and it is neglected it will deteriorate with time. No one will want to come there. Soon the paint will start to strip off the woodwork, the furniture will be dusty, the carpet and the floor will be dirty and after a while it will start to stink. If people come to visit you, they won't want to come back.

We need to clean the house and freshen it up. In the Church some members are very busy doing all they can. They have a number of positions while others are idle not doing much or anything.

**Who do you think the Master is going to reward when He returns? ✍**

**Philip Bennett – Northfield Church**

# What's happening in Handsworth Church?

The church in Handsworth is growing spiritually and each day God is drawing us closer to Him and to each other.

We had a good Christmas season. The Sunday School children conducted the Christmas service under the supervision of Pastor Anderson. The topic was '**The Christmas Story.**' A new student who started with us just before Christmas brought his mom with him for two consecutive weeks. That was wonderful. I am hoping that she will continue and settle with us.

The Watch Night service was something else. The Vicar of the Trinity Fellowship contacted Pastor Anderson to ask if his members could join us for New Year's Eve service. Well, of course the answer was 'yes we certainly can.' He then said we could use the main church for the service. We did this (and no it was not cold, it was warm - to our surprise. As a matter of fact it was too warm). The church was almost full and Pastor Anderson testified afterwards to the brethren that her knees started to shake.

Unfortunately, the singing was a strain as most of the congregation were listening rather than participating. Josh Anderson (the church was so proud of him) held his chords extremely well.

One of our visiting friends brought some other visitors with him on the night. Many family members were present, including Devon and his family (for those members who know the long story and the answered prayers). We had a wonderful service. The only ones missing were our non-functioning members. We are continuing to pray that God will keep them under His loving arms. Afterwards, many of the Trinity members said it was a lovely service. To God be the glory!

I am hoping that 2007 will bring some more souls to The Church of God and into His kingdom. Since the Christmas service, we now have two new Sunday School members. God has been good.

We will do our best to continue to look after the work at Handsworth church to the best of our knowledge and ability. With God's help He will lead us to achieve perfection.

**Pastor Beverley Anderson – Reporter**

## **Northfield Church March/April Birthdays, Many Happy Returns:**

|                       |                          |                |                          |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Reuel Clarke          | - 3 <sup>rd</sup> March  | Cynthia Kelly  | - 4 <sup>th</sup> April  |
| Pastor Philip Bennett | - 4 <sup>th</sup> March  | Jabia Wright   | - 15 <sup>th</sup> April |
| Joseph Reid           | - 6 <sup>th</sup> March  | Maxine Whitter | - 23 <sup>rd</sup> April |
| Olamde Oloaye         | - 16 <sup>th</sup> March | Berly Richards | - 29 <sup>th</sup> April |
| Chereta Edmeade       | - 16 <sup>th</sup> March |                |                          |
| Rogier Wright         | - 31 <sup>st</sup> March |                |                          |

### **Special Note:**

*The Chronicle* is an official publication of The Church of God (England) with Robert J. Hawkins, Jr. National Overseer and Editor. Articles intended for publication in the next issue of *The Chronicle* should be received on or before **26<sup>th</sup> May 2007**. These submissions will be for the May/June 2007 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: kazgirl\_uk@yahoo.com