



The Chronicle

A Publication of The Church of God (England)

January to March 2024, Volume 19, Issue 1

“For the Mystery of Iniquity doth already work”

Philip C. Bennett

Mystery: *something that is kept secret and is difficult or impossible to understand or explain.*

Iniquity: *immoral or grossly unfair behaviour. A violation of the right or duty that mankind is under obligation to do. An iniquity can also be a wicked act and immoral conduct or practice. These are harmful or offensive to society and, especially to God. In the Bible, the terms, sin, and iniquity, are often used interchangeably.*

Iniquity simply means lawlessness.

The majority of people today, including Christians do not understand what is going on around them. That is a part of the mystery that we are talking about.

The theme of this Convention is from Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians. The Church in Thessalonica was unsettled, due to their fear that the Day of the Lord had already taken place and they had missed the Rapture. This falsehood was being spread by false teachers, so Paul was writing to them to settle their faith:

1"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

(2 Thessalonians 2:1-4)

Now the Day of Christ or the Day of the Lord as it is sometimes referred to, is not a one-day event as many believe. It covers a period of time from the Rapture, to the great white throne judgement. The Day of the Lord will be a terrible time when God's wrath will be poured out upon a God-hating, Christ-rejecting sinful world. It will include the time of the millennium reign of Christ.

In his bid to settle these believers, Paul explained that there was first to be a falling away of believers. There was one great falling away in AD 325 with the adoption of the Nicene Creed, but there have been many others since that time. So, this falling away is merely a departure from the true gospel preached by Christ and the early Church and not a single event. Paul went on to remind them of what they had previously been told: ⁵*“Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? ⁶And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.”* (2 Thessalonians 2:5-6) The ‘**what**’ here has reference to the restraining work of the Holy Ghost and the ‘**he**’ refers to the man of sin. Paul had already warned them about deception: ⁸*“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”* (Galatians 1:8-9)

The revelation of the man of sin we believe will occur after the Rapture and some three and a half years into the tribulation period when he will break his peace covenant with the nation of Israel. Paul went on to say: ⁷*“For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. ⁸And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: ⁹Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, ¹⁰And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”* (2 Thessalonians 2:7-10)

Right now, the Holy Ghost is the restraining force against the forces of evil. Once He is taken out of the way, the anti-Christ will be revealed and will be able to work without restraint.

Paul-Henri Spaak, a former Belgian Prime Minister and one of the principal architects

of what has since become known as the European Union (who also served as the first Secretary of the United Nations) spoke these chilling **prophetic words** back in the 1970’s: *“We do not want another committee, we have too many already. What we want is a man of sufficient stature to hold the allegiance of all people, and to lift us out of the economic morass into which we are sinking. Send us such a man, and be he god or devil, we will receive him.”*

These words remind me of Caiaphas’ prophecy concerning Christ’s death, where he prophesied that it was needful for one man to die (Christ) rather than for the whole nation to perish. Right now, the scene is being set for the coming man of sin. Jesus has already told us what the times would be like in the last days before His coming: *“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”* (St. Matthew 24:12)

We may ask the question, why would mankind choose **iniquity**, which is lawlessness with the death and destruction that accompanies it, and refuse righteousness and the blessings that goes with it? **This is the mystery**, but the answer can be found in verses 11 and 12: ¹¹*“And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: ¹²That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”* (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12)

Because of their rejection of the truth, *“God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient”* (Romans 1:28) Although men know the consequences for their behaviour, the momentary pleasure that they get from these disobedient and variant lifestyles means more to them than denying themselves and spending eternity in heaven. God speaking through the prophet Moses admonished the people: *“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:”* (Deuteronomy 30:19)

Yet people are practicing lifestyles that are actually killing them and shortening their lives. They are literally choosing death over life. The world is in confusion where men call good, evil and evil, good. Many find it difficult to differentiate their friends from their enemies and so shun those who mean them well and embrace the enemy of their souls.

This can be seen in the political world for example, where antisemitism, a hatred of the Jews and Israel is at an all-time high. Because of biased reporting, Israel - the only true democracy in the Middle East is seen as an evil, apartheid country. The devil and his cronies use the media to malign those who are good, until we start to see them as bad and vice versa.

Satan elicits sympathy for the LGBT community by convincing people that it cannot be wrong if two people simply love each other, and that they were born that way so they cannot help themselves. I see LGBT activists marching in support of Hamas, an organization that would kill them if they ever set foot in Gaza. This is a mystery. Why would one support an organization that given the opportunity, would kill them?

Satan uses euthanasia or assisted dying as an argument that it is only reasonable for someone in constant pain with an incurable illness to be able to end their life in a dignified way. The countries that allow this practice have seen the number of such deaths multiply over the years. All kinds of reasons are subsequently used to terminate a life, including children from the age of 12 in some countries.

Abortion is seen as a woman's right to choose instead of the murder of the unborn - which it is. Millions of unborn babies are murdered every year with government approval. Any opposition is viewed as a restriction on a woman's right to choose. Satan tries to play on our sympathies and the world paints us as un-Christian, cruel and hateful if we dare to oppose his agenda,

which is sending thousands of people to hell every day.

What do all of the above have in common? Answer, a hatred of God and everything that God has set in order. So the LGBT agenda, the abortion agenda, Black Lives Matter, Radical Islam etc. are all cut from the same cloth. If we notice, when one party protests, all the others are represented with their flags and their slogans. Verse 4 of 2 Thessalonians Chapter 2, in speaking of the anti-Christ said he *"opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God..."*

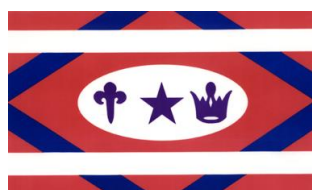
Satan, who will give his powers to this man of sin is a master strategist who has been around for a long time. We are no match for him by ourselves. His original name, Lucifer means "Light bringer." He was perfect in beauty and referred to as the "Star of the Morning." He was so beautiful and influential that we are told in Revelation 12:4 that *"...his tail drew a third part of the stars of God..."* He was able to convince a third of the angels in heaven to follow him, and is convincing the majority of the world today to follow him.

Although there is a great mystery in iniquity, we as God's children should not be ignorant of the devil's devices. After revealing the end times to Daniel, God gave him some closing words: *⁸"And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? ⁹And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. ¹⁰Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand."* (Daniel 12:8-10)

Let us not be perplexed by what is happening around us as the unwise. As God's children, we must be wise and have an understanding of the times we are living in.

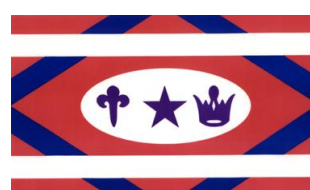
Message preached by National Overseer at National Ministers' Convention 2023. 

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From the Overseer's Desk

After 15 weeks of study, Bible Training Institute (BTI) - like all good things came to an end. Well done to Brother Stuart Brown and all the teachers, along with all the students who participated to make the event the success that it was.

Some of the comments after the last session were, "Friday evenings won't be the same again," and "What are we to do now?" The answer from another student was a hopeful, "Re-runs." Brother Stuart however, reminded everyone that the quiz sheets were still to be completed.

Our heartfelt appreciation also goes out to the 'Camp Daddies' - Brother George Wilson and Brother Rikki Prince, for their hard work, prayers and dedication in putting together our National Family Camp.

I believe that God truly spoke to us during our Family Camp - using the theme: "*Have you on your wedding robe, or have you not?*" The devotions and presentations were truly a blessing. Issues that existed and were buried were brought to the fore and we were encouraged to resolve any differences that existed.

God is truly moving us on to perfection. Let us follow His leading and lay aside all stubbornness that will prevent His blessings from being manifested in our lives:

1"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

(Hebrews 12:1-2)

Please be in prayer for all the future events on our church calendar.

Upcoming Events:

England's Go Rally		Monday 1 st to Wednesday 3 rd July 2024
National Convention	-	Friday 5 th to Sunday 7 th July 2024
National Ladies Retreat	-	Thursday 18 th to Sunday 21 st July 2024
General Assembly	-	Monday 29 th to Saturday 3 rd August 2024



EVANGELISM
DEPARTMENT

EVANGELISM BOOST

**Justin Clarke -
National Evangelism Co-ordinator**

The new general Evangelism theme for the assembly year 2023-2024 is:

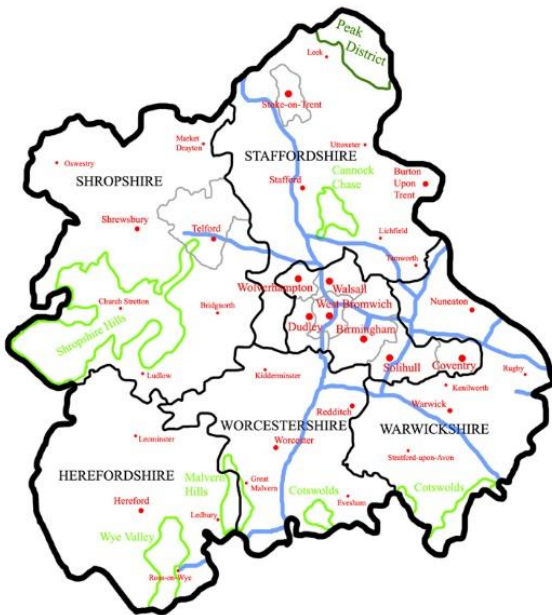
'Into His Harvest'

(St. Luke 10:2)

As we enter a new Assembly year, the aim for the Evangelism department is to be busy! The theme for the Evangelism department is a very fitting and practical one. Time is wrapping up and the need for the Church to be busy and to be about our Father's business is ever more important. With this in mind, the Evangelism team will be busy labouring in the harvest. I want to inform us of the following planned activities.

Mission West Midlands

The Evangelism team will be travelling into new regions around the West Midlands to spread the gospel and hopefully establish contacts in new areas. If you wish to support these efforts, please get in touch with me.



DATE	AREA
6 th April 2024: 12pm – 2pm	Birmingham
20 th April 2024: 12pm – 2pm	Solihull
11 th May 2024: 12pm – 2pm	Coventry
25 th May 2024: 12pm – 2pm	Dudley
8 th June 2024: 12pm – 2pm	Wolverhampton
22 nd June 2024: 12pm – 2pm	Walsall
7 th September 2024: 12pm – 2pm	West Bromwich
21 st September 2024: 12pm – 2pm	Wednesbury
12 th October 2024: 12pm – 2pm	Bilston

London Go Rally 1st - 3rd July 2024

We will be blessed to have the General Evangelism Co-ordinator - Bishop Jerry Campbell come and facilitate a "Go Rally". This is a concentrated evangelism effort over 3 days, which will also include a revival and evangelistic workshops. It has been laid on my heart to have this rally in London. The aim is to support our brethren in reaching new areas and hopefully injecting the revival spirit down in the city of London. If you would like to come and support, then please approach myself for more information.

Jack David Outreach

We will be continuing our outreach at the Jack David residential home and have dates planned for the whole of this year. If you wish to support or be included in these efforts, please contact me for more information.

Evangelism Team boost

To remind us of the evangelism theme Scripture, St. Matthew 9:37-38 says: *"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; ³⁸ Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."* We need labourers. If this is laid on your heart to work for the Lord, then please contact me for more information. God bless you brethren.

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 readers in the holy name of Jesus.

Chorus:

*"Keep on walking, walking in the light of the Lord.
We'll get to heaven someday,
walking in the light of the Lord." Amen*

St. John 12:35-36: *"Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. ³⁶ While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them."*

Jesus was telling the people that He did not have much time left with them. He was referring to His death on the cross, so they needed to walk in the light (Jesus), believe His teachings while they had the light, lest darkness come upon them.

There are many who do not walk in the light and because of this, they have faded away into darkness. The unbelievers who do not believe the truth and walk in darkness do not know where they are going. They do not have the light to guide them.

Many missed the turn in the road and went off in the wrong direction without returning to the place where they missed the way.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Psalm 119:105

God bless you all.



WMB BOOST

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

The new general Women's Missionary Band theme for the assembly year 2023-2024 is:

'Unstoppable'

(St. Mark 16:15)



Not my will, but thine, be done

Jesus said ***"...if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."***

(St. Luke 22:42)

Our *will* is that part of the mind by which we determine either to do, or not to do an action. Our will, is the part of us which we exercise in deciding, among two or more objects, which

one we should embrace or pursue (in other words, which one will I love and go after). The will is directed or influenced by the decisions we make. Therefore, it is my will to sin. It is my will to fornicate, steal, hate, etc.

The Bible says however, in St. Matthew 7:2: ***"For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again."***

Judgement is the understanding or reason to compare between different decisions. It operates as our motive for doing a thing. The judgement determines which is preferable, and the will decides which to pursue (go after).

King Solomon said in Proverbs 3:6: ***"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."*** Our will directs the path we take, and the decisions we make. That is why Solomon asked God to direct his path. He was saying "help me to make the right decisions in all that I do." That is why when we pray, our prayers should be according to the will of God.

Jesus taught the disciples to pray: "...⁹ ***"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."*** (St. Matthew 6:9-10)

God wants His will to be done in us right here on earth, as it is in heaven. Why? We need to be perfected down here, because one day, our judgement will be required to judge angels in heaven. ***"Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?"*** (1 Corinthians 6:3)

That is why as Christians with our will being in Christ, we can sort out our own issues, without involving the law of the land. God bless you.

NATIONAL FAMILY CAMP 2024

12TH TO 15TH FEBRUARY 2024

Theme: 'Have you on your wedding robe or have you not?'

Greetings to all in the wonderful name of Jesus, our soon coming King!

It was yet again another wonderful and blessed week at National Family Camp 2024. The Scriptures related to our camp theme challenged us to look at our part in being ready for the Lord's return:

Psalm 119:33: ***"Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end."***

Job 34:32: ***"That which I see not teach thou me: if I have done iniquity, I will do no more."***

Revelation 19:8: ***"And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."***

We were blessed to have the time to spend in fellowship, in prayer and learning. I believe God is asking us to take a look at His Word and what is going on right now. He has warned us of these perilous times and that His return is very soon.

Wonderful messages and workshops were presented by our Camp workers. Below, are some pictures to remind us of the great time we had.



The participation from ALL who attended made this once again a very special week.



God willing, we will be back in 2025. We are looking at provisional dates for February half term next year, and we welcome any fund-raising ideas to help us. Please contact either Brother Rikki or Brother George.

We are asking for your prayers that our Lord makes a way for us all to be there next year - if it is His will.

God bless from your Camp Leaders - Brother Rikki Prince and Brother George Wilson.

What's happening at Long Lane Church?

Mothering Sunday – 10th March 2024

Mother, Mummy, Mommy, Ma, Mum, Mom and Momma are some of the different names used to call or refer to a woman. A woman can also be a Sister, Niece, Wife or Auntie.

The aforementioned titles are terms of endearment: to express our love without further words for the woman, we admire and respect with every breath that we take. Yes, the Mother, Mummy, Mommy, Ma, Mum, Mom and Momma, who spent hours in labour, just to hear the sweet sound of our cries. The mothers who helped to raise, care for, and cradle us without giving birth.

Mother, Mummy, Mommy, Ma, Mum, Mom and Momma. Happy Mother's Day from Long Lane Church.

Submitted by Sister Novlet Nugent - Lone Lane Church



What's happening at Handsworth Church?

God has been good, despite the angry hand of the enemy against us. God has been our help and strength and has proven that He is with us and will never forsake us.

On Sunday 3rd of March 2024, one of our sisters was in church giving her testimony of praise following many weeks away in hospital in Wales. She testified of God's goodness towards her. Although she is still unable to walk, she saw the mighty hand of God in her life. She acknowledged this after meeting individuals that were in a worse state than her, following accidents and demobilising illnesses. She was able to encourage them daily and will continue to keep in contact with them. She believes God has opened this door to allow her to continue her mission work from her wheelchair.

We have seen the miraculous works in the life of baby Jacob, who is now out weekly and a part of our newly organised cradle roll department, making the roll now 3 members.

Jesus said the gates of hell would not prevail against the Church and truly we can see this, despite Satan's efforts against the work.

**Submitted by Pastor Anderson
Handsworth 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 May 2024**. These submissions will be for the April-June 2024 issue. Please send to: Karen Richards, 12 Cherhill Covert, Druids Heath, Birmingham, B14 5YB. Email: kazgirl_uk@yahoo.com

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Registered Company No. 07015215