



The Chronicle

A Publication of The Church of God (England)

July to September 2022, Volume 17, Issue 3

“...And there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD”

Philip C. Bennett

How did God's chosen nation get to this point in time?

God had given specific instructions to Moses after they came out of Egypt and Moses passed these on to Joshua. God then spoke directly to Joshua after the death of Moses: *“Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. ⁸This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.”* (Joshua 1:7-8)

Joshua was faithful to God's commandments all the days of his life. God blessed and exalted him.

When Joshua was old and stricken in age, he called the elders of Israel together. He gave them specific instructions not to intermingle with the nations that inhabited the land, but to utterly destroy them: *“Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God. ¹²Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, even these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you: ¹³Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you; but they shall be snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until ye perish from off this good land which the LORD your God hath given you.”* (Joshua 23:11-13)

Joshua made it clear that their success was dependent on their obedience to God's words. It would not be their might or strength that would drive out the heathen nations.

“And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD that he did for Israel. ⁸And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being an hundred and ten years old. ⁹And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnathheres, in the mount of Ephraim, on the north side of the hill Gaash. ¹⁰And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.” (Judges 2:7-10)

Their fathers had witnessed the many miracles that God had performed:

- The ten plagues that God brought upon Egypt
- The parting of the Red Sea
- They saw water coming out of a rock
- God feeding them with manna from heaven and quails
- The miraculous parting of the River Jordan
- The conquest of the great city of Jericho
- The sun standing still at Joshua’s command

The phrase **“knew not,”** does not mean they did not know about God’s existence but rather that they had no intimate relationship with Him. E.g. *“And Abraham knew his wife...”* They knew about God but did not know Him. They had heard from their fathers about the mighty deeds that God had done but they had not seen it with their own eyes. There is nothing more assuring than being an eye witness to something.

They did not know God or the standard God expected of them. God had made it clear what He expected centuries before when He called Abraham and told him to *“walk before me, and be thou perfect.”*

The previous generations had seen the judgements of God for disobedience and not giving Him due reverence. God slew the sons of Aaron - Abihu and Nadab when they burned strange fire before Him. God opened up the earth which swallowed up Korah, Dathan and Abiram who stood against Moses, God’s appointed leader. Achan and his whole family were stoned to death when he disobeyed God’s commandment because of covetousness: *“Now after the death of Joshua it came to pass, that the children of Israel asked the LORD, saying, Who shall go up for us against the Canaanites first, to fight against them? ²And the LORD said, Judah shall go up: behold, I have delivered the land into his hand. ³And Judah said unto Simeon his brother, Come up with me into my lot, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I likewise will go with thee into thy lot. So Simeon went with him. ⁴And Judah went up; and the LORD delivered the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand: and they slew of them in Bezek ten thousand men.”* (Judges 1:1-4)

Following the death of Joshua, the children of Israel continued to seek the Lord and to ask for His direction. The tribe of Judah accompanied by Simeon slew the king of Bezek. They then conquered Jerusalem and the majority of the land of the Canaanites. However, after this, things took a downward turn. They left off doing what God had commanded them to do: *“And the LORD was with Judah; and he drave out the inhabitants of the mountain; but could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley, because they had chariots of iron.”* (Judges 1:19)

The iron chariots were a hindrance to man, but not to God. If they had persevered, God would have given them the victory as He had promised:

“And the children of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites that inhabited Jerusalem; but the Jebusites dwell with the children of Benjamin in Jerusalem unto this day.” (Judges 1:21)

27 “Neither did Manasseh drive out the inhabitants of Bethshean and her towns, nor Taanach and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Dor and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Ibleam and her towns, nor the inhabitants of Megiddo and her towns: but the Canaanites would dwell in that land. 28 And it came to pass, when Israel was strong, that they put the Canaanites to tribute, and did not utterly drive them out. 29 Neither did Ephraim drive out the Canaanites that dwelt in Gezer; but the Canaanites dwelt in Gezer among them. 30 Neither did Zebulun drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, nor the inhabitants of Nahalol; but the Canaanites dwelt among them, and became tributaries. 31 Neither did Asher drive out the inhabitants of Accho, nor the inhabitants of Zidon, nor of Ahlab, nor of Achzib, nor of Helbah, nor of Aphik, nor of Rehob: 32 But the Asherites dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land: for they did not drive them out. 33 Neither did Naphtali drive out the inhabitants of Bethshemesh, nor the inhabitants of Bethanath; but he dwelt among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land: nevertheless the inhabitants of Bethshemesh and of Bethanath became tributaries unto them. 34 And the Amorites forced the children of Dan into the mountain: for they would not suffer them to come down to the valley: 35 But the Amorites would dwell in mount Heres in Aijalon, and in Shaalvim: yet the hand of the house of Joseph prevailed, so that they became tributaries.” (Judges 1:27-35)

Even though these nations became tributaries to Israel or were made servants, this was not what God had commanded them to do.

God had commanded them to utterly destroy these nations. Their failure to obey God’s commands had consequences and brought upon them His displeasure. We cannot compromise with our enemy. Give the devil an inch and he will take a mile: *“And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim: 12 And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger. 13 And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth. 14 And the anger of the LORD was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. 15 Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the LORD was against them for evil, as the LORD had said, and as the LORD had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed.”* (Judges 2:11-15)

God had told Israel what would happen if they failed to destroy these nations. Sometimes we think we know better than God. When God gives us instructions through His Word, we need to follow them. These same nations which Israel failed to destroy later got the mastery of them and became their oppressors. In Israel’s distress, they would cry to God and each time He would have mercy and send a deliverer. However, after the deliverer’s death, they would return to their evil ways. Eventually, they went into captivity.

Centuries later having returned from captivity, Jesus came and established the Church. The gospel was preached to the gentiles after largely being rejected by the Jews. In the New Testament, we read of many miracles experienced by the early Church:

- The Holy Ghost was poured out on the day of Pentecost resulting in 3,000 been saved
- Five thousand was converted on another day
- Judgement upon Ananias and Sapphire
- Various healings, like the lame man at the gate beautiful

We know that the Church later went down into apostasy after she departed from theocracy in AD325 with the signing of the Nicene Creed. After the Arise Shine in 1903, once again the members of The Church of God witnessed a mighty move of God and many miracles including:

- Divine healing
- Bolts of light
- A piano playing itself

I got saved at a time when the power of God was evident in the Church with many signs following. Pioneers like Pastor Harrison and Pastor Prince have largely passed on and again we have a generation where many do not know God. That does not mean we do not know about God, but the relationship with Him and reverence for Him is far from what it should be. Jesus said our righteousness must exceed that of the Scribes and the Pharisees. To really know someone, you have to spend quality time with them. Today, many Christians spend more time on social media, watching television or at the gym than they spend doing the things of God e.g. reading the Bible.

Many in this generation have only heard about the miracles but have never witnessed them. They have heard about the judgement of God but have never witnessed it.


What did the past generations have that caused God to pour out His abundant blessings on them that is lacking today?

- A reverence for God and the house of God e.g. in behaviour and dress
- They were sold out and totally committed. God and the Church was everything. (They did not miss services without a good cause)
- They gave of their substance (programmes, savings, street collections). This generation will think nothing of spending hundreds of pounds on the latest iPhone but have nothing to give when it comes to an offering. This generation will spend money to go out and eat but will not give more than a pound in the offering plate.

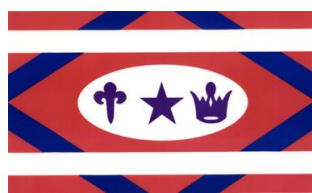
God honoured the sacrifices made by those in the past with signs following. Today, there are a lot of things we do and tolerate that we do not think are important, but they are the things that are hindering the blessings of God. **When we get ready for Church, do we really think about where we are going or Who we are going to meet? Do we take time to consecrate ourselves?**

There is a danger in becoming too familiar with God. It is said "familiarity breeds contempt."

Once again, we need to see the power of God in the house of God. We need to rekindle our love for God and do that which will bring His favour: *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."*
(2 Chronicles 7:14)

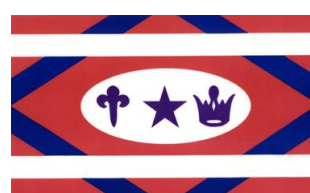
Message preached by National Overseer at the 67th National Convention in England.


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Jennifer Thompson	National Sunday School Co-ordinator
Rikki Prince	National Family Camp Co-ordinator/National Music Director
Beverley Wilson	National Reporter
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From the Overseer's Desk

It has been a busy three months since the last edition of *The Chronicle*.

We thank God for a wonderful National Men's Retreat in July and were truly blessed to have Bishop Robert J. Hawkins, Jnr our World Mission Co-ordinator as our special guest speaker. He was a great blessing to us during the retreat. Brother Justin Clarke, National Men's Retreat Co-ordinator did a great job in organising and moderating the retreat.

Also in July, we were privileged to have Bishop Hawkins with us at our District Meeting, where he preached an outstanding message.

For our National Convention again in July we were blessed to have Bishop Paul Horton, our General Bible Training Institute (BTI) Co-ordinator and his wife Sister Cathy visiting with us. They, along with our National Auxiliary Co-ordinators and others on the programme were a great blessing - as they ministered throughout the Convention. We thank God for the two who received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

As we start a new Convention and Assembly year, there is much work yet before us to be completed. Let us not be daunted by what may appear to be an impossible task but be encouraged from the Holy Scriptures that we are not on our own:

***"And they went forth, and preached every where,
the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with
signs following. Amen."***

(St. Mark 16:20)

As the Lord was with the early Church, He is and will be with us - the last days Church of God until all the work is completed:

***"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a
good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"***

(Philippians 1:6)

Upcoming Events:

National Ministers' Convention - Saturday 5th November 2022

National Family Camp 2023 - Monday 10th to Thursday 13th April 2023



ABM BOOST

Claudine Brown –
National Assembly Band Movement Co-ordinator

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

‘Care for Everyone’

(1 Corinthians 12:25)



Greetings to all of our *Chronicle* readers in the mighty name of Jesus.

The Lord has blessed our ABM department with yet another heart-scanning topic. “**Care**” is the bedrock of the Assembly Band Movement, and you cannot get more inclusive than “every one”.

This topic suggests that no one should be left out of our circle of care. We will be looking into this topic in more depth in our ABM services and God willing, I hope to be sharing more with you as I visit the local churches.

Jesus once shared with us a parable that includes four people. One, a priest. This is a high-ranking office. Priests were descendants of Aaron, highly trained in religious matters and Jewish law. They would officiate offerings under the law of Moses, visit the Temple and fulfil strict purity regulations. They were highly respected, they wore special garments and were supposed to represent a visual of the holiness that God required. The next, a Levite. Historically, the only ones who could transport the Ark of the Covenant; experts in the law, often with special duties such as singing, playing music in the Temple or serving as guard - also highly respected.

And yet, neither of these men cared enough for the visibly injured, naked man - number three, to help meet his need. Nothing about what they saw with their eyes moved their hearts to action. Passing by on the other side was a much more attractive option to them.

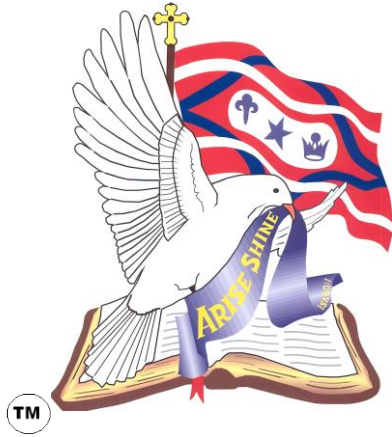
And then, there is man number four. We do not know his name, we do not know his office; only where he is from - and this is significant enough. He is from Samaria, and his people have no dealings with the Jews, due to a long-standing rift. Surely, passing by on the other side would be the easiest option for him too?

And yet, no. This neighbourly Samaritan spent his time, his resources, and his money to take care of the injured man. And it is interesting that Jesus used this parable as part of an answer to the question - “what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

Our key verse (1 Corinthians 12:25) is a verse of Pauline discourse on unity in the body of Christ: “*That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.*” Caring for everyone is a means by which schisms can be erased from the body of Christ. It behooves us to do our part, to achieve this beautiful state. May the Lord help us to discharge our duty of care for all.

Listen out for announcements about our Pastors’ Appreciation Breakfast coming soon. More information to follow!

God bless you all.



CPMA/BTI BOOST

Stuart Brown - National CPMA/BTI Co-ordinator

The new general Church of Prophecy Marker Association theme for the assembly year 2022-2023 is:

'Follow the Star'

(Revelation 22:16 and St. Matthew 2:10)

The new general Bible Training Institute theme for the assembly year 2022-2023 is:

'Walking in the Light of Thy Word'

(Psalm 119:105)

Greetings to all in the mighty name of Jesus. What a mighty God we serve! If you are not serving, you are missing out. There is nothing better, or as rewarding, or secure as being a child of God in this present time!

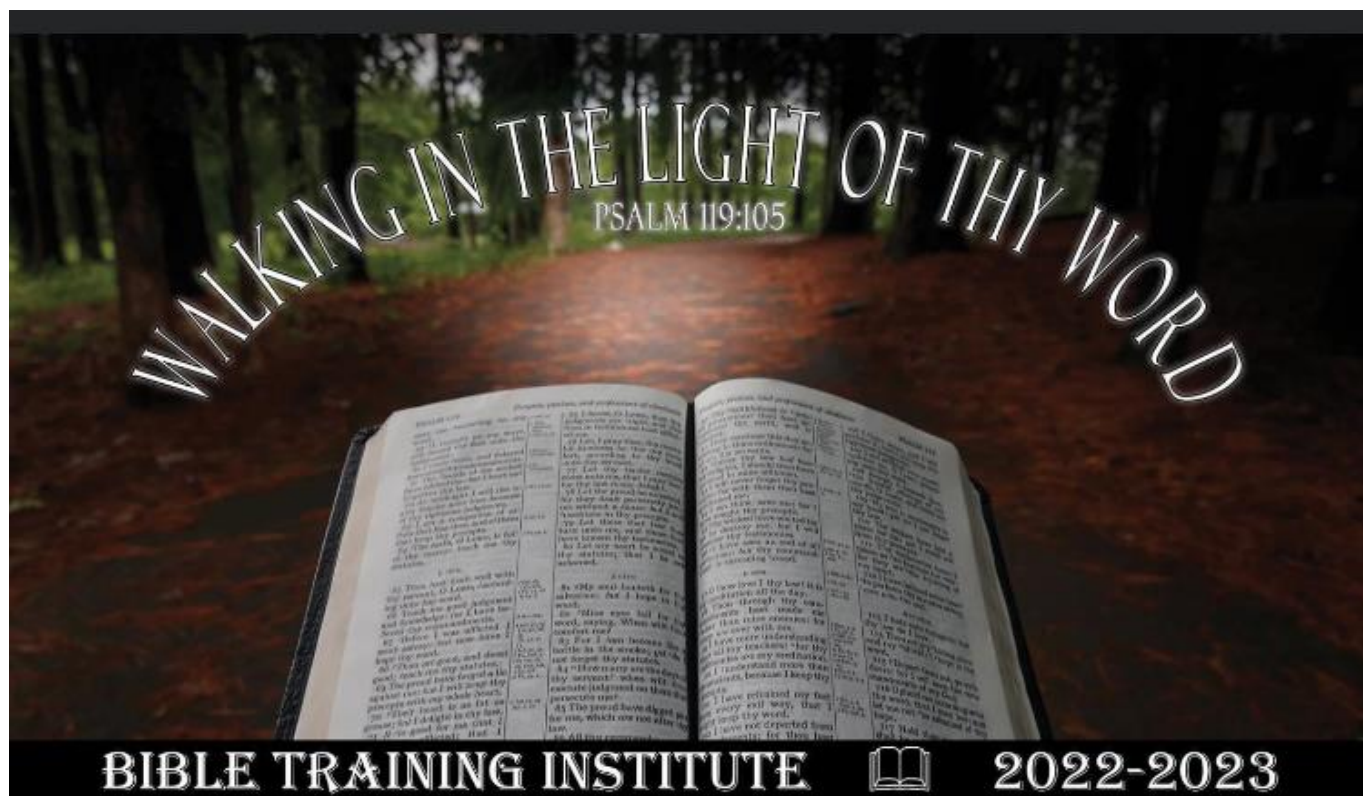


We are at the start of another Assembly year and I thank God for a wonderful General Assembly. I would like to encourage you to pray and seek inspiration for your CPMA/BTI leaders and services, that the Spirit of God will edify us all through the themes. The new general CPMA and BTI themes for 2022-2023 have been announced. Bishop James Horne is the General CPMA Co-ordinator and Bishop Paul Horton is the General BTI Co-ordinator.

This CPMA theme is to encourage every individual who is serious about being in God's will, to follow Jesus, in spite of what we see others around us doing. We must keep our eyes on Jesus and follow His leading.

Others may become more carnal and be led by the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life. Some are becoming dissatisfied with the safety in Bible doctrine followed by The Church of God, but we must ensure we follow Jesus.

As time goes by, we can discern the spiritual divide and see why Jesus will need to separate the sheep from the goats, the wheat from the tares and the holy from the unholy. A lack of understanding may leave one thinking all they need is to disregard everyone around them, ignoring those who God has placed to watch for our souls and perfect us. When we follow Jesus, we will naturally become united in one, in Him. This is to be a marker of The Church of God, that our unity in God and with each member radiates.



There is no true light outside of the Word of God. Light represents truth, knowledge, wisdom and freedom. These sought after virtues do not exist outside of God and His Word! We are reminded that being observers only will not do. Having a knowledge of His Word is not where we stop. We absolutely MUST walk in it and be doers of the Word (James 1:21-27).

Let us through regular Bible study, prayer and fasting and personal devotions invest into the Word of God! There is a threat of darkness that awaits the person who does not stay in the Light. To be in spiritual darkness can cause us to not even see we have stopped walking in the Light. This will blind us to dangers ahead and eventually separate us from God. Walking and continuing on in the light of God's Word will prevent such spiritual dangers!

To end this boost, I will use this blueprint from a line in Acts 15:28: ***"For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us..."*** we have seen proof that we need to let the Holy Ghost lead first, then we can follow, feeling good about His leading.

God bless you all and God willing, I look forward to visiting, sharing and working with you. Pray for me also, so I can do all God will have me to do this year! God bless you all.

Sunday School Department



The Church of God

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOST

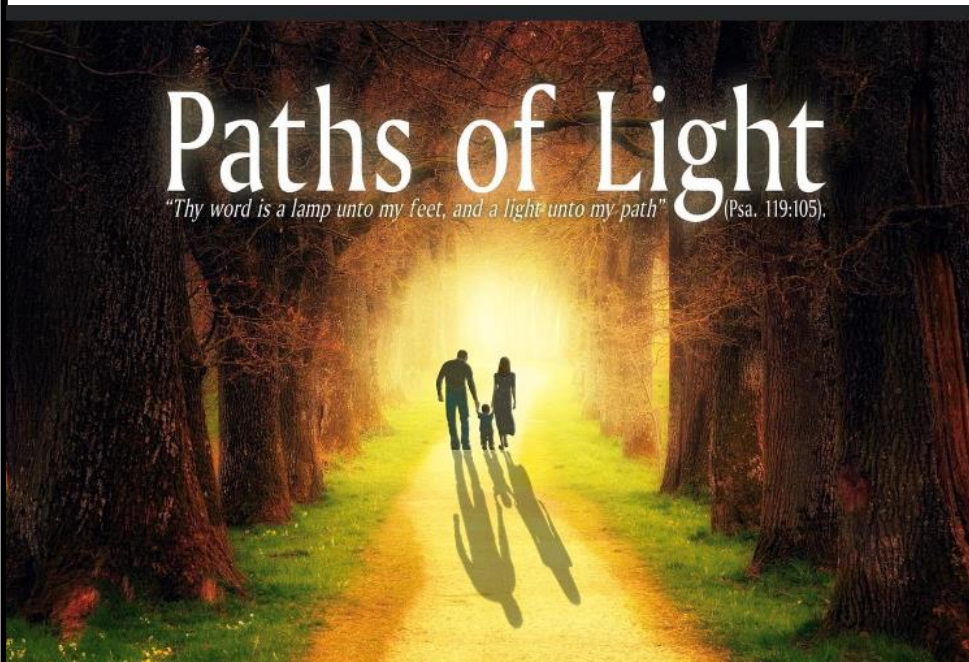
Jennifer Thompson - National Sunday School Co-ordinator

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

'Paths of Light'

(St. Matthew 13:52)

Greetings to all from the Sunday School department. The general Sunday School theme '**Treasuring the Truth**' has been a blessing to me. Although we may now have a new theme, let us continue treasuring the Truth.



We, The Church of God are a Bible teaching, Bible preaching, Bible believing, Bible living people. We uphold the Word of God as our infallible, authoritative rule of faith. Praise God.

St John 1:17: ***'For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.'***

Our new general Sunday School theme for 2022-2023 is '**Paths of light**' (Psalm 119:105). I believe this theme will be a

blessing. I pray as we boost this new theme together, it will be uplifting and encouraging to us.

God bless you.



VICTORY LEADERS BAND BOOST

James Mwila -
National Victory Leaders Band Co-ordinator

The new general Victory Leaders Band theme for
the assembly year 2022-2023 is:

'Anointed to Serve 2.0
The next step in God's plan'



Greetings in the wonderful and mighty name of Jesus.

Our new general theme for this Assembly year 2022-2023 is. **'Anointed to Serve 2.0'**.

For those who can remember, we had this theme a few years ago. The focus then was on the anointing to overcome the enemy and what he brings before us. With this theme, we looked at how David (against all odds) overcame Goliath. David - small in stature overcame the giant Philistine with all his body armour because God anointed him. With God, everything is possible.

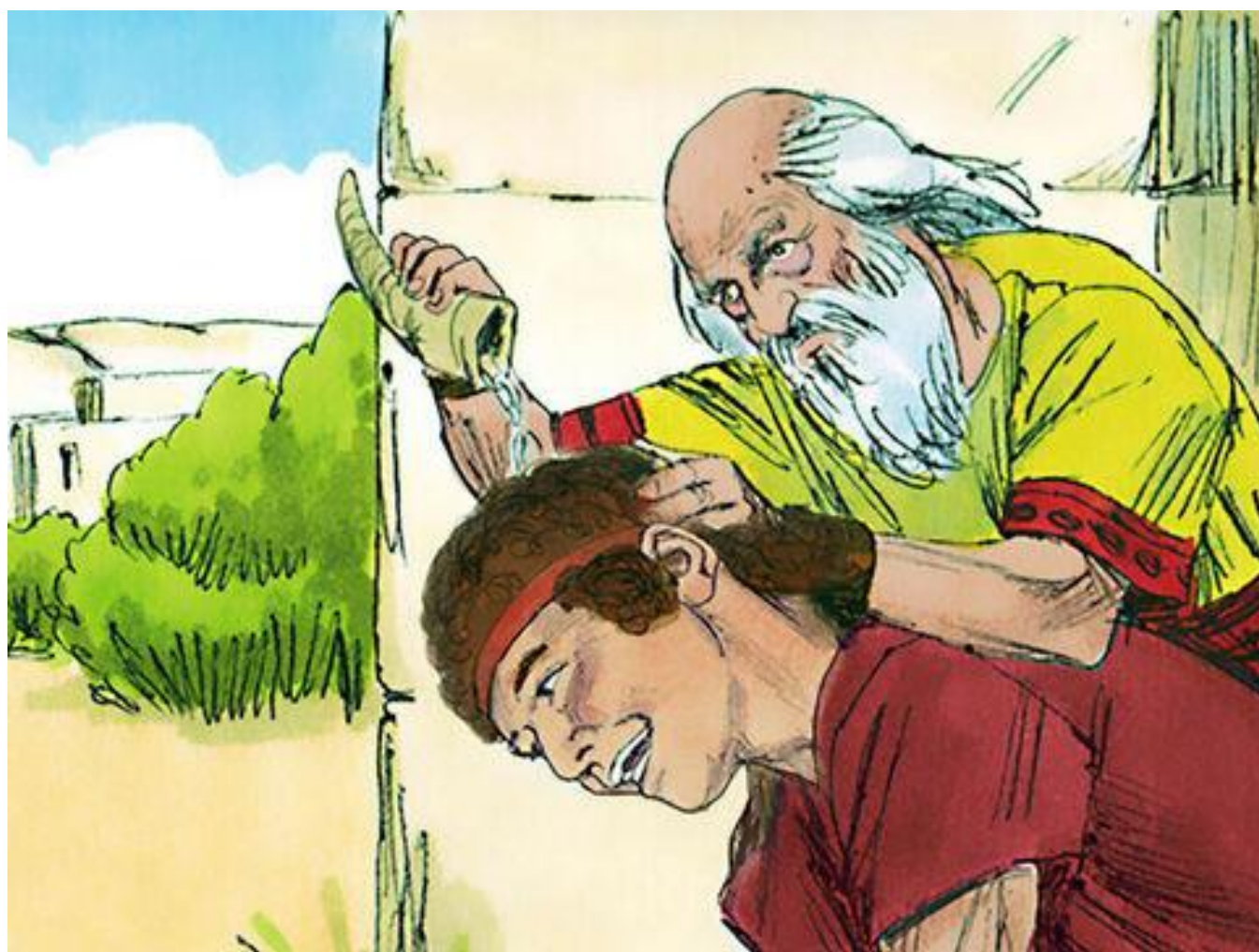
With **'Anointed to Serve 2.0'**, we will go further and look at the next step in God's plan. It was in the midst of a crisis that David was selected to rule over the nation of Israel. After Saul proved to be a great failure (1 Samuel. 15), the Lord came to Samuel and instructed him to anoint a new king who would replace Saul.

At first, Samuel was afraid to follow God's instructions because he knew that Saul would kill him if he learned there was a conspiracy to replace him (16:1-2). In any case, God reassured Samuel with a plan to keep secret the true purpose of his mission in Bethlehem. So he went forth to the house of Jesse. What followed was a long process of having each of Jesse's sons stand before Samuel - one at a time so that he might discern which of them the Lord had chosen to be the new king.

Certainly, God could have just told Samuel to find the boy named David and anoint him straightaway. It seems that He had Samuel go through the process to teach him and those who would hear and read this story a lesson. We often select good-looking and charismatic people for leadership, not the "least likely" candidate. But in having Samuel choose the least of Jesse's sons to be the king, God demonstrated that the real way to choose a godly leader in the Church is to look at the heart of the person under consideration. Samuel thus anointed David according to the Lord's will, and the Spirit of God came upon the young man to prepare him for leadership.

VLB's, we NEED Gods anointing! David was the least of his brothers and was not even considered by Jesse his father. Jesse overlooked David, possibly due to his age and stature. God does not look at our abilities, countenance, talent, passion, self-drive, how eloquent one is, confidence etc. God knows our hearts. If our hearts are right with God, He will use us. Acts 13:22: ***"And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave their testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will."***

Will God say the same about us today?



What's happening in Druids Heath Church?

We had Pastor's Appreciation service on Sunday 9th October 2022 to celebrate and encourage our Pastor – Sister Angela Clarke.

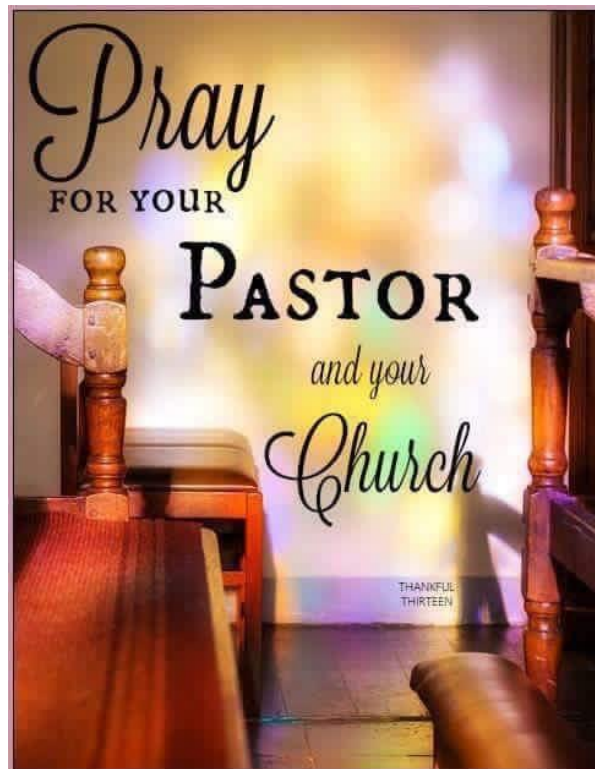


Some adjectives we used on the day to describe Sister Clarke were: *anointed, loyal, dedicated, graceful, warm and wise.*

The brethren at Druids Heath also arranged for us all to fellowship with a delicious meal, right after service. A wonderful time was had by all present.

To God be the glory.

Brother Delano Prince
Reporter



67th Annual National Convention of The Church of God (England) 8th to 10th July 2022

The theme for our National Convention was *'Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming...?'* (St. Matthew 24:3)

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Paul Horton, and his wife Sister Cathy to our Convention this year as General Head quarter's representative. Bishop Horton is Field Secretary and the General Bible Training Institute Co-ordinator. We were looking forward to hearing what God had laid on his heart to preach.

The three-day event was full of encouraging messages from the National Auxiliary Co-ordinators and others on the programme. We were blessed with singing from Sister Keshia Toolsee, the Wilson Sisters, and the National Choir. The Holy Ghost made His presence known throughout the Convention. There were reports of people being sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost.

God demonstrated His love for us through our National Overseer, Bishop Bennett's address. His message entitled: **'And there arose another generation that knew not God'** (Judges 2:10) admonished us to have an intimate relationship with God and not to live by others' experiences of Him. It is God's desire for us all to know Him for ourselves, and have a relationship that will cultivate reverence for Him and His Church.

Pastor George Wilson preached on the topic **'For the mystery of iniquity doth already work'** (2 Thessalonians 2:7). The sin of this world is all around us, but if we keep our eyes ever towards the Lord, all the mysteries of sin will be revealed to us.

Bishop Horton preached on the 2021-2022 general BTI theme **'Pressing towards the mark'** (Philippians 3:3-14). He gave us a personal testimony of many trials he has gone through that required him to 'press in, press through, and press on.' He said just like Jesus when He was faced with the trial of all trials, we have to encounter our own garden of Gethsemane experience and say '...not my will, but thine, be done'-to be able to be press towards the mark.

The healing message was brought to us by Pastor Angela Clarke and entitled **'Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief'** (St. Mark 9:24). We were reminded that unbelief is a lack of faith and is a stumbling block that prevents us from receiving the promises of God. We need to examine ourselves, and like the father in St. Mark, Chapter 9 pray for God to help our unbelief so that He can be glorified.

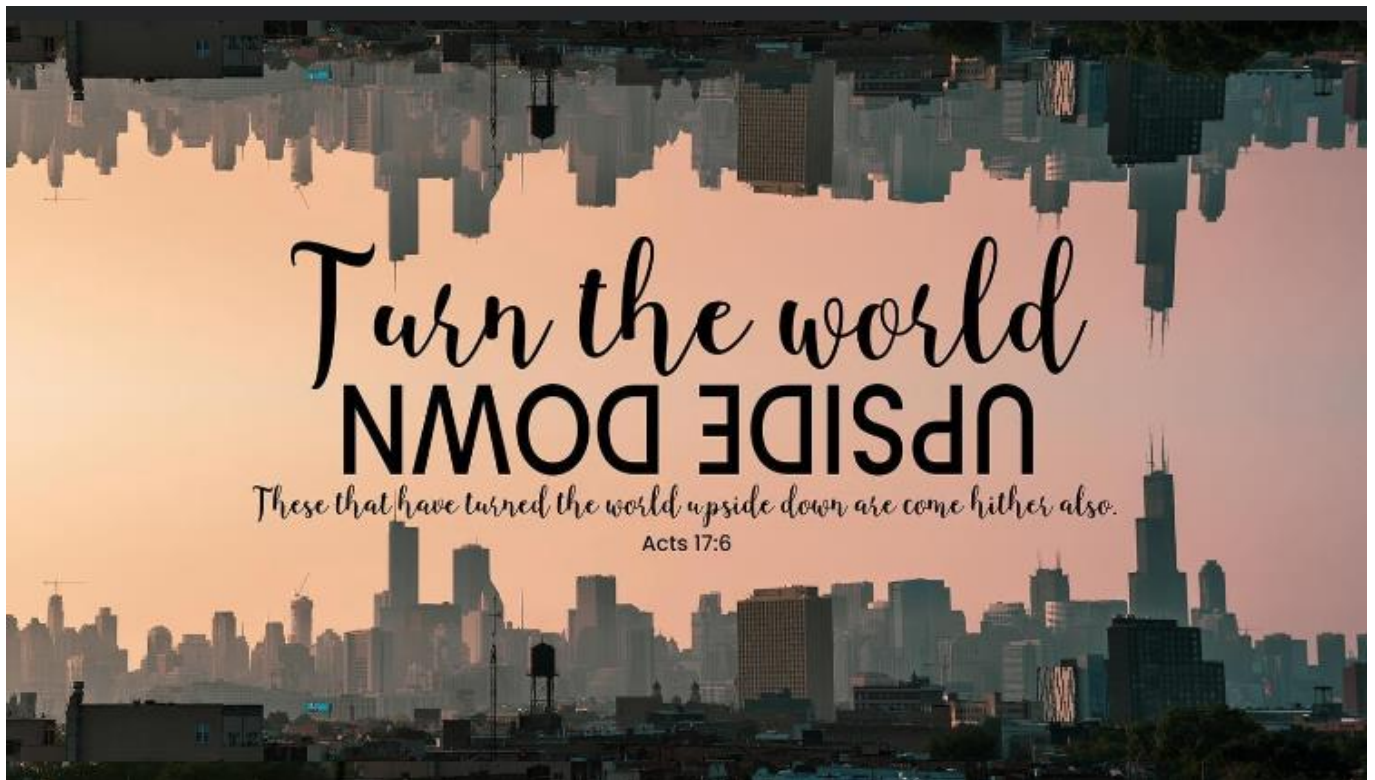
The closing message came from Bishop Horton and he stated "Jesus is coming are you ready for His return?" The encouragement was for the Church to be faithful and always be ready and watching for the signs of Jesus' second coming.

May God help us to be ready in all areas of our lives.

**Sister Beverley Wilson –
National Reporter**

October World Mission Drive

New General World Missions Theme
for 2022-2023





Special Note:

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