



# The Chronicle

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## The Point of No Return

Philip C. Bennett

Many times we hear people talk about how loving our God is and that His mercy endureth forever. While these statements are true, God's mercy does not stay with one individual or group of individuals forever. If it did, Lucifer would still be in heaven and Sodom and Gomorrah would not have been destroyed.

God does have a limit. We as individuals need to be careful that while God's grace is abiding with us, we do not take it for granted and reach **the point of no return**. Most times, people know when they are doing wrong but they convince themselves that they will make it right 'one day.' It is always 'one day' but never today. There is a saying that **the road to hell is paved with good intentions**.

*"... behold, now is the day of salvation."*

(2 Corinthians 6:2) Tomorrow is not promised to any of us. All we have is the present:

*<sup>11</sup> "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. <sup>12</sup> Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: <sup>13</sup> But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God." (Ecclesiastes 8:11-13)*

Many people mistake God's longsuffering as liberty to continue in sin.

If we fail to obey God, He will leave us to do what we want without restraint or reproof. We do not want to get to the point where God closes His ears to our cries: *<sup>24</sup> "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; <sup>25</sup> But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: <sup>26</sup> I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; <sup>27</sup> When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. <sup>28</sup> Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:" (Proverbs 1:24-28)*

The Apostle Paul left us a stern warning: *"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." (Ephesians 4:30)*

Because of disobedience and rebellion, Saul the king of Israel was rejected and God departed from him. The Bible gives us two accounts of Saul's disobedience. In the first instance, Saul found himself in a predicament and because of fear, he did what he was not supposed to do:

*<sup>5</sup> "And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Bethaven."*

*6When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits. 7And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. 8And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. 9And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.” (1 Samuel 13:5-9)*

Saul was fully aware that only the prophet or the priest was supposed to offer up a sacrifice, yet he went ahead and did it anyway. His fear of the Philistines was greater than his trust in God. As soon as he had offered up the sacrifice, Samuel appeared and reprimanded him.

In the second instance, he was sent to destroy the Amalekites but he again failed to carry out God’s instructions fully. Saul saved the king and the best of the spoil. His excuse was that he had spared the spoil to sacrifice to God. This prompted the well-known statement from Samuel: *22 “And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. 23For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.” (1 Samuel 15:22-23)*

This rejection of Saul was not a temporary forsaking; Saul had grieved the Spirit of God and had **passed the point of no return**: *“And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.” (1 Samuel 16:1)*

Saul may have thought that he was irreplaceable but God had someone else to take his place.

None of Samuel’s prayer and pleading would change God’s mind. To make things worse, the Philistines again made war with Israel but Saul was on his own: *5 “And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled. 6And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets. 7Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.” (1 Samuel 28:5-7)*

Sometimes people say, *“I would never do that!”* But without God we are capable of doing anything. Saul was on his own and because he could not hear from God, he resorted to a witch - the very thing he had previously outlawed. The witch through her enchantment brought up Samuel from the grave: *15 “And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do. 16Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy? 17And the LORD hath done to him, as he spake by me: for the LORD hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, even to David: 18Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the LORD, nor executedst his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the LORD done this thing unto thee this day. 19Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and to morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the LORD also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines. 20Then Saul fell straightway all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the words of Samuel: and there was no strength in him; for he had eaten no bread all the day, nor all the night.” (1 Samuel 28:15-20)*

What an awful position for anyone to find themselves in.

He was like a **dead man walking**. Imagine Saul knowing he would be going to battle the next day, and that he would be killed and his fate was sealed: <sup>26</sup> *“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup>But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.”* (Hebrews 10:26-27)

Sometimes, we warn people and they do not take it seriously. But if God takes the time to send someone to warn us, He is serious. Eli was the high priest in Israel but he neglected his duties. He placed his two sons in the position of priests and kept them there - even when he knew they were not living right. To his credit, he did reprove them. However, his rebuke was very mild and by then their sins had reached the point of no return: <sup>24</sup> *“Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD’S people to transgress. <sup>25</sup>If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.”* (1 Samuel 2:24-25)

When people refuse instructions and wise counsel, God Himself will harden their hearts as He did with Pharaoh. Eli’s sons had passed **the point of no return**. God hardened their hearts that they would not turn as they had forsaken all the previous warnings. God sent a prophet to warn Eli and pronounced judgement on his two sons: *“And this shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them.”* (1 Samuel 2:34)

Much of the responsibility for the behaviour of the sons lay at Eli’s door and he too would suffer the consequences. God pronounced his judgement on Eli and his house through the child Samuel: <sup>11</sup> *“And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle. <sup>12</sup>In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end. <sup>13</sup>For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which*

*he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. <sup>14</sup>And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.”* (1 Samuel 3:11-14)

There was nothing that Eli could do to change God’s mind. One of the works of the Holy Ghost is to reprove us of sins. But if when He does, we wilfully ignore and reject Him, we endanger our souls and are in danger of committing the **unpardonable sin**: *“Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.”* (St. Matthew 12:31)


Over the years, many have been confused and unsure of what this sin constitutes and the devil has used the fear of it to keep many a good Christian in bondage. The Holy Ghost is the one who reproves us of sin and except He draws us we cannot be saved: *“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;”* (Romans 1:28)

So if we wilfully ignore the pleading of the Holy Ghost and His admonition, He will leave us to a reprobate mind. **Reprobate**: *Bad, wicked, immoral, shameless* etc. I pray that none of us will ever reach that **point of no return**, but the Holy Ghost is still pleading and interceding for us. Let us not turn Him away.

There is a song by D Whittle and C C Williams that says:

*“Have you any room for Jesus,  
As in grace He calls again?  
O, today is time accepted,  
Tomorrow you may call in vain.”*

*Room and time now give to Jesus,  
Soon will pass God’s day of grace;  
Soon your heart left cold and silent,  
And the Savior’s pleading cease.*

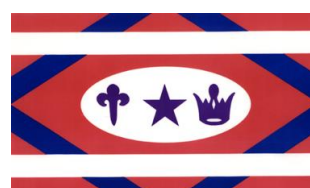
*“...To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”* (Hebrews 4:7) 

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<b>George Wilson</b>	Pastor, London/National Family Camp Co-ordinator/ Communications and Media Co-ordinator
<b>Claudine Brown</b>	National Assembly Band Movement Co-ordinator/ National Choir Director/Communications and Media Co-ordinator
<b>Stuart Brown</b>	National Church of Prophecy Marker Association/ Bible Training Institute Co-ordinator/ Communications and Media Co-ordinator
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<b>Jennifer Thompson</b>	National Sunday School Co-ordinator
<b>Rikki Prince</b>	National Family Camp Co-ordinator/National Music Director
<b>Beverley Wilson</b>	National Reporter
<b>Karen Richards</b>	Assistant Editor of <i>The Chronicle</i>



## From the Overseer's Desk

No sooner had the Covid-19 pandemic appeared to subside, then we now find ourselves plunged into further mayhem and uncertainty - the war in Europe will have a knock on effect on us all.

While we are encouraged to pray in all circumstances, that which is prophesied to happen will happen regardless of our prayers. Does that mean we should not pray? No. We should still pray for God to keep us as individuals and as His Church from the evils that surround us. But regardless of what we face, we have the reassuring words of our Lord: *"...lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."* (St. Matthew 28:20)

*"...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."* (Hebrews 13:5)

Talking about the last days, Jesus said: *"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."* (St. Matthew 24:12)

Let us not be discouraged and allow the inequity (lawlessness) around us to cause us to throw down arms and quit. On the contrary, let us be encouraged by some more words from our Lord:

***"And when these things begin to come to pass,  
then look up, and lift up your heads;  
for your redemption draweth nigh."***

(St. Luke 21:28)

With everything going on around us, we were still able to enjoy a wonderful National Family Camp in February. We were blessed by the timely presentations, messages and devotions as well as the great fellowship that we shared. Our thanks go out to Brother George Wilson and Brother Rikki Prince for their effort in putting this wonderful event together.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- |                            |   |   |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| National Ladies Retreat    | - | Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June to Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2022   |
| Annual General Meeting     | - | Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2022                                 |
| Annual National Convention | - | Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2022  |
| National Men's Retreat     | - | Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2022 |



# ABM BOOST

Claudine Brown –  
National Assembly Band Movement Co-ordinator

The general Assembly Band Movement theme for the assembly year 2021-2022 is:

## ‘Knit Together In Love’

(Colossians 2:2)

**What Thank Have Ye?** The Lord Jesus asked this three times in St. Luke Chapter 6:32: **“For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them. 33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same. 34 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.”**

“...what thank have ye?” essentially means what reward do you deserve for that? What’s so good about that? Imagine this first group: Brother I-Love-You, Sister Do-Good and Sister Giver. This group is so easy for Christians to love, and treat well. They are not hard to hug, greet, smile at, spend time with, give gifts to or speak highly of. One would go out of one’s way for this group, because it is so easy to do. In fact, sinners can do exactly the same without difficulty. This is why Jesus questions – “...*what thank have ye?*”

Now imagine this second group: Brother I-Can’t-Stand-You, Sister Do-No-Good and Sister Selfish. Ordinary, earthly, fleshy love will struggle with this group. They are much easier to avoid, complain about, ignore and to protect ourselves from. Carnal love does not have the longsuffering to endure the characteristics of this group. However, as Christians, we are called to a higher standard than the world; there must be a distinct difference between our love, and the conditional, fickle, carnal love that you can find amongst sinners. Christians have been called to a life of going against the grain...swimming against the current...walking in the opposite direction to the world: St. Luke 6:36: **“But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.”**

*Love my enemy? Lend and not receive again?* In verse 27 of the same chapter, Jesus instructs to do good to them that hate you, bless them that curse you, pray for them that despitefully use you, offer your other cheek to the one who smited you and to give your coat to the one who has already took your cloak! Do we hear this? Do we really hear this? This is not in the same ballpark as the love of this world. This takes divine love, implanted by the Holy Ghost in a heart that has been converted. It is *agape* love which lacks nothing and gives all, unconditionally. Jesus is not calling us to a standard that He has not attained Himself. In verse 36, we learn He is kind to the unthankful and evil. If God is in us, we can be the same.

Let us not congratulate ourselves on mastering the love of the first group. There is no difference between us and the sinner in doing so. Take pleasure in obeying our Master by loving our neighbours, including our enemies and those who have mistreated us. In doing so, our reward will be great and we shall be the children of the Highest! Praise Almighty God.

For any of our dear readers who are thinking: but Claud, I cannot love [insert name here], they have **hurt me** too deeply. Please be encouraged by the actions of two flesh and blood men who we know well. The first cried “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” as He hung on a cross, attached by nails driven through his hands and feet and wearing a crown of thorns. The second cried “Lord, lay not this sin to their charge” while rocks were hurled at him with deadly intent.

Jesus, and later Stephen show us amazing examples of *agape* love in the face of their killers. Can you get any more offensive than a killer? Our forgiveness of our offenders is essential to our spiritual and physical health. Furthermore, being forgiven ourselves depends on it. (St. Matthew 6:14-15). St. Luke 6:36 simply says: **“Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.”**

May the Lord perfect and help us to embrace the freedom that comes with mercy, forgiveness and divine love. The second group is **not** unlovable... not for a true child of the Highest. May the Lord bless you as we strive to reach His standard of love.



## WMB BOOST

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

The continuing general Women's Missionary Band theme for the assembly year 2021-2022 is:

**'Sonlight'**

(St. Matthew 5:16)

### **The Sonlight**



St. Matthew. 5:16: ***"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*** In this dark and sinful world, God is still expecting our lights to shine before men. So how can we let our lights shine? Sometimes, in order for our lights to shine, we have to make sacrifices that may impact on our comfort zones. It may impact on our finances, our time and energy.

Jesus said if we love those who only love us what difference is that? Our lights must shine to those we cannot love easily. Our lights must shine to those who hate us, who curse us, and those who despitely use us. (St. Matthew. 5:44)

To shine our lights, we have to go above and beyond in what we do. In order for our lights to shine we have to love - not in words only but in deeds. The Scripture says: ***'...that they may see your good works...'***. The world must see a difference in us. Mankind must see lives that are beacons (always lit and shining), so that they will sit up and take note that these people are different from the norm.

Our lights must first shine amongst ourselves and then we should shine abroad. It is no good that we are helping someone outside of Christ but our brethren in Christ cannot see our lights or good works.

When was the last time we visited a shut-in? When was the last time we provided bread to a family in need? When was the last time we visited the sick? Yes, our lights must shine in that we are living righteously before God - but this living should generate goods works which touch the lost and our brethren. Let your lights shine. God bless.

# What's happening in Druids Heath Church?



Sister Chedene Clarke (formerly Hall) was received into The Church of God on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021. Deacon Patrick Clarke was the officiating minister. Family, friends and the local congregation at Druids Heath were present to witness this wonderful occasion. Sister Chedene expressed that the Lord has been moving in her life for some time, and believes it is only Him that has led her to the truth!

## Dorcas Club

We had a flower pot planting session for Dorcas Club on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021. We learnt how to plant a bulb lasagne in colourful plant pots, to brighten our gardens for Spring.

This session was organised and moderated by Sister Elaine Taylor-Davis and Sister Dawn Prince, our WMB leaders. This was a fun, interactive and creative evening, which we all enjoyed.

## Brother Delano Prince - Reporter





# What's happening in London Church?

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022, Brother Justin Clarke - National Evangelism Co-ordinator and the National Evangelism team visited London Church. The team were all prayed up and ready to evangelise, walking the streets of the local area for outreach.

We witnessed to individuals at the local train station and surrounding streets. It was a blessing to be out representing Christ. We did not know what we would encounter, but were assured the Lord would be pleased with our endeavours to fulfil the Great Commission.

Only God knows what was wrought in the hearts of all who heard His Word on this day. Persistency in this field will one day bring the increase to the Church in London.

God bless the National Evangelism Co-ordinator and the National Evangelism team for their dedication to win souls.

Please say a prayer for the souls in the city of London and a special prayer for; Ronaldo, Diana, Thomas and Gabriel who we met on the day.

**Sister Beverley Wilson - National Reporter**

# What's Happening in Long Lane Church?

We thank the Lord for our Gleaner Band service on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022. This was moderated by Sister Keshia Toolsee and Sister Antonette Mwila.

I have been fortunate to attend all Gleaner Band services. We are blessed that even though they take place mid-week; we have had visits from children whose parents are not church members.

The Gleaners have been encouraged to be active and lead the Gleaner Band services. They worship the Lord in music through playing musical instruments. The musicians assist them with this.

The children have all led a devotion and each one was a blessing. One of the Scriptures used was Psalm 116:1: ***"I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications"***. I know I will never read this Scripture again without viewing it through the lens of a child. Is that not how God wants us to come to Him, as little children?

Let us give praise to God for blessing us with such devoted parents, who are raising their children to be willing to work for the Lord. Brethren, there is so much we can learn from our children, and for certain it is their keenness to know more about God's Word.

Let us continue to pray for our children - that their lights will continue to shine, and God's Word will remain in their hearts.

Sister Antonette and Sister Keshia are to be commended for putting a lot of thought into the planning of each service.

God bless you all.

**Sister Novlet Nugent – Reporter**

## TIME

My name is TIME. I haven't always been and I won't always be, but right now I'm on the move, measuring out life.

Men wait for me, submit to me, fear me; but no one can stop me.

Except God. He is in control and He says I am running out...

Most men couldn't care less. They think I'm on the move forever. But I'm not. When I stop, eternity will keep right on going...

And it will be too late...too late for repentance; too late for getting right with God through Jesus Christ, His Son; too late for faith. Just "forever" left for tears and anguish and regrets...

NOW is the day of salvation. Will it be that day for you?

My name is TIME and I'm on the move. I'm nearing the end. And I'm taking you with me... into Eternity.

The Church of God  
(England)

# NATIONAL LADIES RETREAT

FRIDAY 3RD TO  
SUNDAY 5TH JUNE 2022

## *Location*

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**Special Note:**

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