



# The Banner of Truth®

International Voice of The Church of God of North Carolina

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## Happy New Year!

*And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.*

Genesis 1:14-18

**Courtesy Picture from Tina Griffitt's Back Yard  
Mansfield, OH**

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# Editorial: 2019 A NEW YEAR FOR HOPE AND PROSPERITY

*International Overseer*  
~John A. Wilkins, Jr.~

The political parties are at it in this New Year. One has no hope of much of anything for the average American and the other one is attempting to push for a greater America for everyone. You have the right to believe the one you trust and desire to support, but keep this in mind neither party represents the Theocratic Government of God. It is under this government that the world will fall when Jesus sets up His kingdom here to rule and reign for 1000 years. Do you still believe this and are you really waiting for Him to return in power and Kingship upon this earth?

His power and Kingship can be trusted and depended upon. The Bible is our guide and roadmap and we must not neglect to read it and put our complete trust in Him.

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6-7*

This is so important to each of us as we look at our country divided with our politicians all screaming at each other with no effort to work together for the good of the whole country. Let us pray for the Lord to help us individually to look up, “**Our redemption draweth nigh.**”

**It's Snowing!**

## OUR HOPE IS IN THE LORD AND HE WILL PROSPER US! □

### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

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Here are 365 blank pages.  
Record Daily God's goodness  
on each page.

2019



Happy  
New  
Year





# “THE BRIDE IN WAITING”

*International Overseer  
John A. Wilkins, Jr.*

*And I John saw the holy city  
new Jerusalem, coming down  
from God out of heaven, pre-  
pared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

Revelation 21:2

When you travel by a wedding that is in progress and you spot the Bride outside about to enter you say in your mind, “She is so beautiful” and her radiant beauty kind of leaves you almost breathless. When really all you have seen is the beautiful white gown which represents her purity and love for the groom. A wedding gets the attention of all who pass by. It is a very special occasion and just grabs your attention. The Bride is always very nervous and excited as she waits for the ceremony to begin. There is just something about a wedding that commands the attention of everyone to be their best as a participant. God knew this about man when He designed His Church as “The Bride of Christ,” because there are so many similarities between the marriage of a man and woman and the marriage of Christ and His Church. When we come into His Church it is by covenant and He places us in the Body as it pleases Him.

*For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy  
sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth  
over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.*

Isaiah 62:5

*But now hath God set the members every one of  
them in the body, as it hath pleased him.*

1 Corinthians 12:18



Before we go any farther we need to understand the wedding as it was during Jesus time on earth. The Bible is better understood as it relates to the wedding if we use the Jewish wedding as a guide. The Jewish Wedding was quite different than our Western Culture.

1. The prospective Jewish groom would travel from his Father's house to the home of the prospective bride.
2. The father of the bride would negotiate with the bride groom the price to be paid to purchase the bride.
3. A covenant relationship was established between the two who were going to be married. At this time she was set apart exclusively for the bridegroom. They were in fact, considered for all practical purposes husband and wife at this time.
4. To seal the covenant, a cup of wine was drunk by the groom and the bride. This symbolized their acceptance of the covenant.
5. The groom then returned to his father's house for a period of separation, which lasted approximately twelve months.
6. During the period of separation the groom was preparing a place in his father's house, and the bride was gathering her garments in preparation for his return.
7. After the period of separation the groom and his wedding party would leave the father's house and form a procession in the bride's home. Since the bride was not sure of the exact hour in which he would come, his coming was announced by a shout, **“Behold the bridegroom cometh.”**
8. The bride groom would return to the father's house for a wedding feast that would last seven days. At the wedding feast the bride and groom would enter the bridal chamber.
9. At the end of the feast a marriage supper would be held in which the bride was unveiled and presented to the wedding party.

The similarity between the order of events and the description of the relationship between Christ and the Church is startling to say the least. Jesus left His Father's house in heaven and came to the earth to gain a

bride for Himself (Ephesians 5:25-28). The price which was to be made was the blood of Jesus Christ Himself (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20). A covenant relationship was then established between Christ and the Church (John 17:14). This covenant was sealed by the blood of Jesus (Acts 20:28). Christ then ascended to His Father's house to prepare for the bride (John 14:2). While He is gone the Church is perfecting herself in preparation of the coming wedding (Ephesians 4:11-13). At the proper time the Son will return with a procession of heavenly hosts and take Her to Himself (John 14:3). His coming will be announced by the cry, **"Behold the bridegroom cometh,"** (Matthew 25:6) and the bride with Her attendants will go out to meet him. At that time the Church and Her Lord enter into everlasting communion (1 Thessalonians 4:17). Finally, at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, She will be presented as the Bride of Christ (Revelation 19:7-9).

May God give us a vision of all of this, if we don't have one and sharpen all of our visions that we might see what all of this means? One must have a vision of The Church as the Bride of Christ from the Holy Scriptures, for without one the people perish. Many have left The Church of God, because their vision has gotten poor and faded, but thanks to God I still have one! He is coming for His Bride and it won't be long now. Just look at the world and the United States of America as our judges and officials give way to the doctors, mothers and shysters as they get approval to stick ice picks through the heart of newborn living babies with no regards for their rights as human beings. You do not even have to have a doctor do these murders now. God is calling us to come together and be the Church that He designed for His Bride. No, every Christian is not a part of His Church! If you were born into it then you would have to be unborn to get out of it which makes absolutely no sense. His Church must be entered by Covenant just as the Jewish wedding.

Jesus established Her while He was here on earth.

*And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils: And Simon he surnamed Peter; And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and*

*he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder: And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite, And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house. And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself. Mark 3:13-21*

These men were commissioned to care for His Church so they reached the entire known world with His Gospel and the Church was growing so fast that the Roman Emperor Constantine saw the Bishops as a threat to the Empire and called the Council of Nicaea to determine how to control them. This council met and as they accepted the rulings of this council, they declined to be The Church of God of the Bible and became the Roman Catholic Church. This plunged The Church of God into darkness and covered Her over with creeds and doctrine which rendered Her inoperable under Theocracy. She was not destroyed, just covered over and out of sight until June 13<sup>th</sup> of 1903 when she came forth in Cherokee County, North Carolina. Time will not permit us to go into all of this, but She is still functioning today as The Church of God of North Carolina and our former General Overseers, Bishop A. J. Tomlinson and M. A. Tomlinson would be proud if they could see Her today supporting the same doctrine as they both taught them. The church that resulted at the passing of Bishop M. A. Tomlinson doesn't teach anything that they taught. About the only thing they kept was the name, but it takes more than the name to be His Church. You must keep the doctrine and practice under theocratic government.

A Bride must get ready for the marriage so He left us to occupy until He comes. Our job is to stand firm and practice the things that Christ taught us to do, practice and teach without change. No man among us has the authority or power to change one thing that Christ taught us to do.

*And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely. And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; yea,*

*I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the LORD. And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the LORD, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth; And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel. And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God. Hosea 2:18-23*

God will protect His Bride forever in whatever state She is in for the marriage that is to come. When the Jewish man was espoused to the young lady she was his Bride from that time on and if she should find another and break away from the first it was considered spiritual adultery and they received punishment for it. We are His forever and He will protect us, because of the covenant that we have made with Him and Him with us. Don't worry everything will be alright very soon! As a matter of fact it is alright now! He knows our every move and we are being led by His strong hand.

*For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name. Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God. Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the LORD delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married. For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee. I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence, And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth. The LORD hath sworn by his right hand, and by the arm of his strength, Surely I will no more give thy corn to be meat for thine enemies; and the sons of the stranger shall not drink thy wine, for the which thou hast laboured: But they that have gath-*

*ered it shall eat it, and praise the LORD; and they that have brought it together shall drink it in the courts of my holiness. and preparing the people for it Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people. Behold, the LORD hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken. Isaiah 62:1-12*

Now I feel sorry for those who think we will fail and the Church will be destroyed by Satan. He doesn't have a chance at destroying what God is building for Himself. This is His house not my house, not your house and not anyone else's house. It was Jesus who said, "... I will build my Church." He took great care of the Early Church and He is taking excellent care of Her today.

*Thou art beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem, terrible as an army with banners. Turn away thine eyes from me, for they have overcome me: thy hair is as a flock of goats that appear from Gilead. Thy teeth are as a flock of sheep which go up from the washing, whereof every one beareth twins, and there is not one barren among them. As a piece of a pomegranate are thy temples within thy locks. There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number. My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her. Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners? Song of Solomon 6:4-10*

Solomon saw Her in Her radiant glory and beautifully adorned for the groom. Those who have redesigned what God left us with will have some explaining to do when they see Jesus. He told us to keep it THE CHURCH OF GOD with His design in place until He comes for us. Many have jazzed up the music torn down the cross and put up bright lights that make you think you are in some bar as they dance around so proud of their accomplishments. The world has been added without regard to the shining Holy Ghost that used to radiate from the faces of the entire Body. The

sparkle of the world is not the same as the glow of the Holy Ghost and without the power there is a problem that no worldly figure can fix. The oil has leaked out of many lamps, but they still call themselves CHURCH OF GOD and they put on a pretty show with all their dancing girls and fancy fixings, but they have no power with God to speak of. One of these days a cry will be made, **“Behold the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him”** but they will have no oil in their lamps. Those who give up Jesus for the power, glitter and prestige of the world are making a serious mistake and they will be held accountable, they will not enter the eternal joys of the Lord without repentance and turning back to the Lord.

*Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. 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. And 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. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.* Matthew 25:1-13

I recently visited with a leader of one of the big churches and it was a cold visit without the normal feeling of the spirit and the presence of the Holy Ghost that I had expected. You can't fake it—It must be real! God help us to return to Him with our hands up in surrender to His will for our lives and our spirits surrendered to Him. Someone has said, “Well, I am going to wait until the Lord fixes it.” It will never be fixed as long as worldly men continue to head the churches of today with their iron fist and fleshly spirits to guide them. Please do not worry about His Bride, because She will be ready and no man can stop Her.

*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.* Ephesians 5:24-32

The Bride is getting ready to make some noise; She is getting ready for the return of the groom for the marriage party to begin. Stay in tune with Jesus and wait for Him to do His thing with His Bride in Her preparation for the wedding and its finality. The Bible says that “... His wife hath made herself ready.” Revelation 19:7b “The Bride In Waiting”, is our status today, but wait until the sound from Heaven comes, “Behold the bridegroom cometh, go ye out to meet Him”

*And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 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. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.* Revelation 19:5-9

We will not be quiet at this time, so if you can't stand the noise you should not come to the marriage of the Lamb. This will be an awesome time for all who have loved God and are invited to this feast.

*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed*



away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Revelation 21:1-2

*And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; Revelation 21:9-11*

His Bride will be presented to Him as a chaste virgin without spot, blemish or any such thing.

*For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.* 2 Corinthians 11:2

Halleluiah to the Lamb! The wedding is about to take place are you ready? Have you on the wedding garment? Is your life washed clean by the washing of the Word? If so we will all meet around Jesus someday soon, because He is coming for us and I want to be ready. □

## **“THE BRIDE IN WAITING”**



## A TIME TO EVERY PURPOSE

**We Must Move As God Moves  
Gates Are Being Opened**



*"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)*

**G**od does not administer His divine program for earth in a haphazard manner. Disorder and disarray are not of His nature. He is a God of order. The Prophet Hosea wrote, "His going forth is *prepared as the morning*." (Hosea 6:3) Through the orderly arrangement of the planets which orbit in the solar system, morning follows night with perfect timing. Even so, God's program on this earth is geared to a definite time schedule.

I feel it is good that we be reminded of the necessity of moving with God as He moves. We must be attentive to His voice. His people are not to be characterized by dullness or listlessness. Rather they are to be alert, sensitive, discerning the opportunities afforded them by time and circumstances. We must know the times.

"But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

"But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

"Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober." (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6)

As children of light we must not only be cognizant of the events which mark the time for the Lord's return, which even now is being clearly signalled; we must also recognize our times of opportunities for advancing our preparations for His appearing.

*"God moves upon men, even those whose hearts are not right to create situations suitable for His purposes."*



God moves upon men, even upon those whose hearts are not right to create situations suitable for His purposes. When the Jewish people dwelt in Babylonian captivity and Jerusalem was in ruins, the hopes for God's people appeared bleak. But Jeremiah had prophesied not only of their captivity in Babylon; he foretold the date of their return by assigning to the captivity a duration of seventy years. "And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon *seventy years*." (Jeremiah 25:11) God, through Isaiah had spoken, "That *saith of Cyrus*, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid." (Isaiah 44:28) More than a hundred years later *Cyrus, king of Persia* made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and put it in writing, saying: "Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the Lord God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The Lord his God be with him, and let him go up." (2 Chronicles 36:23)

*"At the set time God created a political climate favorable . . . to rebuild the walls of the city."*

At the set time God created a political climate favorable for Ezra, Nehemiah, and others to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and restore the worship of Jehovah, and to rebuild the walls of the city. It was necessary for God to soften and prepare the hearts of kings for this to be accomplished. At the same time it was necessary for God's people to recognize what was happening and move as God was moving.

Even as they worked they were not spared opposi-



tion from those who opposed their efforts. They faced dangers every day.

"And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah.

"They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.

"For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me.

"So we labored in the work: and half of them held the spears from the rising of the morning till the stars appeared.

"Likewise at the same time said I unto the people, Let every one with his servant lodge within Jerusalem, that in the night they may be a guard to us, and labour on the day.

"So neither I, nor my brethren, nor my servants, nor the men of the guard which followed me, none of us put off our clothes, saving that every one put them off for washing." (Nehemiah 4:16-18, 21-23)

*"What caused them to work with such fervency night and day as to never take off their clothes except for washing."*

What prompted this kind of dedication? What caused them to work with such fervency night and day as to never take off their clothes except for washing? They no doubt felt the urgency of working while the "political climate" was right. After all, their adversaries had succeeded in getting the work on the temple suspended some time before when King Artaxerxes had been persuaded by their enemies that they were a rebellious, seditious people. Yes, the time was ripe, and they finished the wall because the people had a mind to work. God had unlocked closed doors and they were moving with the opportunity given them.

Right now we can see the hand of God at work, opening doors of opportunity for the Church to go through. The prophet cried, "Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in." (Isaiah 26:2) This is a thrilling time for the nation which is dedicated to truth. Gates are opening at God's commands, and we must enter in

to carry the message of truth to those who have been waiting so long to hear. It is wonderful to have the truth and to know the truth.

In the country of Ghana where a door was recently opened and we were ready to enter, five thousand members were brought into the Church by covenant in two days. At this time the overseer there is following up this momentous occurrence by taking the message of the Church throughout his country and acquainting them with the covenant whereby they, too, can become members of the Body of Christ. In all probability there will be thousands of others joining the Church there right away. In fact, I suppose they are now joining almost daily. Other fields are also ripe to harvest and gates are swinging open.

*"We must not make the mistake of those citizens of Jerusalem over whom Jesus wept."*

There is a time to every purpose which God has before determined. He has set a time to especially favor His Church. "For the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come." (Psalm 102:13) Are we approaching that time? Oh, we must stir ourselves to be alert and ready to move with the moving of God! We must not make the mistake of those citizens of Jerusalem over whom Jesus wept because they knew not the time of their visitation.

We must rather be like the children of Issachar. "And the children of Issachar, which were *men that had understanding of the times*, to know what Israel ought to do." (1 Chronicles 12:32) Paul wrote in Romans 13:11, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep." If there are any among us who are asleep they must be awakened. Sleepers do not belong in Zion! People who are asleep cannot tell time; and they cannot sense nor seize their opportunities.

The Bible gives the story of ten virgins, all of whom slumbered and slept. But we do not believe these are representative of the Church. In that story somebody was awake to make the midnight cry. This had to be somebody who knew when the bridegroom was coming—someone who knew the time. In reality the maker of this cry will have heeded the admonition of Peter who wrote, "Be sober, be vigilant." (1 Peter 5:8) To be vigilant is to be awake and watchful in a time when others are sleeping. We, therefore, cannot sleep as do others. We have a unique responsibility to remain alert and watchful. We must know the time!



# Who We Are and Whose We Are

Dolores Yost  
New Ellenton, SC



2 Chronicles 7:14-16

*If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place. For now have I chosen and sanctified this house, that my name may be there for ever: and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.*

God spoke these words to Solomon and all Israel, upon the completion, dedication and consecration of the house of God, the temple. Although thousands of years have passed since that time, His words are perpetual and now speak to His house, The Church of God today. By the blood that Jesus shed, the purchase price, for His Church, we have been grafted in and are by covenant, also His chosen people.

Paul warns the New Testament Church in  
Romans 11: 17, 19-21

*And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.*

God never destroys without a warning but always gives His people the option to change.

2 Chronicles 7:19-22 *But if ye turn away, and forsake my statutes and my commandments, which I have set before you, and shall go and serve other gods, and worship them; Then will I pluck them up by the roots out of my land which I have given them; and this house, which I have sanctified for my name, will I cast out of my sight, and will make*

*it to be a proverb and a by-word among all nations. And this house, which is high, shall be an astonishment to every one that passeth by it; so that he shall say, Why hath the LORD done thus unto this land, and unto this house? And it shall be answered, Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold on other gods, and worshipped them, and served them: therefore hath he brought all this evil upon them.*

Children, we cannot avoid examining this nation in which we live, in the light of Gods Word, to see how far this United States has fallen away from God. Not this nation only, but many nations of the world. There is an enormous amount of news coverage and social media being transmitted daily all around the world. Technology is growing every hour and information can be sent and received in a matter of seconds. Praise God for all that are using it to promote the gospel of Christ Jesus. This is a wonderful means to reach all the world, for one exception, and that is what is called the 10-40 window. However, these people will receive the message of salvation one way or another! God has chosen and commissioned The Church to finish the work and it will be done! Amen!

1 Peter 2:9-10 *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.*

The Church is so privileged to be the one, now called and entrusted with the glorious gospel of Jesus. No one else can do this but the people of God. We must not fail in this calling and we should feel an enormous responsibility to carry out and finish the work! God expects His people to be a reflection of His Son that the world may know that there is a God in heaven that is the answer to man's every need. He is a

great king, Honor Him! It is paramount that His teaching and commandments are kept and performed as was required by Israel, and now His Church.

It is good that each one of His people would seriously consider what being His entails. That requires us to know **who we are and whose we are**. We cannot become complacent and comfortable with the way many are living out their Christian walk. Some just do what is thought to be right, without considering what God has mandated in His Word for His people to be, and to do, which includes the rulings of the General Assembly. His will, precepts, teachings, and commandments are what we must adhere to. It is easy to be influenced to do what all others are doing, yet we know that our lives are to be lived by doing not what we consider to be right, but by knowing what is expected of us to maintain unity. Brother Hillard Foster is quoted as saying "It's Not Who's Right, but What's Right!" We must keep the mindset to live our lives unspotted by the sins of the world, to ensure that the standard of holiness does not deteriorate. We are bought with a price, and set apart. Paul drives this point home again.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ***What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.***

1 Thessalonians 4:7 ***For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.***

In this verse Paul makes it clear where holy living is ultimately taking us. Won't it be wonderful when we finally all arrive at this place in Christ Jesus?

Ephesians 4:13 ***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:***

Being in unity, of the same mind, working together as one, under covenant will surely get us there! Amen, We are not to hold grudges against one another or have unforgiveness in our hearts. Unity will produce bountiful fruit in the body. The fruit of peace growth, strength, joy and keep us accountable to God and His teachings. Unity produces trust and safety and our covenant will nail us down to obedience and love for each other!

Jesus prayed to the Father for unity and oneness among His children as well as with God and Himself, before being offered up.

John 17:11 ***And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.***

Knowing the desire of His heart for us to be in unity and the price that He sacrificed, shows us how very much He loves His people. He has called us to labor together with God and each other, in unity. Being divided can only bring utter destruction. As with Israel He wants a house that is not broken and fragmented. Let His people be a loving and forgiving people after His own heart. We must come together as one, realizing that we can forgive one another's shortcomings.

Children, we have not yet reached perfection, however, we are reaching and striving to attain that place in Christ Jesus our Lord. This may sound like a silly analogy, but indulge and old Christian woman's folly for a moment. You may like a cup of coffee and some tasty doughnuts; I may rather enjoy hot tea with buttered toast. My point simply being, we all have different ideas, likes and dislikes. We can never disagree on the doctrine and all the things He has mandated in His Word, for us to obey, teach and preach. His House can only stand if we are firmly standing in unity and obedience. We may leave out the doughnuts or toast, but we had better be sure that we never forsake God's Word. An old Rabbi once said "A bird may love a fish, but they cannot build a house together: Amen

Jesus addressed in Matthew 12:25, Mark 3:25, and in Luke 11:17 the one that is responsible for disunity. Read those scriptures and see who is to blame. Satan. A house/kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. If we want to know how the future will go, look back at the past. No one wants a repeat performance of the devils work! Amen Saints? We must strive for unity in the body of Christ. Paul instructs the New Testament Church. We must consider **who we are, and whose we are**. The world is watching, just looking for an opportunity to find fault. Let's show them the love, unity and kindness that we have for one another, or else we cannot win them to Christ!

Colossians 3:12-17 *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

Again Paul expresses to the Church at Ephesus the need and importance of unity in the Body, and in lowliness and meekness.

Ephesians 4: 1-6 *1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

Children we do not have the right to condemn one another. God is our JUDGE and He alone has that authority to do that. Satan is the one who goes before God to condemn us. He does not have the right, but takes great pleasure to accuse us of all sorts of things. Be sure that each of us keep ourselves through the sanctifying blood of Christ that keeps us clean and sinless, so that no accusation will hold. From the dawn of time, Satan has had an agenda to destroy God's people. Except for a very small Remnant, all of Israel would have been lost. God may choose again to redeem by a Remnant. Whatever and however He decides, I want to be a part of that number! How about you? Aren't you thankful that God has put everything in His Word to instruct each of us? All we will ever need to prepare us and ensure that we are equipped for life is in His Word. It will be all that we need to get to "the other side."

2 Timothy 3: 16, 17 *All scripture is given by*

*inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

Sometimes our Father finds it necessary to correct and rebuke us if He sees us getting out of line. He chastises us in love and gently, but firmly returns us to where we belong. That's just what loving Fathers do to keep their children safe. He also equips us for every spiritual battle by providing us with protection from head to toe. Notice that it's up to us to put on our protection; it's our responsibility to dress ourselves as adult children of God.

Ephesians 6: 10-18 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

We are warriors and our Champion goes with us into the battle, Amen! I believe that this year 2019, will find The Church of God on the front of the hottest battle. I believe the God of David, when he went down in the valley of Elah to fight Goliath, the giant, will be with us and we will see victory! We have come through many great battles already and we will face many more, but not alone, children of God. Remember **WHO WE ARE and WHOSE WE ARE**. This may be our finest year yet, because we are not just a type of the Church, We are The Church of God. Prepare Saints! Trust and pray! We will be persecuted. Are you ready? Look at the world around us, the battle is quickly shaping up. Stay in unity, co-labor with God, for the best is yet to come. □



## A NEW YEAR PRAYER

Dear Master, for this coming year  
Just one request I bring;  
I do not pray for happiness  
Or any earthly thing;  
I do not ask to understand  
The way Thou leadest me—  
But this I ask: Teach me to do  
The thing that pleaseth Thee.

A quiet lot in life is mine,  
Made up of little things;  
Teach me to do as unto Thee  
The duties each day brings.  
Faithful in that which is the least,  
Dear Master, I would be  
Thus making all my daily work  
The thing that pleaseth Thee.

I want to know Thy guiding voice  
In every word I say.  
Dear Master, take these lips of mine  
And keep them day by day  
From foolish talking, angry words,  
And evil-speaking free;  
Teach me, that I may ever speak  
The thing that pleaseth Thee.

Not only what to do and say  
Would I be daily taught;  
I ask Thee so to cleanse my heart,  
And purify each thought,  
That every thought and every wish  
May pure and holy be;  
I want in everything to be  
The thing that pleaseth Thee.

I want to know Thy guiding voice,  
To walk with Thee each day;  
Dear Master, make me swift to hear,  
And ready to obey;  
And thus the year I now begin  
A happy year will be,  
If I am seeking just to do  
The thing that pleaseth Thee.

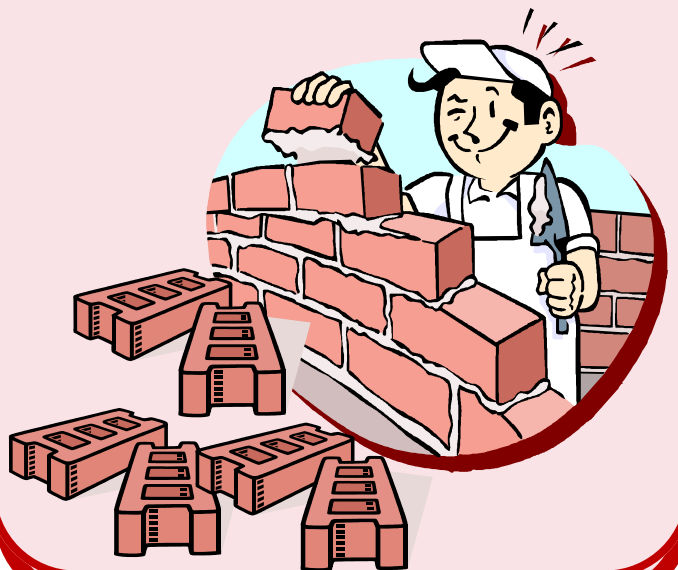
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## SPECIAL THANKS TO “ALL”

who Participate in the  
**Brick Plan**  
that supports your  
International Headquarters.



**LET US KEEP WORKING  
AND BUILDING  
THE CHURCH OF GOD.**





# Panning For Gold

Elizabeth Wilkins  
International Director



**Gold** is a noble metal. **Gold** has unique physical chemical characteristics that make it very **valuable**. **Gold** has the highest corrosion resistance of all the metals and it is corroded only by a mixture of nitric and hydrochloric acid.

For centuries people around the world have been fixated on finding **gold** or obtaining **Gold**. Many documentaries have been written about this precious metal called **gold**. Many lives have been lost searching for this material. I remember as a child watching old western films, about people finding **gold**. They were always so excited and always afraid someone would steal it, or possibly kill them and take it away. They would go as quickly and fast as they could to “stake their claim” of the place they had found it.

**Gold** is the most malleable and ductile of all the metals. **Malleable metal** is capable of being extended, shaped, changed, or pressed into various shapes by pounding or hammering it without breaking. **Ductile metal** is able to be drawn out into a thin wire, able to be deformed without losing toughness; pliable, not brittle.

As valuable as gold is to man kind, we are more valuable and precious to the Lord than any amount of

**Gold**. I believe the Lord is **Panning for gold** today. He is looking and searching for people who are willing to go through the fire, to be tried and tested for Him.

**Peter warned us of trials to come. Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:** 1 Peter 4:12

**Paul said...Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.** 1 Corinthians 3:13

**Peter said...That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of **gold** that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:**

1 Peter 1: 7-8

**Pure Gold** is capable of being shaped, changed or pressed into various shapes and is able to be drawn out into a thin wire, able to be deformed without losing toughness; pliable, and not brittle.

**Job said of his test...But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as **gold**.** Job 23:10

**James said...My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.** James 1:2,-3, 12



**The Lord has left us with the promise... There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.** 1 Corinthians 10:13

Yes, we will be tried, tempted and tested, but we will not bend, we will not break, we will not burn. We will become as **Pure Gold** for the Lord because, He will be the fourth man in the fire with us. Read Daniel 3: 1-30

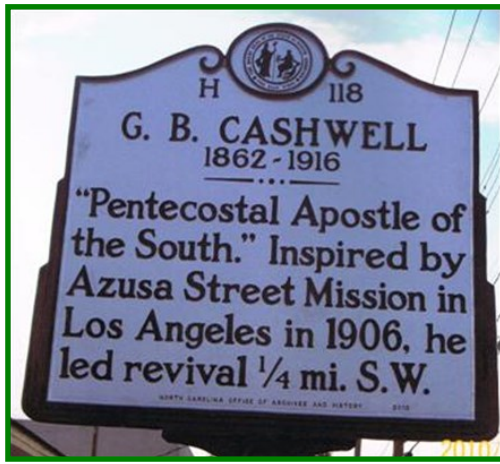
**Remember...**

**MARCH WORLD MISSION'S! □**

# Have You Joined The CPMA This 2019 New Year?

## CPMA Markers

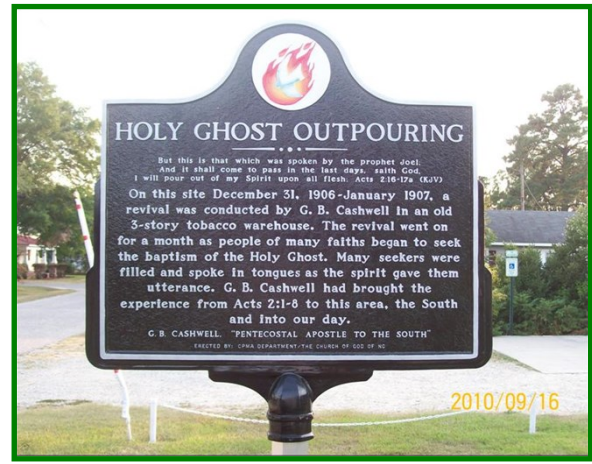
### Located in Dunn, NC



This nice marker was erected by the **Great State of North Carolina** on the corner of Wilson Avenue to direct traffic to the site of the great revival held only 1/4 mile South West from the sign on the same Street. We are so proud of what the state historical sign department has done to help mark the spot. It was our distinguished honor to dedicate this sign for them on the same day our sign was dedicated. One of our distinguished guests, **North Carolina Senator Harris Blake** unveiled the beautiful marker.

God has blessed The Church of God again with these two beautiful markers that preach day and night to thousands of people who drive by them. One man said that he had driven 70 plus miles one way just to read the signs for himself. The CPMA marks and beautifies places of biblical interest throughout the world and this is just one of them. If you want to join with us in this effort it will cost you only \$20.00 per year and your membership runs from January to December each year. This is our department and we own the exclusive rights to it under the laws of the United States of America. This is the Church of Prophecy Marker Association (CPMA) join today!

John A. Wilkins, Jr.  
International Overseer



This marker was erected by the Church of God of North Carolina in Dunn, North Carolina and is maintained by the CPMA Department. It is a lighted sign with a flag pole beside it to display the American Flag which is also maintained by the CPMA. This marker was erected in and is known to us as **“The HOLY GHOST OUTPOURING MEMORIAL MARKER”**. Our guest speaker, **Dr. Vinson Synan**, author of many books on the holiness and Pentecostal movement in the United States, spoke on the historical significance of this site during the dedication. This marker stands on the exact spot where a great revival took place and connects with the great revival known as the Azusa Revival in California. The revival in Dunn was from an old tobacco warehouse and is now known as the Azusa East Revival. The beauty of this marker is being beheld by many around the world as it has been documented on many of the churches web-sites here and some from a great distance as it has been filmed and documented as they all relate to it. Many great preachers and churches came out of this revival and the Holy Ghost Fire continues to burn around the world. Our beloved General Overseer, Bishop A. J. Tomlinson was affected by it and called Bishop G. B. Cashwell to Cleveland to preach and it was during this special meeting that Bishop Tomlinson received the Holy Ghost which set The Church of God on fire. □





# Announcing!!

## 107th International Assembly OF THE CHURCH OF GOD OF NORTH CAROLINA

### September 25-27, 2019

The Assembly will be held at the **Hamilton, Alabama Church located at 12024 Street Highway 19, Hamilton, Alabama 35570**. If you would like to receive information about the location, motels, restaurants or anything about the area just call the host pastor, Brother James Miller and he will be glad to help you. He can be reached at **205-921-3701** or **205-495-3432**. Brother Miller has a beautiful church that will accommodate around 100- 150 people. **The date for the Assembly will be September 25 through September 27, 2019. Our services will begin at 9:00 AM** and will end each evening around 9:00 PM or when the Spirit of the Lord is finished. **There will be a pre-assembly meeting on the 24th and everyone is invited to come for open discussion and for questions regarding the 107th International Assembly.** This meeting is always open for everyone to ask questions or provide suggestions for our headquarters staff so long as it is done in a good spirit with the interest of the entire Church considered. The 24th will be a set up day for the assembly and if you would like to help us be at the church around 9:00 AM to help us unpack and set up everything.

We will have some parking spaces for motorhomes, campers with full hookups near the convention if you will be needing one please let Pastor Miller know as soon as possible.

This is where the business of the Church of God is handled for 24 months at a time so it is a very important meeting for all of us. Please come praying for God to work His will through us for the good of the entire Body of Christ. We will seek God for His wisdom and divine guidance for His Church. □

Brother Wilkins

# **Need A Room for the Assembly?**

## **Make your Reversations Early!**



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**Hamilton, AL 35570**



### **Key West Inn**

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**224 River Road Drive**  
**Hamilton, AL 35570**



### **Hamilton Holiday Motel**

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**315 Bexar Ave. E.**  
**Hamilton, AL 35570**



### **Motel 6**

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