



# The Chronicle

A Publication of The Church of God (England)

October to December 2022, Volume 17, Issue 4

## “...Why stand ye here all the day idle?”

Philip C. Bennett

Jesus, during His earthly ministry emphasized the urgency of the harvest. *“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.”* (St. John 4:35)

The devil will try to convince us that we have plenty of time, but souls are passing every day without God. The words of a song says, *“How can I be at ease while they’re dying, and are passing every day without God?”* On average, 150,000 people (souls) pass from this world every day into eternity. If they were not saved, they have gone on to hell.

Every so often this number includes someone who was very close to us and then the reality hits us; but after a while we return to our slumber. This was not so with Jesus. *“<sup>36</sup>But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as*

*sheep having no shepherd. <sup>37</sup>Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; <sup>38</sup>Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”* (St. Matthew 9:36-38)

Jesus was moved with compassion and if we are to be effective, we too must be moved with compassion for those who are lost. **Compassion:** *A feeling of distress and pity for the suffering or misfortune for another, often including the desire to alleviate it. To suffer with.*

In the cycle of sowing, growing and reaping (harvest), the harvest period is the shortest period. If the harvest is not gathered in speedily, it will be destroyed. It can be destroyed by the weather or other enemies to the crop - such as pests and birds. Satan, our arch enemy is working overtime to destroy the harvest. He uses various tactics like sickness, disease and war and is destroying priceless souls by the millions.

In the book of Revelation, Chapter 5 we read about the four horsemen of the apocalypse.

- We determine that the rider on the white horse represents Christ and the spreading of the gospel. (Revelation 6:1-2)
- The rider on the red horse represents war and has the power to take peace from the earth; resulting in the death of countless souls. (Revelation 6:3-4)
- The black horse represents famine which also has killed and is still killing millions world-wide. (Revelation 6:5-6)
- The rider of the pale horse is Death and represents disease and pestilences etc. Hell followed with him; so as Death killed them they were cast into hell. (Revelation 7:7-8)

As the earth's population increases, there is a greater need for more labourers.

**Labourer:** *A person involved in physical work especially of an unskilled type.*

As previously stated, Satan will tell us that we have plenty of time and as we relax, he is busy sending millions to hell. Jesus, while on the earth was consumed with compassion for the harvest of the souls of men. He did not have time to waste. On one occasion He said: *"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)

While passing through Samaria on one occasion His disciples left Him to go and buy food. Jesus used the opportunity to minister to a woman who was a lost soul (St. John 4). We need to be busy gathering the harvest, but so many are idling their time away with things that do not profit:

*"<sup>1</sup>For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup>And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. <sup>5</sup>Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. <sup>6</sup>And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? <sup>7</sup>They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive."* (St. Matthew 20: 1-7)

Third hour - 9:00 am

Sixth hour - 12 noon

Ninth hour - 3:00 pm

Eleventh hour - 5:00 pm: just before the night and darkness was to fall.

The householder was eager to gather the harvest and went out at various times during the day, as there was still work to be done - even at the eleventh hour. Each time he went out, he found others who were standing idle and called them to his vineyard to work. He did not want the harvest to be ruined. Likewise, Jesus is calling for labourers today. Sometimes, I do not think we really have a true revelation of hell and its finality.

An extract from our Twenty-Nine Prominent Teachings states: *"The unconverted and the wicked are doomed to eternal punishment, from which there is no escape - no liberation or annihilation."* Jesus gave us an account of the awfulness of hell. Some refer to this as a parable, but this was not a parable.

Jesus even referred to one of the individuals by name: *"<sup>19</sup>There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: <sup>20</sup>And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, <sup>21</sup>And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup>And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; <sup>23</sup>And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. <sup>24</sup>And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. <sup>26</sup>And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. <sup>27</sup>Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: <sup>28</sup>For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. <sup>29</sup>Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. <sup>30</sup>And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. <sup>31</sup>And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.* (St. Luke 16:19-31)

**Hell is real.** Let us do all that we can, while we can that we might by all means save some from going there.

This is a Ministers' Convention and the ministry have to be examples in gathering the harvest. No minister should have nil reports month after month - e.g.

Tracts distributed - Nil

New home prayer meetings - Nil

Number saved - Nil

Number sanctified - Nil

Number filled with the Holy Ghost - Nil

Homes visited - Nil

We need to be seeking out opportunities to have new home prayer meetings and carry tracts around with us to give out to the unsaved. Being in the ministry is not just having a title; we have been called to work as labourers together with God: *"<sup>11</sup>And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; <sup>12</sup>For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: <sup>13</sup>Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:"* (Ephesians 4:11-13)

The Evangelist is supposed to go out and win the lost. Then the Teacher teaches them and the Pastor is responsible for keeping them. So often, the poor Pastors - or one or two others have to do it all, as the members relax. This has a knock-on effect on the work. We all have a responsibility to gather in the harvest.

At this late hour we cannot be idle when everything around us is pointing to the imminent return of our Lord. *"<sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. <sup>19</sup>Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

*<sup>20</sup>Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."*

(St. Matthew 28:18-20)

The Great Commission was given to the Church. We do not need a license to witness to the lost. As well as telling them about what God did for Peter and Paul, we can tell them about what God has done for us. The call of God is the greatest call any person can have upon their lives. If God has called you to work for Him don't stoop to be a king. Use the talents that God has given you.

In closing, let me quote the words of this beautiful song by Daniel March:

*Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,  
"Who will go and work today?  
Fields are ripe and harvests waiting;  
Who will bear the sheaves away?"*

*Loud and long the Master calleth;  
rich reward he offers thee.  
Who will answer, gladly saying,  
"Here am I, send me, send me"?*

*If you cannot sing like angels,  
If you cannot preach like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus,  
You can say He died for all.*

*If you cannot give your thousand,  
You can give the widow's mite,  
And the least you do for Jesus,  
Will be precious in His sight.*

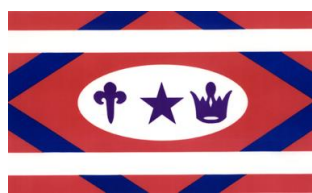
*Let none hear you idly saying,  
"There is nothing I can do;"  
While the souls of men are dying,  
And the Master calls for you.*

*Take the task He gives you gladly,  
Let His work your pleasure be.  
Answer quickly when He calleth.  
"Hear am I send me, send me."*

**Message preached by National Overseer  
Philip Bennett at National Ministers'  
Convention, 2022. 📖**

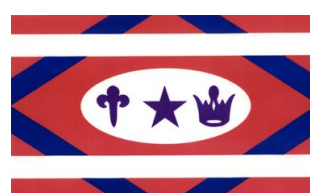


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<b>Oscar Pimentel</b>	General Overseer
<b>Philip C. Bennett</b>	National Overseer/Pastor, Long Lane
<b>Angela Clarke</b>	Pastor, Druids Heath/National Treasurer/National Choir Director
<b>Beverley Anderson</b>	Pastor, Handsworth/National Women's Missionary Band/ National Ladies Retreat Co-ordinator
<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
<b>Justin Clarke</b>	National Evangelism Co-ordinator/ Men's Retreat Co-ordinator/Communications and Media Co-ordinator
<b>James Mwila</b>	National Victory Leaders Band Co-ordinator
<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

It's amazing how quickly the year has flown by, but we thank Almighty God for His keeping care and His tender mercies towards us. We are one year closer to the return of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We do not know the exact time of His return, but we have been given certain signs to look out for and encouraged in the Holy Scriptures to watch and pray:

*<sup>34</sup>And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. <sup>35</sup>For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.*

(St. Luke 21:34-36)

Prophecies are being fulfilled at an alarming rate and we can already feel and see the influence of the man of sin (anti-Christ). Norms that have existed from the dawn of time are being turned upside down or abandoned by the worldly system around us. Let us stand on God's unchanging words: *<sup>13</sup>But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. <sup>14</sup>But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;*" (2 Timothy 3:14)

I trust that you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas with family and friends and I pray that God will endue you all with His bountiful blessings in the year ahead: *<sup>24</sup>Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, <sup>25</sup>To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.* (Jude 1:24-25)

### Upcoming Events:

National WMB Fasting and Prayer	-	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
National VLB Revival	-	Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2023
National VLB Convention	-	Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
National Family Camp 2023	-	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> to Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2023
National Ladies Retreat	-	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2023
National Convention	-	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
National Men's Retreat	-	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> to Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2023

Sunday School Department



**The Church of God**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOST**

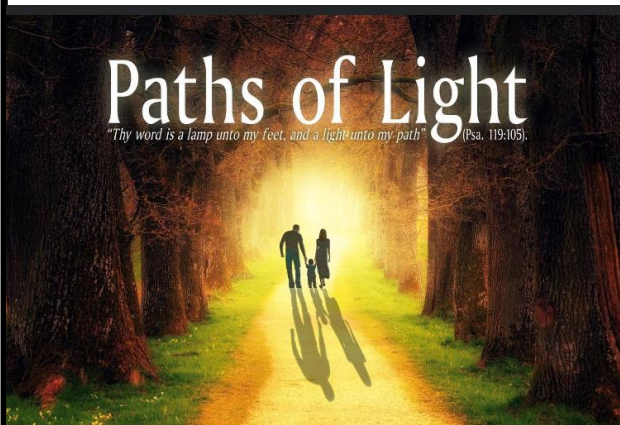
**Jennifer Thompson - National Sunday School Co-ordinator**

The new general Sunday School theme for the assembly year 2022-2023 is:

**'Paths of Light'**

(Psalm 119:105)

Greetings to all from the Sunday School department.



I hope you all had a blessed Christmas and may the new year be prosperous in your walk with the Lord.

The general Sunday School theme for 2022-2023 is **Paths of Light**. (Psalm 119:105)

Here is an excerpt from the hymn *Trust and Obey* by John H Sammis:

*When we walk with the Lord, in the light of His Word,  
What a glory He sheds on our way;  
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,  
And with all who will trust and obey.*

Genesis 5:24: ***“And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.”*** What an amazing account of our Brother Enoch. We do not have a lengthy account of his life in the Bible, but what we have read about him tells us that his walk was pleasing to God. Brother Enoch walked past death with God into heaven. He walked in unity with the Lord. His life was of faith, trust and obedience to God.

Amos 3:3: ***“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”*** The answer is no!

God bless. Keep walking and remain in the paths of light.



# WMB BOOST

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

The new general Women's Missionary Band theme for the assembly year 2022-2023 is:  
**'I am hath sent me unto you'**  
(Exodus 3:14)

**LADIES' retreat**

**3 DAYS/ 2 NIGHTS**  
.....  
**£178\***

.....  
**26 - 28 MAY 2023**  
*The Hayes Conference Centre, Hayes Ln, Swanwick, Alferton DESS 1AU*

\* includes Fri evening meal, 3 meals on Sat and breakfast/lunch on Sun

**WORKSHOPS**      **FELLOWSHIP**      **WORSHIP**

For bookings contact Pastor Anderson on:  
**07852 306 526**  
[plummetry@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:plummetry@hotmail.co.uk)

Find our more about the venue here:  
[www.cct.org.uk/the-hayes/the-hayes-conference-centre](http://www.cct.org.uk/the-hayes/the-hayes-conference-centre)



## **The Church of God (England) National Ministers' Convention** **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

The Church of God (England) met at Long Lane Church, Halesowen for the annual National Ministers' Convention. The day was filled with messages that focused on the theme '*Why stand ye here all the day idle?*' The National auxiliary co-ordinators outlined plans for the assembly year 2022-2023 and encouraged each member to participate in activities planned throughout the year.

The National Overseer, Bishop Bennett's address was based on the convention theme '*Why stand ye here all the day idle?*' (St. Matthew 20:6). In this parable, Jesus spoke of a householder who needed labourers for his vineyard. The householder went out early in the morning and agreed to pay a penny a day to those labourers that he found. He did the same again on the third, and sixth hour and agreed to pay whatsoever is right. At the eleventh hour, the householder found men 'standing all the day idle'. Their excuse was 'because no man had hath hired us.'

In **St. John 4:31-35**; Jesus spoke of the harvest, but He was speaking of the spiritual harvest of souls. Jesus knew the time was short and wanted His disciples to see that it was reaping time. People needed to hear the truth. Today, many souls are dying without Christ. We should be concerned like Jesus was for these souls. **St. Matthew 9:36-38**; Jesus was moved with compassion, 'the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few'. Farmers know that harvesting time is very important. They only have a very short time before their crops are destroyed by rodents, pestilence or the weather. Satan is working overtime to destroy the spiritual harvest and has no compassion because he cannot love. He wants souls to be destroyed by sickness, disease and wars.

The thief - who is Satan, comes only to steal, kill and destroy, **St. John 10:10**. We can all be guilty of wasting time, but a labourer will be busy doing whatever needs to be done. If we knew we only had 24 hours to live, every second would be valuable. Time is a precious commodity. Once it is spent, it cannot be regained. Time is getting shorter and many souls are dying daily - without hope. We can never know who is willing to listen or will give their heart to God. We should not be concerned about a person's looks or reputation but must use godly wisdom and let all know about Christ and His saving grace.

The householder was eager for his harvest to be gathered, but many stood by, idly. Jesus is looking for labourers today. There is no time to stand idle, as everyone has an opportunity to work in their own vicinity. **St Matthew 28:18-20**; 'go ye therefore and teach all nations...' when God has called us to work for Him, it is an honour. Jesus is coming soon. Let us not be idle but be busy in God's service.

Sister Dawn Prince delivered a message entitled: '*I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day...*' **St. John 9:4**. Work takes effort and sacrifice, but what we put in is what we will get out. Work can become tiresome, but when we work for God, He gives us the strength we need **Isaiah 40:29**. Jesus is the light of the world and had a limited time on earth to accomplish His Father's work. **St. Luke 19:10** states Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. Jesus worked while it was day because He knew His night was coming. We too must focus our work during our day-time, as there will come a time when we cannot work. Time is limited. **1 Corinthians 3:13** encourages us not to waste time, for our work will be tried and the result of our work will be manifested. In the days of Nehemiah 'the people had a mind to work', **Nehemiah 4:6**. They were able by the grace of God to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem in 52 days. With God's leading, we can do amazing things, we will not get weary and the work will be done. Let us be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, **1 Corinthians 15:58**, for we will receive a reward if we serve the Lord Christ, **Colossians 3:24**.

May the grace of God help us not to be idle as we endeavour to preach, teach and baptise in His name.

**Sister Beverley Wilson - National Reporter**

# What's happening in Long Lane Church?

## Testimony time of remaining faithful to God and trusting in Jesus

David, in declared in Psalm 37:3-5 that we are to: ***“Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. <sup>4</sup> Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. <sup>5</sup> Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”***

So often we look to accounts told in the Bible and draw encouragement on how God keeps His promises. At times, we fail to see that the same God of Abraham continues to keep His promises today. It is easy for us to overlook how encouragement can come from the testimonies shared by each other. Here is a testimony of how God heard and answered the prayers of one of our sisters this year.

For over five years, one of the church mothers - Sister Violet Hamilton diligently searched for a house. She kept smiling at God, as her desire was to be located close to the local church and not her secular work. Sister Violet did not allow for the financial increase in the housing market to take her focus off the Lord. She was steadfast in fasting and prayer and trusted God that He would simply deliver. On 11<sup>th</sup> August 2022, Sister Violet and Sister Kathleen turned the front door key and moved into their new home. It is also located within walking distance of our local church.

One afternoon in September, the local church members were invited to the house warming. We shared food and good fellowship; the invite was so warm. That evening, we held our ABM service in the home that our dear sister had trusted God to provide.



Through God's grace, we were able to fellowship, sing, pray and give God all the glory.

David also declared in Psalm 27:4: ***“One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.”***



Earlier this year, Sister Violet announced that she was mourning the spiritual death of her daughter, who no longer desired to serve the Lord. This affliction caused Sister Violet to cry to the Lord for the spiritual renewal of her child and asked for the congregation's continued prayers.



Again, through fasting and prayer, Sister Violet remained focused on God and trusted Him to fix the situation.

As time went on and through observation, it was clear there was a change - a spiritual renewing in Sister Kathleen. It was not long before the announcement was made that her baptism would take place in October 2022.

At the baptism service, Sister Violet delivered the devotion. Overwhelmed by the love of God and through tears, she reminded us how God answers prayers.

I hope that someone finds encouragement and direction in Sister Violet's testimony, for it is no coincidence but all a part of God's plan.

**Submitted by Sister Novlet Nugent  
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 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023**. These submissions will be for the January to March 2023 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: [kazgirl\\_uk@yahoo.com](mailto:kazgirl_uk@yahoo.com)

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