



The Chronicle

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This Little Light of Mine

Philip C. Bennett

The words of a well-known children's song says: *"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...won't let satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine."*

Satan is forever trying to extinguish our lights and leave us in darkness. Jesus, during His sermon on the mount said to His disciples, the then Church: *¹³"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. ¹⁴Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* (St. Matthew 5:13-16)

Salt is classed as a catalyst - meaning it changes what it comes into contact with, whilst remaining the same. Salt is a precious commodity which gives flavour to food, acts as a preservative and can be used to clean wounds. We can be members of the Church and yet lose our savour (saltiness).

Some take comfort in Church membership and boast about being a member but we need to make sure our names are written not just on the Church register, but also in the Lamb's Book of Life.

The old bushel which Jesus referred to was equal to 4 pecks or 8 gallons and was used mostly for agricultural products, such as wheat. These containers and baskets were to contain a bushel in weight. We have to let our lights shine, not hide it under a bushel. Another song encourages us to let our lights shine as: *"someone down in the valley is trying to come home."* If our light goes out then we are no different from those in the world, even though our names are on the Church register.

After coming out of Egypt, God gave Moses instructions on how he should build and maintain the tabernacle. This would house the Ark of the Covenant, which represented God's presence with them: *²⁰"And thou shalt command the children of Israel, that they bring thee pure oil olive beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always. ²¹In the tabernacle of the congregation without the veil, which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall order it from evening to morning before the LORD: it shall be a statute for ever unto their generations on the behalf of the children of Israel."* (Exodus 27:20-21)

The instructions were that the lamp was to be burning always. This meant constant vigilance. However, with time the nation of Israel drifted away from God and failed to keep His commandments. This cycle repeated itself time and time again, till we come to the fourteenth and penultimate judge of Israel whose name was Eli. During the days of Eli, the priest we find Israel at an all-time spiritual low. Eli was now an old man and lacking in strength with poor vision. His sons who were to succeed him were vile and did not walk in the ways of God: *"Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the Lord."* (1 Samuel 2:12)

'Belial' is a term used with reference to the personification of the devil but in this context, it referred to a worthless person, including idolaters. Eli failed to reprove his sons with any sternness: ²² *"Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. ²³ And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. ²⁴ Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD'S people to transgress. ²⁵ If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them."* (1 Samuel 2:22-25)

God sent a prophet to rebuke Eli, and later used the child Samuel to confirm his judgement on Eli's house: ¹ *"And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision. ² And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see; ³ And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;"* (1 Samuel 3:1-3)

The words, *"he could not see,"* had reference to his physical as well as his spiritual sight. Because of neglect, the lamp of God went out in the temple, signifying that God's presence had departed from them. Without the light of God, we will walk in darkness. God had told them that the lamp was never to go out but should be on perpetually.

After the first battle with the Philistines where the army of Israel was defeated, they decided to bring the Ark of God into the camp. Israel felt it would guarantee them victory in succeeding battles. However, they failed to bring the God of the Ark with them. The Ark in itself was powerless if God was not with them. In the ensuing battle, the Ark was captured by the Philistines, the two sons of Eli were killed, and Israel was defeated - with many losing their lives. When the news got back home, the wife of Phinehas died in childbirth and Eli the priest fell from his chair, broke his neck and also died.

Today we have been called to be lights in this world of darkness. **We should not allow the devil to blow our lights out.** There are not many true Christians left in the world and the pressure is being turned on to cause our lights to go out. Sometimes, we may feel insignificant and feel that our little light is minor in this big, dark world in which we live, but there's a song that encourages us thus:

*Jesus bids us shine with a clear, pure light,
Like a little candle burning in the night;
In this world of darkness, we must shine,
You in your small corner, and I in mine.*

In another parable, Jesus referred to the believers as light bearers with a lamp. Sometimes we read the Bible but do not understand some of the analogies which are drawn. Most of the younger generation have grown up with electricity all their lives but as a child growing up in Jamaica, I knew what it was like to depend upon a lamp.

The lamp is a vessel which contains fuel in its base. It has a wick where the lower part sits in the fuel and the upper part protrudes out of the top. In order for the lamp to function effectively, the owner must take good care of it. They have to ensure that the wick is trimmed and in good condition, as well as being in contact with the fuel source. To trim the wick one has to remove the burnt bit, otherwise the wick will smother when lit and give more smoke than light. A wick in good condition when lit will give light to those around and keep us and them from stumbling in the dark. Sometimes a glass shade is provided to protect the flame from being blown out by the wind or a draft:

¹ "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. ²And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: ⁴But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept." (St. Matthew 25:1-5)

We note from the Scripture that they were all virgins but five were wise and five were foolish. We see also that the wise had more than one vessel along with their lamps. The Bridegroom did not come at the expected time but delayed His coming. Some of us have been saved for a long time and probably thought Jesus would have come by now. If we are not careful we can become careless and fall asleep: *"And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him."* (St. Matthew 25:6)

This parable that Jesus used here concerned the Jewish marriage custom. Traditionally the Groom would leave his father's house to find his bride. Once he found her, he would pay a price for her and then return to his father's house to prepare a place for her. After all the preparation was completed, he would return to claim his bride and take her to live with him at his father's house.

This would normally be the following year. The bride did not know the exact time of the groom's return but she knew the season. While the groom was away the bride to be was not just sitting idly by awaiting his return. She was busy preparing herself and getting everything together for his return. On returning to claim his bride, (an event which normally took place at night) the groom would be accompanied by a procession. Someone would go before to sound the alarm that the groom was on his way. On hearing the trumpet, the bride and her attendants would quickly grab all their belongings and go to meet the groom.

This parable in reality referred to Christ the Groom who left heaven to seek his wife the Church whom He purchased with His own blood. He has been away for over 2,000 years making preparation for her. The bride (Church) in the meantime needs to be busy getting herself ready for His return: *⁷ "Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out."* (St. Matthew 25:7-8)

How did they get themselves into such a state? They were not observing the time. They neglected the state of their vessels. They became careless and fell asleep. More importantly how would we get ourselves into such a state? By neglecting prayer, by neglecting the study of God's Word, by missing services and prayer meetings, by neglecting the advice of those over us in the Lord to name a few things: *⁹ "But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. ¹⁰And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut."* (St. Matthew 25:9-10)

Once the door was shut there was no re-opening. As with Noah and the ark, it was God the Groom's Father who would have commanded the door to be shut:

¹¹ "Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. ¹²But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. ¹³Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

(St. Matthew 25:11-13)

At one of D.L. Moody's meetings in the United States of America, he related the story of a shipwreck on a dark and tempestuous night, when not even a star was visible. A ship was approaching the harbour of Cleveland, with a pilot on board. The captain, noticing only one light as they drew near – that from the lighthouse – asked the pilot if he was quite sure that it was Cleveland harbour, as other lights should have been burning at the harbour mouth. The pilot replied that he was quite sure, whereupon the captain enquired: "Where are the lower lights?" "Gone out, sir," replied the pilot. "Can you make the harbor, then?" asked the captain, to which the pilot answered: "We must, sir, or perish." Bravely the old man steered the vessel upon her course toward safety. But alas! In the darkness of the harbour mouth he missed the channel, the ship struck upon many rocks, and in the stormy waters many lives were lost. Then Moody made his appeal to his audience: "Brothers, the Master will take care of the great lighthouse! Let us keep the lower lights burning!"

Among Moody's hearers that evening was Mr. Philip P. Bliss, the well-known hymn writer, and the striking story at once suggested to him one of his most popular hymns:

*Brightly beams our Father's mercy,
From His lighthouse evermore,
But to us He gives the keeping
Of the lights along the shore.*

*Let the lower lights be burning!
Send a gleam across the wave!
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman
You may rescue, you may save. 📖*



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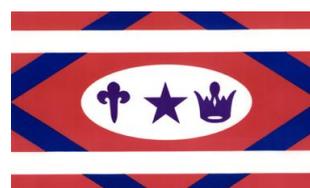
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From the Overseer's Desk

On Sunday 9th February 2025, we were saddened with the news that retired evangelist, Sister Armena Taylor-Harrison, a great stalwart of The Church of God in England had passed away. Our condolences go out to the Taylor and extended family. The night of celebration for Sister Taylor-Harrison's life was well attended as many tributes were given on her behalf. It was good to see so many old faces from the past. Sister Taylor-Harrison has run her race, and has gone on to her heavenly reward: *"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."* (Revelation 14:13)

After a few years of absence, we were back at Whitemoor Lakes for our National Family Camp in February. The devotions, presentations and other activities were a great blessing to all who were able to attend. Our thanks go out to Camp Co-ordinators Brother George Wilson and Brother Rikki Prince who organised the event.

The WMB department at Long Lane are to be commended for the fund-raising programme that they put together in March. It was well supported by all the other churches as well as friends. Through various activities including auctions, nearly £600 was collected on the night for World Missions.

I am encouraging all our members to do our best in giving and soliciting funds for our Tabernacle building programme.

In closing, please be praying for all our upcoming activities that God's presence will be manifested in all our endeavours.

*"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.*

Amen."

(2 Corinthians 13:14)

Upcoming Events:

International Ladies Retreat (UK) Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd June 2025

National Convention Friday 4th to Sunday 6th July 2025



ABM BOOST

Claudine Brown -
National Assembly Band Movement Co-ordinator

The general Assembly Band Movement theme for the assembly year 2024-2025 is:

'We are members of His Body'

(Ephesians 5:30)

*"Wonderful ABM, glorious Band
Helping the Pastor to care for the flock
Band leaders working together with them
Keeping the schisms all out of the Church"*

Thank God for these beautiful auxiliary songs which sum up the purpose and mission of the helps in the Church. Greetings to all our Chronicle readers in the mighty name of Jesus. We continue to thank the Lord for this auxiliary, which is designed to maintain, preserve and boost the spiritual health of our Church of God members.

If you are a Pastor and reading this, know that we love and appreciate you. As instructed in Hebrews 13:7, we must continue to **"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God..."** Pastors, you have been given for the perfecting of the saints (Ephesians 4:11-12), an awesome responsibility upon your shoulders. But you are not alone, and we pray that the Lord will continue to guide, keep, speak *to*, and *through* you.

To our precious Band Leaders, I pray that our current theme is whetting your appetite to dive deeper into the Word in order to edify your Bands. As members of His Body, there is a togetherness in which we ought to think, operate and work. In a recent ABM service at my local church, I enjoyed the study which we did on togetherness in the early Church (Acts 4:31-37). It was inspiring: **"And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common..."**. (Acts 4:32) What a status! This was preceded by a mighty move of the blessed Holy Ghost, who had shaken the place and given the disciples the unction to speak God's word with boldness (Acts 4:31). This was preceded by an evangelistic message preached by Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, after which - 5000 were saved. The Holy Ghost - an essential ingredient for evangelism, an essential ingredient for unity.

There are many ways in which we can run our Band activities to assist in the 'keeping' of the flock. Our BTI materials share a few ideas with us, which I will list here:

1. Organise a prayer group which meets regularly
2. Assist the pastor in visitation
3. Create a telephone ministry involving retirees and senior citizens
4. Correspond with absentees, shut-ins and the sick through greeting cards and letters
5. Plan a nature outing using objects of nature for devotion
6. Invite a homeless individual to ABM service and shower with items of need
7. Involve the prayer band in special work projects for the upkeep of the local church
8. Draw names for secret pals or prayer partners
9. Have a carry-in dinner prior to the prayer service
10. Plan theme services for special holidays or events
11. Create a church "welcome wagon" to greet newcomers. Possibly approach local businesses to donate vouchers or free samples etc.
12. Begin a jail ministry
13. Establish Bible study classes
14. Create a rapport with the hospital chaplain and share in ministering to the sick and their families

May the Lord bless and keep every Band in The Church of God. If you are not in a Band, and would like to be, contact our national office via this web page, <https://thechurchofgoduk.org/contact/> or call our national office on 0121 559 7168, so that we can direct you to the right person. God bless you all.

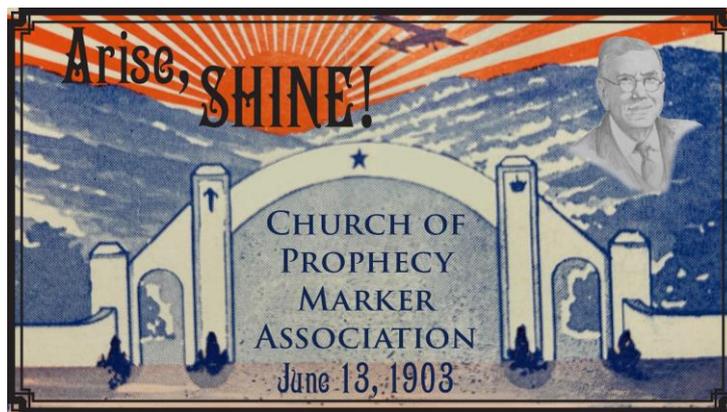


CPMA/BTI BOOSTS

Stuart Brown -
National CPMA & BTI Co-ordinator

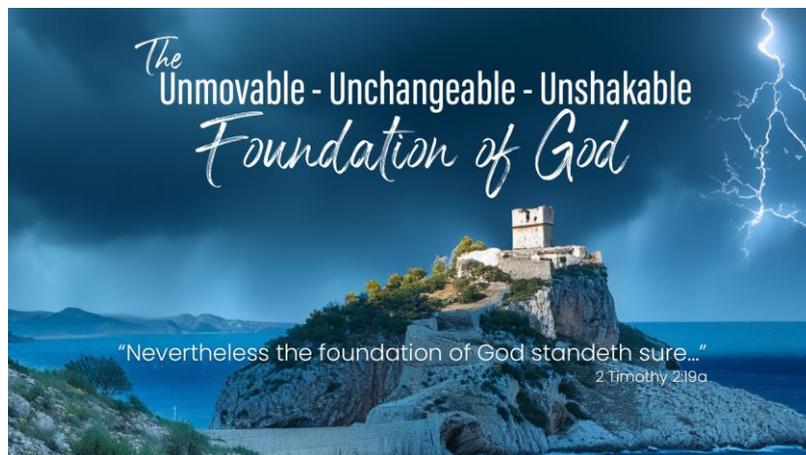
The general Church of Prophecy Marker Association theme for the assembly year 2024-2025 is:

'Arise, SHINE!'
(Isaiah 60:1, Psalm 132:6)



The general Bible Institute theme for the assembly year 2024-2025 is:

'The Unmovable-Unchangeable-Unshakeable Foundation of God'
(2 Timothy 2:19a)



Hello, from the CPMA department.

I pray all of us are doing our best to be living markers for Jesus and His Church. I pray that we are all shining brighter than ever. I also want to thank you for your prayers. Your support and love is of great value and encouragement to me!

I want to use this article to boost our fundraising for the Tabernacle project. Alongside the funds given by the membership, we have been encouraged to also seek donations from outside the Church. If each of us who are able would make a link with: a company, small/large businesses, family and friends, neighbours etc, I believe that England can make a considerable contribution to the Tabernacle fund. We will be able with guidance from the Lord in prayer and a good zeal for the work. June is the key ingathering month for Tabernacle fundraising and what a blessing it would be for us to be able to add to the worldwide pot for The Church of God!

The ongoing works scheduled and planned for Benton Pike, are estimated to run into the millions. We have seen God bless the Church when we step out in faith and add works to it, so let us think big, expect big and work towards a big inflow of finances. We have this exciting opportunity to see The Church of God advance in our work to build and continue with the Great Commission given to us, without having to be subject or limited to conditions set by those around us. What a blessing it will be for souls to come to us during Assembly events, instead of us going to them.

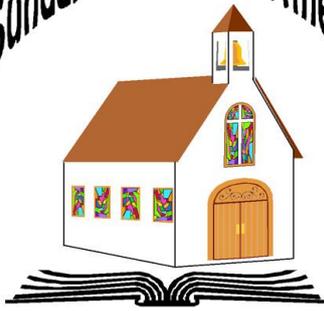
Please feel free to share with me, if you have any ideas or thoughts around fundraising for the building of the Tabernacle. The Tabernacle will be a significant and historical marker for The Church of God in these last days! God bless you.

<u>FULL ACRE</u>	<u>HALF ACRE</u>	<u>QUARTER ACRE</u>
\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500
£7,630	£3,820	£1,910

Heritage Acres

30 people £20pm until June would raise £4800/\$6298

Sunday School Department



The Church of God

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOOST

Jennifer Thompson - National Sunday School Co-ordinator

The general Sunday School theme for the assembly year 2024-2025 is:

'Paths of Light – the Altar Encounter'

(Psalm 119:105)

Greetings from the Sunday School department.

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

²⁵ Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

²⁶ Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

(Hebrews 11:24-26)

Moses refused the riches of Egypt to lead God's people. For him to make that choice was not an easy one but he obeyed the call by faith. We must trust God that His ways are better than ours, and let Him guide our steps. We are assured that no matter how difficult and dark the path may be; His light will always guide us.

Amen.

Sunday School announcements:

Vacation Bible School – further details to be announced.



WMB BOOST

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

The continuing general Women's Missionary Band theme for the assembly year 2024-2025 is:

'Unstoppable!'

(St. Mark 16:15)



Excerpts from Jesus' prayer in St. John 17:1-23:

6. *'...and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.'*

A key to being unstoppable, is to keep the Word of God, read it, understand it, live it, practice it and let God's Word become our way of life.

8. *'...they have believed that thou didst send me.'*

Belief in who Christ is, is paramount.

9. *'I pray for them: I pray not for the world...'*

If Jesus did not pray for the world, why do we then want to be a part of the world? We can avoid worldly entanglements because Jesus prayed for us.

11. *'...keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me... that they may be one, as we are.'* Jesus was praying to His Father for us. 23. *'...that they may be made perfect in one...'*

We cannot afford to let anything come between us as members because Jesus' prayer was for oneness.

13. *'...that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.'* 14. *'I have given them thy word...'*

When we have the Word of God in us, we will have joy.

15. *'I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.'*

As long as we are alive and in the world, we are subject to the hand of the evil one. With God's blood upon us, the evil will pass over us.

God bless you – continue to pray one for another and continue to be unstoppable in God's service.

WMB Diary for 2024-2025

19th to 22nd June 2025 - International Ladies Retreat.

NATIONAL FAMILY CAMP 2025

**‘Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith,
as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.’**
(Colossians 2:7)

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

Once again, we had another wonderful, blessed week at National Family Camp in February 2025. It was the first time back to Whitemoor Lakes since the 2019. I have to say, it felt good to be back.

The Scriptures that made up the theme of Camp challenged us through the week to look at our part in being rooted and stablished in the Lord.

We were blessed to have the time to spend in fellowship, in prayer and learning. I believe God is asking us to read His Word, know it, and live it. With all that is going on right now, He has provided the knowledge and given us foresight into end time events. Let’s make room and time for Him.

Wonderful messages and workshops were presented by our Camp workers. Some pictures are below to remind us of the wonderful time we had.



**We had the Zip Wire activity at night!
A cold, but enjoyable experience for
the willing.**



Our Camp workers with their first timers, establishing roots early!



Family Camp Praise and Worship by the fire 2025!

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

God willing, we can be back in 2026. We are looking at provisional dates for the 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?

United in Mission: A Night of Fellowship, Worship and Fundraising for World Missions

Every year, The Church of God conducts two World Mission Drives during the months of October and March. During these drives, the Church raises missionary funds which are used to keep our mission workers on the field, spreading the gospel to a lost and dying world. In our giving, we do our part towards the global work of the Church as commissioned by Jesus to *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...”* (St. Matthew 28:19-20a).

In order to boost this special offering, the WMB Department at Long Lane held a fundraising evening on the 9th March, inviting all of our local churches along-side friends and family. By the end of the evening, we could testify that the Lord was truly with us. The service began with prayer, scripture readings and worship. We were encouraged to give through an extract from an Evening Light article by our General Overseer Bishop Oscar Pimentel and were boosted by a special video message sent to us by our General WMB Coordinator Sister Sharon Griffin.

The items on the programme were a blessing with songs from our ‘WMB Leaders Chorale’, ‘Pastors’ Chorale’, Long Lane Brothers and our Golden Agers. As the Golden Agers sang ‘Hold the Fort’, the song was sooo sweet, that an encore was called and there wasn’t one Church Flag left on the shelf as we waved them and gave glory to God. I do believe a Golden Agers Choir has been born! Sister Novlet shared an inspired and interactive poem that she had penned on the women of the Bible. We also had a special song by Brother Chad with Brother Benaiah on drums, and a musical rendition of “God is So Good” by Sister Renae on keyboard.

Our dear brethren contributed further towards the evening through making home-made items which were auctioned to raise missionary funds. Pastor Bennett’s Ginger Beer, Sister Nickesia’s Sorrel, Brother Stuart’s hominy corn porridge and Brother Chad’s kite drew many bids from the congregation, who gave willingly and cheerfully towards the work of the Lord. The evening then ended in worship as we sang “You are God Alone”, giving our unchangeable, unshakeable, unstoppable God all the praise.



After service, more funds were raised through food sales, and London’s WMB department also sold gorgeous home-made candles. There is so much talent to be found in The Church of God! Over £600 was raised for World Missions that night and all the glory belongs to the Lord.

**Sister Claudine Brown
Reporter**

JESUS
PAID IT ALL

SIN	PAID
SHAME	PAID
LIES	PAID
IMMORALITY	PAID
UNBELIEF	PAID
ENVY AND PRIDE	PAID
HATE	PAID
SICKNESS	PAID
GREED	PAID

TOTAL DUE	0.00
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PAID IN FULL ON THE CROSS

HE IS RISEN. HE IS RISEN INDEED.



Special Note:

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