



The Chronicle

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Pride Goeth Before Destruction And A Haughty Spirit Before A Fall

Philip C. Bennett

"Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." (Proverbs 16:18)

Pride: A feeling of honour and self-respect; a sense of personal worth.

Excessive self-esteem; an over high opinion of one's self.

Haughty: Having or showing an attitude of superiority and contempt for people or things perceived to be inferior.

As humans, we tend to categorise sin where some sins do not seem as bad as others. We may place pride in a lesser category than say murder or adultery, but not so with God: *"These six things doth the LORD hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."* (Proverbs 6:16-19)

Notice that pride is at the top of the list.

Most of us are familiar with the account of the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah and how God ultimately destroyed the inhabitants of that twin city. When we think about these cities, we think of the sin of sodomy, but let's read what their main indictments were that led them to that sinful state: *"Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy."* (Ezekiel 16:49)

It was pride that led to the fall of Lucifer and the resultant problems in the world today: *¹²How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. ¹⁵Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.* (Isaiah 14:12-15)

A proud person tends to focus a lot on themselves and their achievements: *"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride and arrogance, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."* (Proverbs 8:13)

Froward: Presumptuous, or impudent, bold or insolent behaviour or manner.

David the psalmist wrote: *⁶For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. ⁷But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.* (Psalm 75:6-7)

God forsook the nation of Israel because of sin and gave them over into the hand of a heathen nation. Later on, God would then punish this same nation for mistreating His people: *"And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him."* (Jeremiah 27:6)

God called Nebuchadnezzar his servant because He used him to do his bidding. Nebuchadnezzar was the king of the greatest empire that has ever existed but God had to humble Nebuchadnezzar for him to know that it was God who reigned supreme and not him. Some people behave like they are God's gift to mankind, but we all need to humble ourselves before God: *"And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him."* (Daniel 2:1)

In the second year of his reign, in about 603 BC, God gave Nebuchadnezzar this dream which troubled him. None of the wise men in Babylon could tell the dream or the interpretation, as the king had forgotten it: *¹⁰The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. ¹¹And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.* (Daniel 2:10-11)

Since no one could reveal and interpret the dream, the king decided to kill all the magicians, astrologers and wise men in Babylon. This was rather harsh. However, God used Daniel to reveal the king's dream and to interpret its meaning. In the dream, the king saw a large image which had a head of gold. This represented Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian empire. The breast and arms of silver represented the Median/Persian empire. The belly and thighs of brass represented the Grecian empire under Alexander the Great. The legs of iron represented the Roman empire and the feet of iron and clay mixed together represented a divided kingdom to come in the last days. He then saw a stone cut out of the mountain, without hands which smote the image at the feet and broke it to pieces. The stone represented the everlasting kingdom of God. What an honour that God would grant him such a vision of the times to come: *⁴⁶Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him. ⁴⁷The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret.* (Daniel 2:46-47)

As humans, we tend to have short memories and are easy to forget things that we should not. Some 23 years later, when his kingdom was well established, pride raised its ugly head: *¹Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. ²Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. ³Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ⁴Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages,⁵That at*

what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: 6And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

(Daniel 3:1-6)

There were three young men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego who remembered what the king had forgotten, (that *God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings*) and decided that they would not bow or worship any god but the one true God. They were brought before the king and reminded about the consequences of non-compliance and given a chance to reconsider. They remained firm in their convictions: *16Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. 17If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. 18But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. 19Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.*

(Daniel 3:16-19)

These three young men refused to worship the image which the king had set up and were cast into a fiery furnace, but the **God of gods and Lord of kings** was with them: *24Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. 25He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. 26Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.*

27And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them. 28Then Nebuchadnezzar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God. 29Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort. 30Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.

(Daniel 3:24-30)

We would think after such experiences that Nebuchadnezzar would have changed his ways and humbled himself, but no. He continued in his sinful ways. Since he refused to humble himself, God would do the humbling. Some ten years later, Nebuchadnezzar had another dream: *10Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great. 11The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth: 12The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it. 13I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven; 14He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches: 15Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth: 16Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven*

times pass over him. ¹⁷This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men. (Daniel 4:10-17)

When none of the wise men, magicians or astrologers in Babylon were able to interpret the dream, God again used faithful Daniel to do so. He was able to interpret because he had a close relationship with God. Daniel explained to the king that the tree represented him - king Nebuchadnezzar who had become a great man on the earth: ²⁴This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my Lord the king: ²⁵That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will." ²⁶And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule. ²⁷Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity. All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar."

(Daniel 4:24-28)


We would think that after such a warning he would have humbled himself and walked softly before God. We have read of instances in the Bible where God repented of the evil he was going to do to an individual or a nation when they humbled themselves before Him. Daniel had encouraged him to break off his sins and to show mercy to the poor. However, in Nebuchadnezzar's case the old saying was true, "old habits die hard."

²⁹At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon. ³⁰The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

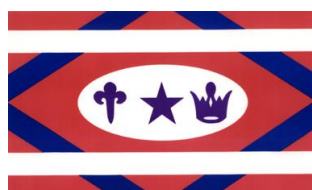
³¹While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee. ³²And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. ³³The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws. ³⁴And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: ³⁵And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? ³⁶At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.

(Daniel 4:29-36)

The mighty king was reduced to eating grass - like a beast of the field and his understanding departed from him.

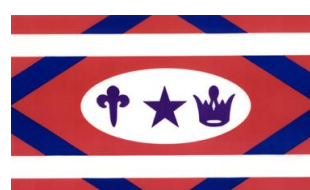
Sometimes, people take the gifts and abilities that God gives to them and use them to exalt themselves. They forget that these belong to God and He can take them back at any time. **Many times, God gives messages and warnings but people fail to pay attention.** That is what happened to Nebuchadnezzar and the prophecy was fulfilled upon him. For seven years, he was driven from men and lived as a wild beast until he learnt his lesson the hard way. He was then able to write: "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are true, and His ways judgement: and those that walk in pride He is able to abase." (Daniel 4:37) 

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From the Overseer's Desk

"One, one cocoa full basket" is an old Jamaican proverb. On Wednesday 1st June 2022, Sister Lydia Wilson was baptised and took her right hand of fellowship. We thank God for another member being covenanted and joining the great Church of God.

Just two days later, our ladies were off to the beautiful Malvern Hills for their annual National Ladies Retreat. They were privileged to have Sister Melissa Hawkins visiting with them from the USA, who was a great blessing. Altogether there were 44 ladies in attendance, including 10 visitors.

Pastor Anderson and everyone who helped to arrange and who ministered during the Retreat are to be commended. Special thanks also to Sister Julie Clarke for accommodating Sister Hawkins.

Let us not let up now, but continue to pray for the other outstanding events on the church calendar.

We were saddened by the untimely death of Brother Marcel White, a good friend to many of our church members. Let us continue to pray for his wife, children, family and friends that he has left behind.

Time is short and none of us know what the future holds. Therefore, it behoves us to do what we can while we can.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."

(Ecclesiastes 9:10)

Jesus also left us an example of being diligent: *"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)

Upcoming Event:

National Men's Retreat

- Friday 29th July to Sunday 31st 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)

My Life, My Business...? Greetings to all our precious Chronicle readers.

As we draw near towards the end of this Assembly year and the focus on this fundamental theme, I would like to share an excerpt with you from an ABM handbook of The Church of God. It is entitled **“Organise Your Band For a Powerful Force”**:

Paul instructed the Early Church to be *“knit together in love”* (Colossians 2:2) **“By this** (being knit together in love) **shall all men know that ye are my disciples...”** (St. John 13:35). Members of a band feel the love with which the band is knit together. If one thread (member) is broken, the knitting begins to unravel, affecting the whole band/body and all “feel the pain”. **“For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church”** (Ephesians 5:29). If there is sin in the band, it affects the whole Body, **“For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones”** (Ephesians 5:30). The Assembly Band Movement is designed to keep the whole church membership connected in an assembly of bands moving in the same direction – on to perfection!”

God is a master architect and a strategist with an eye for detail. In line with the will of God, this department was founded with the purpose of keeping the members spiritual, trained and working in the other auxiliaries with the focus on reaching out to others. Love is the cord that binds us together as brethren. It is a prominent marker of the Church, and is the hallmark of a true disciple. Because God is love; with God in us, love should flow through and from us too.

This love that we have for one another should not only dictate how we treat each other, but how we conduct ourselves as Christians, even when we are apart. As members of the Body of Christ, our behaviour has an impact on our fellow brethren – for good or bad! When as members we are all pursuing holiness, living righteously, telling others of the goodness of God, sharing the gospel, overcoming sin and diligently seeking Him, we have the favour of God. It is His good pleasure to bless us individually and collectively. If on the contrary, we have sin in our lives, the heaviness this brings can be felt beyond ourselves. It behoves us when we find ourselves in sin, or overtaken in fault, to deal with it speedily and thoroughly by going to God for mercy and repenting for the saving of our souls. When the Lord is moving amongst us, we do not want only the odd one to be in connection with God. We want every member in every pew to be so full of God that His glory fills the house – just as it did when the temple was built and dedicated to the Lord in 2 Chronicles 7.

We have often heard it said, time does not heal sin. This is a true statement. Sin in the Church is like oil in water. It can be easily detected and will just sit there until it is skimmed off because the two do not mix. In a parable (St. Matthew 13:24-30), Jesus once shared that the wheat and tares were left to grow together. The tares, if they had feelings, may have thought ‘Phew, I’ve not been rooted out, I must be doing alright!’ - not knowing that the fullness of time would result in their burning. Tares are never going to be eligible to be gathered into the Master’s barn. Harvest time will be a day of reckoning for us all. So, let’s love God and one another enough, that we will steer clear of sin. It’s not a case of, my life, my business - **“For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones”** (Ephesians 5:30).

Finally, a special thank you for all of the members who had a go at our recent ‘knitting together in love’ project! Our knitted squares are being compiled into a throw which will be sold for missions. Together, we can achieve so much more. God bless you all.



CPMA/BTI BOOST

Stuart Brown - National CPMA/BTI Co-ordinator

The general Church of Prophecy Marker Association theme for the assembly year 2021-2022 is:
'No Turning Back'

The general Bible Training Institute theme for the assembly year 2021-2022 is:
'Pressing Toward the Mark'
(Philippians 3:14)

Greetings to our Chronicle readers. I want to share some thoughts around the idea of investing. With investing, the focus is usually on material or monetary gain. In the world, there are different types of investments: the risky dragon's den type and investment to gain high returns. Unfortunately, the monetary and material focus of investing also creeps into the Christian life. It can manifest through the pride of life, self-gratification, self-promotion, etc. The Bible tells us about investing in God: **"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth (invests), that shall he also reap.** (gain in return) **8 For he that soweth (invests) to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth (invests) to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. 9 And let us not be weary in well doing (spiritual investing): for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."** (Galatians 6:7-9)

Whatever we do, we are either investing to the flesh or investing into the spirit. I know from experience. Jesus used the literal concept of investing in St. Matthew 25 - not to excite our material or monetary appetite but to show us a spiritual lesson. I believe the example we are about to read covers our individual lives, as well as the evangelistic work we must invest in: **¹⁴ For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. ¹⁵ And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. ¹⁶ Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. ¹⁷ And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. ¹⁸ But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. ²⁰ And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliverdest unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. ²¹ His lord said unto him,**

Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. ²² He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliverdst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. ²³ His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. ²⁴ Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. ²⁶ His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

²⁷ Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. ²⁸ Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. ²⁹ For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. ³⁰ And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (St. Matthew 25:14-30)

What could our spiritual investments be?

- Talents and abilities used for the Gospel
- Bible study, personal testimony, preaching and teaching God's Word
- Encouragement, evangelism and visitation
- Sacrifice of time, resources and self-will for Christ's sake
- Prayer and fasting

For the servant in St. Matthew 25, he had one thing to invest that the Lord was expecting a profitable return from. What is your "one thing?"

The Church started off with members who invested spiritually. They would preach, teach, baptize, and cater to the physical and spiritual needs of people. The power of the Holy Ghost enabled them to do so. Biblical records show their works were profitable and we are here today due to past investments made before we were born.

St. John 4:35-38: "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. ³⁶ And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. ³⁷ And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. ³⁸ I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours."

This shows that we have come into an investment already made by those who have gone before - starting with the Lord Himself.

The only gains we should be looking for are ones from our spiritual investments. That is why Jesus taught us not to worry about our literal needs and material things. He knows what our needs are already and has promised to provide. Jesus wants our investments to be in spiritual things, such as souls saved and added to the Church, fellowship and eternal life.

We will see the return of Jesus, the mansion He has prepared and eternal life, but we must invest right, spiritually first!



EVANGELISM
DEPARTMENT

EVANGELISM BOOST

Justin Clarke - National Evangelism Co-ordinator

The general Evangelism theme for the assembly year 2021-2022 is:

**'A Vision for Evangelism –
Where there is no vision, the people perish'**
(Proverbs 29:18)

Boldness with the Message

The message of Jesus Christ is simple. He came and died for us because He loves us and we were in need of hope. This hope is salvation and a chance to obtain eternal life. To gain eternal life, we must first recognise ourselves as a sinner, repent and surrender to Jesus, by acknowledging Him as our personal Saviour. This means turning from our old ways which conflict with His Word. We then embrace a new way of life and follow Christ, keeping God's commandments. This is the message which we all carry and it should be evident through our speech and lifestyles. My prayer for this message is that it encourages us to be bold with our hope and with the precious gospel that Jesus Christ has entrusted us with.

Webster defines the word "**bold**" as "fearless before danger" and "showing or requiring a fearless, daring spirit". This is not to be confused with pride. Pride is sin and from Satan, but I believe with my whole heart that God wants us to have godly boldness. This will not consider risk or fear when it comes to how we handle the gospel!

This world requires more than the timid Christian. The timid Christian cannot be used effectively. We live in a world where the unsaved individual is not ashamed of their lifestyle. They live presumptuously and will gladly tell us that what they believe is right and not wrong. They are not worried about hiding who they are. They want us to know. We live in a world where sin is validated and holiness is condemned. Regardless of this, the voice of the **righteous** must be heard: St. Luke 9:26: "**For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.**"

Psalm 107:1-2: "**O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;**" Who is going to be the voice of the redeemed? Who is going to proclaim the goodness of God? Somebody needs to do it. We, the Church, the Body of Christ need to do it. The more we are silent, the more the Devil is busy making noise.



Romans 10:13-14: ***“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. ¹⁴How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”*** We often speak about the inflow and that we are praying that God will bring the increase. But, what are we doing to assist this? Are we working and making an effort to win these souls? God will draw them but we have an obligation to win the lost sheep for His kingdom and His Church.

God has given us the ultimate weapon to defeat Satan and to free the souls of the lost. Hebrews 4:11-12: ***“Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. ¹²For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”***

God’s Word has not lost its power. It is still quick, sharp and powerful. It becomes ineffective when we carry it with a fearful spirit. It is not about shouting, but using God’s Word with authority, under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. The spirit of fear creates a barrier to the lost soul receiving the gospel.

Ephesians 4:14: ***“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”*** The voice of Islam is not silent. The voice of the Black Israelite movement is not silent. The voice of LGBTQ+ is not silent. The voice of the atheist is not silent and the voice of the scientist is not silent. Our voice needs to be the loudest voice of all.

We currently live in a time where “every wind of doctrine” is something we fight every day. However, Proverbs 4:1-2 states: ***“Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.”***

Our doctrine is good doctrine and all the more reason why we need to carry it with boldness. One thing that is recognised about the Apostles is their boldness. They refused to be silenced amongst the world views and politics of their time. They were not afraid to let the gospel be heard, or of the consequences which would follow their boldness. This was something which the Apostles had to pray for, as I believe they felt the pressures of the flesh trying to make them timid and silent. I would encourage you to read the following Scriptures where we see this boldness in action: Acts 4, Acts 5 and Acts 13.

Our job is not to be timid with our message. Our light needs to be seen and the gospel needs to be heard: Romans 1:15-16: ***“So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. ¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”***

Be bold, be strong, for the Lord thy God is with thee!

Sunday School Department



The Church of God

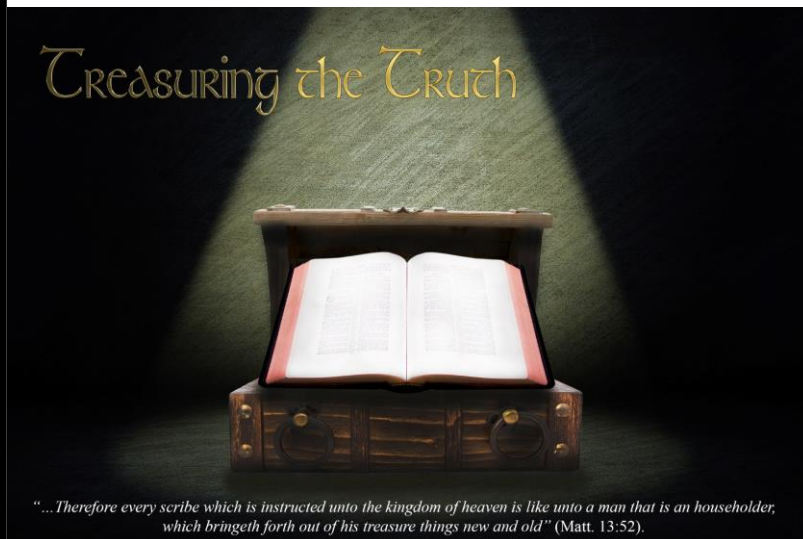
SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOST

Jennifer Thompson - National Sunday School Co-ordinator

The general Sunday School theme for the assembly year 2021-2022 is:

'Treasuring the Truth'

(St. Matthew 13:52)



"...Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old" (Matt. 13:52).

Greetings to the Sunday School pupils in the mighty name of Jesus.

"Treasuring the Truth" is our general theme and what an amazing treasure the truth of God's Word is. Bishop Ray Dupre stated: *"Truth is contained in the Trinity. God speaks the truth, Jesus repeats the truth, the Holy Ghost confirms the truth"*. Amen.

St. John 1:14 declares: ***"And the Word was made flesh..."*** In order for man to be redeemed, God's plan

was for the Word to come in earthly form (made flesh).

This was no spur-of-the-moment plan. ***"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."*** Revelation 13:8. This Scripture tells us that the Lamb (Christ, the Word) was destined to be slain for man's sins, from the foundation of the world.

Jesus is the best Treasure we could ever find. He is worth giving up our all for. Thank you Jesus.



VICTORY LEADERS BAND BOOST

James Mwila -
National Victory Leaders Band Co-ordinator

The general Victory Leaders Band theme for
the assembly year 2021-2022 is:

**‘Worship Warrior –
War-Cry of the Redeemed’**

But Put Ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and Make Not Provision for The Flesh

Romans 13:11-14: ***“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.¹³ Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.¹⁴ But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”***

We have read and heard that Jesus Christ is coming soon. Some of us have heard this for many years. I can tell you now that we are nearer to His return than we may think. The stage is set for Christ's appearance.

Victory Leaders Band, are you ready for Christ's return? Are you blameless? Is your garment without spot or wrinkle or any such thing? The time is now to wake up! We need to be spiritually awake. We cannot afford to be wide awake and buzzing in the flesh but spiritually in deep sleep. Sometimes, we are in such deep sleep that when admonition, correction, godly advice, or Scripture is imparted to us, we cannot see anything wrong with ourselves. Do you know why? It is because we are fast asleep and cannot see anything. We are so alive in the flesh that the Spirit has no chance to awaken.

The night is far spent VLB's. Let us wake up! The day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light. What is out there in the world that is worth losing our souls for? Our souls are eternal and this present world is not. It is destined for destruction and all those who partake of its sinfulness are destined for damnation. James 4:4: ***“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”***

VLB's, let us walk honestly as in the day. Nothing to hide, no pretence, all our actions seen and be known to be living decently, with no foul or wicked deeds. 1 Peter 1:15-16: ***“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; ¹⁶ Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”***

Let us put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lust thereof.

As we examine ourselves, cutting off and casting away, we need to be spiritually dressed in new raiment, an appropriate outfit for the new day. We cannot stay in our night clothes any longer. The day of our salvation is here, nearer than we think, so let us put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us be covered head to toe with the armour of light.

Christ is coming soon, whether we believe it or not, like it or not, He is coming! Will He find us sleeping or awake - fully dressed in the armour of light?



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)

National Ladies Retreat 2022 Report



Theme:

***"She obeyed not the voice,
she received not correction,
she trusted not in the Lord,
she drew not near to her God".***

Zephaniah 3:2

The presence of the Holy Ghost could be felt from the moment we entered the conference room, and He stayed with us throughout. We were told to obey the Lord's voice and draw near to Him. It was clear that God wanted us to adhere to His Word. We need to draw near to God, as He desires a relationship with us where He can find us at a familiar place. He had this closeness with Adam, before the fall in Genesis.

The workshops, presentations, and messages generated much discussion amongst all age groups present. God walked into our homes and loves us as women so much and corrected us in a most loving and gentle way. We could only submit to His will.

I would like to thank all of the speakers for allowing the Lord to use them as He saw fit.

With our lives laid down, if we surrender all, if we give Him everything, His goodness will be running after us. We thank God for His love towards us.

Pastor Beverley Anderson
Reporter

National Youth Convention

The Church of God (England) – Saturday 16th April 2022

Our Convention theme was the same as the general VLB theme: ***‘Worship Warrior - War-Cry of the Redeemed’***. We had a wonderful time of worship and were encouraged by sermonettes, songs and presentations from the youth. It was a blessing to see so many of the younger VLB’s, willing and available to be used on the programme this year.

Brother Delano Prince from Druids Heath Church led the morning’s devotion. This was followed by a sermonette from Sister Hannah Wilson of London Church. Her topic was **‘Power of Worship’** and she stated “If the power of the Holy Ghost is within us, that power can leave a long-lasting effect on the people we encounter daily.” Ephesians 6:12.

Brother Justin Clarke - VLB Co-ordinator from Druids Heath’s sermonette topic was: **‘Perfect Submission’**. Brother Justin said that perfect submission comes through humility and that it begins in the heart. Even Jesus had to ask God to put His will under subjection. St. Luke 22:41-43.

Brother Stuart Brown - VLB Co-ordinator from Long Lane Church’s topic was **‘Know ye not that friendship with the world is enmity with God’**. James 4:4. Brother Stuart said “We do not want to be enemies of God because we have friendship with the world. Satan doesn’t mind your profession of faith, while he can prevent you from the works of faith.” Ephesians 4:7-10.

Brother Malachi Muirhead, from Handsworth Church then delivered a presentation - **‘Perilous Times News’**. 2 Timothy 3:1-7, warning us of events foretold that will happen in the last days.

The congregation then heard a message from our National VLB Co-ordinator – Brother James Mwila. Brother James gave a personal anecdote about how he came to the Lord and God’s saving power since then. The three Hebrew boys would not allow the Babylonians to change their identity or belief in Almighty God. Daniel 1:1-7. Brother James said that we cannot afford to allow the world to change our identity. Satan is subtle and alluring but we cannot forget who we are in Christ. We should be like Daniel who purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the king’s enticements. Brother James called for the youth to be consistent in their walk with God, like Daniel and the three Hebrew boys.

We then listened to a poem written by sister Claudine Brown, from Long Lane Church entitled **‘Youth is the Time’**. This was a narrative of two halves - on one hand, Satan and his divisive temptations to lure youth away, and on the other, Jesus’ loving admonition to live a holy life.

Brother Joshua Anderson, VLB Co-ordinator of Handsworth Church preached the final sermonette. His topic was, **‘But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth:’** St. John 4:7-23. Brother Joshua described the account of the Samaritan women at the well and the history of the enmity between the Jews and Samaritans. Brother Joshua stated “At times, we, like the woman of Samaria are overcome with condemnation and feel unworthy in the presence of God - but He adores us and wants us to win”. St. John 3:17. God will have a people that will worship in spirit and in truth.

We thank God for His presence at the National Youth Convention and for His words of admonition and guidance.

Sister Beverley Wilson - National Reporter

The Fellowship of the Unashamed

"I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I'm finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need prominence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions are few, my Guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me - my banner will be clear."

—The Author of this work is a Rwandan man in 1980 who was forced by his tribe to either renounce Christ or face certain death. He refused to renounce Christ, and was killed on the spot. The night before he had written the commitment "The Fellowship of the Unashamed" which was found in his room. Bob Moorehead had written this in his book "Words Aptly Spoken" c. 1995

**Submitted by Sister Antonette Mwila
Long Lane Church**

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 August 2022**. These submissions will be for the July-September 2022 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: kazgirl_uk@yahoo.com

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