



The Chronicle

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July to September 2023, Volume 18, Issue 3

“Examine yourselves to see whether you are still in the Faith”

Philip C. Bennett

This is something we are encouraged to do in our Advice to Members. *“Examine yourself occasionally and see if you are still in the faith.”*

Examine: *inspect (someone or something) thoroughly in order to determine their nature or condition.*

When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden, they died spiritually. This sin was subsequently passed on to all men and with it, death: *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”* (Romans 5:12)

When we got saved, the first step was to repent of our sins. Repentance is the act of confessing and forsaking of something. In this case, the act of confessing and repenting of our sins:

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;” (Acts 3:19)

This then brought us into a state of Justification - the state of being void of offence toward God. We were no longer walking around, fearing the judgement of God and the thought of going to hell for our sins. We were at peace with God: *“¹Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ²By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”* (Romans 5:1-2)

The culmination of Repentance and Justification meant that we were Born Again. We should all remember how we felt when we were first Born Again.

There was a joy and happiness that we could not explain. We wanted to tell everyone we met what had happened to us. There are certain works that naturally follow the new birth, like Restitution where possible. When we got saved, nothing was too difficult to do, because we just wanted to please God. We went and made Restitution to anyone we had offended.

If we have wronged anyone or taken anything wrongfully, then we need to go and make Restitution, as it is necessary to remain in the faith.

Restitution: *"The act of restoring something wrongfully taken or the satisfying of one who has been wronged."*

When we got saved, we stopped doing certain things, but if we later start to do these things again, then we have to question our salvation. It is so easy to drift without realising that we have drifted, or that we are drifting.

Samson transgressed one time too many and did not realise that God was no longer with him: *"And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him."* (Judges 16:20)

Some churches teach a 'once saved always saved' doctrine, but that is not biblical. In fact, it is a dangerous doctrine that is sending millions of people to hell. If we fall away, **(not just are overtaken in a fault)** then we need to start our works again, as we are no longer in the faith. This work includes repentance and water baptism.

We cannot just sweep things under the carpet and think that time will make it right. **Sins unconfessed are sins unforgiven.**

However, some Christians do not believe in baptising more than once, erroneously quoting the Scripture: *"One Lord, one faith, one baptism,"* (Ephesians 4:5).

Another definition of baptism is: *"a person's initiation into a particular activity or role, typically one perceived as difficult."* This definition has nothing to do with water baptism. So, in Ephesians 4:5 Paul was not talking about water baptism. He was not saying that we are only to baptise once, but rather that one baptism signifies our identifying with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. **If water baptism was needful when we first got saved, then if we fall from our salvation, it is necessary again.**

Then there are so called Christians who were never truly saved. They grew up in the Church and at some stage decided to take up membership but never had a true born-again experience.

In the Old Testament, we come across the concept of a *"pierced ear of a home born slave"*: *"If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing. ³If he came in by himself, he shall go out by himself: if he were married, then his wife shall go out with him. ⁴If his master have given him a wife, and she have born him sons or daughters; the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out by himself. ⁵And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free:*

“Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.”
(Exodus 21:2-6)

These slaves were born in their master’s house and so that was all the life they knew. They were accustomed to the master and his household and so did not want to go anywhere else.

There are some people who grew up in the Church and do not know anything else - like these pierced ear slaves, but yet they lack a genuine born-again experience. They like everything about the Church: see all the benefits of being a member but fail to do that which a genuine born-again believer will do, such as confessing and repenting when they fail God. They find it insulting and demeaning to go and make restitution. They will not humble themselves to baptise again after they have fallen into sin.


They refuse to obey those that are over them in the Lord, claiming Christian liberty, and will tell you that God understands. But if we are going to make it into heaven, we must be born again and living free from sin. William T. Sleeper wrote the words of this beautiful and poignant song:

*“A ruler once came to Jesus by night
To ask Him the way of salvation and light;
The Master made answer in words true and plain,
“Ye must be born again.”*

*O ye who would enter that glorious rest,
And sing with the ransomed the song of the blest;
The life everlasting if ye would obtain,
“Ye must be born again.”*

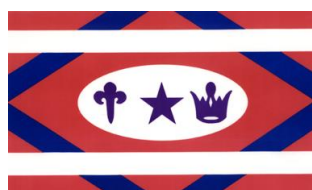
Refrain

*“Ye must be born again,
Ye must be born again;
I verily, verily say unto thee,
Ye must be born again.”*

A true born-again believer will not find it too difficult to do that which God requires of them and that which will bring them closer to God. If we find that we are struggling with these things, then we need to examine ourselves to see whether we still are in the faith. 

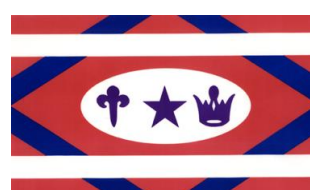


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From the Overseer's Desk

Looking back over the last three month's activities, we thank God for a glorious National Convention. God spoke expressly through the theme, *"Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set."* During a message in tongues and interpretation, God reassured us that His eyes were upon us. Among the experiences during the Convention; one was filled with the blessed Holy Ghost and another testified of being divinely healed.

Our brothers also experienced a wonderful National Men's Retreat. Brother Justin Clarke is to be commended for his excellent leadership in coordinating all of the activities.

I was further blessed to be able to attend the General Assembly for the first time since 2019. Accompanying me were 13 other delegates from England, one attending for the first time. Praise God, Sister Rebekah Wilson was baptised with the Holy Ghost during the Assembly!

Let us not allow our zeal from our National Convention and General Assembly to subside. Let us stoke the fire and keep it blazing - that we may accomplish great exploits for Christ and His Church in the year ahead of us:

"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. ⁷For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

(2 Timothy 1:6-7)

Upcoming Events:

National Ministers' Convention	-	Saturday 4 th November 2023
BTI 2 nd Term	-	Friday's - 10 th November 2023 to 22 nd December 2023
BTI 2 nd Term	-	Friday's - 12 th January 2024 to 23 rd February 2024
National Family Camp 2024	-	Monday 19 th to Thurs. 22 nd February 2024
National WMB Prayer and Fasting	-	Saturday 16 th March 2024
National WMB Revival	-	Sunday 17 th March 2024

Sunday School Department



The Church of God

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOST

Jennifer Thompson - National Sunday School Co-ordinator

The continuing general Sunday School theme for the assembly year 2023-2024 is:

'Paths of Light'

(Psalm 119:105)

Greetings to the Sunday School scholars, in the mighty name of JESUS. Our general Sunday School theme for 2023-24 remains the same: "**Paths of Light**" (Psalm 119:105).

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (St. John 8:12)

Just as the sun lights up the solar system, JESUS lights up the whole world. It is hard to imagine what the world would be like without having any sunlight at all. The same can be said about Jesus. The world would be in utter darkness without Him.

During the Exodus, it was God's supernatural fire by night that gave light to the Israelites. Those who follow Jesus will have the light to lead and direct them, like a lighthouse that safely guides ships to the harbour. Jesus will guide us safely through this world of sin and land us safely on heaven's shore. God bless you all.

ANNOUNCEMENT

National Children's Church

Christmas Party

For children aged between 0 - 12 years

Date: Saturday 16th December 2023

Time: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Venue to be announced.



VICTORY LEADERS BAND BOOST

James Mwila -
National Victory Leaders Band Co-ordinator

The general Victory Leaders Band theme for
the assembly year 2023-2024 is:

**'Relationship Status:
#inlovewithJesus'**

What a wonderful theme! I believe the Lord wants us to look at our relationship with Him and draw closer to Him.

**Can we be friends with
the world and God at the
same time?**



The Scripture says in 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.”

Can we love the world and love Jesus at the same time?

1 John 2:15-17 states: ***“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.***

¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

God loves us so much and He wants us all to draw closer to Him and have a **personal** relationship with Him.

Will you fall in love with Jesus today?

THE CHURCH OF GOD, (ENGLAND)

NATIONAL CONVENTION 2023

The 68th National Convention was held at the Church of God, Long Lane, Halesowen from 7th to 9th July 2023. Theme: '**Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.**' Proverbs 22:28.

The three-day event was full of encouraging messages from the National Auxiliary Co-ordinators. We were also blessed with singing from Sister Keshia Toolsee, Sister Kathleen Hamilton, and the National Choir.

During the CPMA programme, the Holy Ghost moved in a mighty way, manifesting His presence. **Holy Ghost message and interpretation: 'I see, I see, I see (x6), I see you. I see you, Church, I see you (x3). I see you Church, I see you. Church, I see you, I see you (x4). Church, Church, Church, I see you (x4). I am watching you. I am watching you. I see you.'** Brother Stuart Brown's message reminded the congregation that the Church belongs to God, the Son and the Holy Ghost and not us. We cannot remove the landmarks which He has set.

On Friday evening, we listened to a message delivered by Brother Rikki Prince - taken from 2 Timothy 4:16: '**Take Heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine...**'. Brother Rikki said that it is important to know the doctrine for ourselves and to take heed of where our treasures are. We cannot rely on past ministers' revelation of the Church to get us to heaven. We must have our own divine relation of the Church.

On Saturday, we heard two messages. The first messenger was Pastor Angela Clarke and her topic was '**Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see and ask for the old paths...**', Jeremiah 6:16. Sister Clarke's message from God was asking us to take stock of where we are spiritually. The Scripture asks us to reflect, stand still, examine ourselves, and check whether we are still on the old path that leads us to God.

The second messenger, Sister Karen Richards, preached the healing message, '**Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole...**', St. Luke 8:48. She recounted the story of the woman with the issue of blood. Sister Karen explained that in order for the woman to be healed, her faith had to be active. The woman proclaimed her healing before it happened, and then Jesus who was full of the Holy Ghost and power (virtue) was able to heal her immediately. We too, she said can be healed, or request the healing for others. All we have to do is have active faith in God.

The final day of the Convention was dedicated to Sunday School and Children's Church. As usual, the Sunday School programme did not disappoint. We were blessed with presentations, songs, and sketches from the adults and children. We could see how the local Sunday Schools are increasing the spiritual knowledge of their students, for the glory of God.

The final message of the day came from our National Overseer - Bishop Philip Bennett. He delivered a timely Annual Address, based on the Convention theme: '**Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set**'- Proverbs 22:28. Brother Bennett said, Satan has caused men to alter the Bible, taking away the true doctrine of God. This subtle, yet deceptive misrepresentation, of adding and taking away from God's Word has been happening for a number of years. The plan of the enemy is to lead men astray from God. The landmarks of old are set as boundaries to lead men to Christ. Sometimes, due to poor maintenance, landmarks become overgrown and are difficult to see. If this happens, we should ask for the way to the old paths. The doctrine of the Bible, the 29 prominent teachings, and the Advice to Members are our landmarks. They will show us the good way to walk therein, spiritually.

God is speaking to His Church. He is watching us and calling for us to prepare for Jesus' return. May we all hear His warning and prepare ourselves to meet Him.

Sister Beverley Wilson - National Reporter

What's happening at London Church?

Look what the Lord has done!

Greetings from the brethren of London Church.

In August 2023, the Wilson family were grateful to be able to attend the General Assembly in Cleveland, Tennessee, USA. It was a privilege to be able to be there, after the US lifted its travel restrictions.



The fellowship was sweet and the messages were anointed. The icing on the cake was being able to visit our former organisation's Tomlinson College complex on the final day of the Assembly.



Upon our return to the UK, London Church had a celebratory birthday service for a very special member, Sister Duncan. We were able to have a service with her family at her residential home.



There were 14 visitors in attendance to hear the Word of God. We pray that a seed has been sown and will take root in good ground.

God bless us all as we continue to work for the Lord.

Sister Beverley Wilson - Reporter





LADIES' retreat 2024

18 - 21 JULY 2024

The Hayes Conference Centre, Hayes Ln,
Swanwick, Alfreton DE55 1AU

THURS: Arrive at 3pm
Cost: £274

FRI: Arrive at 11:00am
Cost: £215 (£73 for 6-16 year olds)

SAT: Arrive at 11:00am
Cost: £120

SUN: Departure @ 3pm



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 30th November 2023**. These submissions will be for the October-December 2023 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: kazgirl_uk@yahoo.com

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