



## *Merry Christmas*

*Merry Christmas to you, the young and the gay;  
★ God guard you and guide in His Perfect way!*

*Merry Christmas to you, the lonely and sad;  
Remember Christ came to make all people glad.*

*Merry Christmas to you, the ones we hold dear;  
★ God bless you and keep you and stay very near!*

*Merry Christmas to you, our neighbors and friends,  
As wider and wider this circle extends.*

*Merry Christmas to you, the stranger within;  
★ May true understanding and friendship begin!*

*Merry Christmas to you, Merry Christmas tonight.  
And deep in each heart may the Star still shine bright!*

*Merry Christmas to you, everyone everywhere;  
★ Peace on earth and good will—this is our prayer!*

*—Phyllis C. Michael*

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## Editorial: Christmas At Our House!

International Overseer  
~John A. Wilkins, Jr.~

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,  
good will toward men. Luke 2:14*

Is your Christmas filled with festivities and visits by friends and family feasting on delicious meals that have been prepared by those who love you? Is it a time for sharing all the good stories of what our God has done for our families in our jobs with raises in pay, promotions and other things to make our lives better? While it is possible that these things are never mentioned, I think it is a time in which these things could be a way of drawing our attention to Christ and His goodness to us and our families as we celebrate His birth as a baby. He was present in the creation and all through the times of the earth being filled with man and God's dealing with him. Jesus really had no beginning and when His birth happened it was the result of God's sending Him as a little baby to live and dwell among men for an example. Once He was grown up, He started a three year ministry reaching out to



men from all walks of life to show us that God was no respecter of persons, but open to all that would receive Him. He was the Word made flesh!

This is the Christmas Story in a nutshell that we need to share this year in "Our House" with every member of our family as we celebrate Him and His marvelous entry on earth. Let us share the true spirit of Christmas with our family as we dig into all the gifts, pie, ham and other wonderful food items. If we are with our families then we are blessed beyond measure so let's celebrate and let Christ bring to us Great Joy and Happiness we will long remember! □



## Merry Christmas!

### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

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# “MANY WAYS, BUT ONE IS GOD’S WAY”

International Overseer  
John A. Wilkins, Jr.



...we have turned every one to his own way; and

*the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.* Isaiah 53:6b

Our God knew that our ways would get us in terrible trouble so, He sent His Son to die on the cross in order to cover our sins that we might have forgiveness. Jesus took all our sins upon Himself, the iniquity of us all. He came to this earth to give us a new way in which we could be saved and have NEW LIFE that we would not have to go our own way, but now we could follow Him and be perfect in Him and His righteousness. We must not continue the path that is our own, because it leads to destruction.

*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*  
Proverbs 14:12

There are many ways that one can go, but there is ONE that is God’s and we need to find it and proceed to go on that straight way in order to please Him, lest we find ourselves in big trouble. When God speaks to us we need to hear Him and take immediate action to go the way He has instructed us. This reminds me of a story from the Bible where God spoke to a man that knew Him and His voice, but after giving it much thought decided to go a different way instead. I am speaking about Jonah who received word from God that he was

to go to Nineveh and cry out against it, because their wickedness had come up before God. Now, keep in mind that Jonah knew this voice and there was no mistaken identity about this message, but Jonah was thinking about how mean and vicious these people were and how this might mean they would be converted and then turn on the people of Israel. He didn’t like the plan so he come up with a new and better way, he would catch a ride from Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, because he wanted to get away from the Lord’s presence as soon as possible. He went to Joppa and found him a ship that was going to Tarshish so he paid the fare and climbed on board. Satan has plans for you to always have a ride to some other place in order to keep you from going the way that God has laid out for you. God says, “Go this way”, but man says, “I’ll go a different way and work extremely hard for the Lord.” Obedience is better than sacrifice and in most cases much easier than all the hard work one encounters when going their own way.

*And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*  
1 Samuel 15:22-23

Once we hear God’s voice we need

to obey and go or stay as He directs, because He will never lead you where His grace will not keep you! Now this does not give you the right to go against the government of His Church, because we are to obey those that have the rule over us in the Lord and if a mistake is made then the Lord will not hold you responsible. God will not send you to China when the overseer needs you to go to Korea. If you become stubborn and rebellious it will get you rejected by God.

Now, it is important to note that Jonah’s choosing his own way did not cause him to perish, but it resulted in a dark and wet journey in the belly of a whale where he could sort out the details of his refusing to obey God. God made the fish very sick and Jonah wound up being spit up on dry land.

Let us look again at the book for the details of this trip.

*Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice. For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head. I went* →

*down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever: yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God. When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD. And the LORD spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land. Jonah 2:1-10*

Nineveh was a three day journey, but Jonah entered the city in only one day and started to preach the Word of the Lord as God had instructed him to do. The people of Nineveh repented and God withheld His judgement on them after Jonah had preached to them. If we begin to rationalize the will of God for us, we will often decide not to do what God has spoken for us to do. This is why we need to immediately respond and do what God has told us to do. Now sometimes people hear from somewhere and they say, "God told me not to pay tithes to headquarters anymore" now that is a lie from the Devil, because His Word is before us and it tells us that this is God's money and we have no right to determine where it goes. He will not speak against His Word, so we know that the message is not from God. We are still talking about a WAY that God has directed us to go and then we go OUR OWN WAY instead. Trouble is ahead for this person! Our work will be much lighter if we will only go God's Way. Every person that dies is not going to heaven according to the Word of God, yet every funeral that I attend, the preacher says, "Well, we

know where he is now; he is in Heaven and is healed of all his problems". Some people are going to Hell. If we do not do the will of our Father and obey His voice we will not go to Heaven no matter what the preacher says.

Jesus said,

*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. Matthew 7:21-27*

Jesus spoke these words and I will trust this instead of what some preacher will tell me while trying to send a sinner to Heaven on false claims. This passage makes us all responsible to obey the Word of God. The preachers of today are trained to make a "Disney Production" out of their Sunday Morning Message while reading from a book that doesn't even sound like the Bible. Please avoid the use of

the bibles they are putting out today because they are not accurate and they are attempting to destroy the KJV Bibles and books for children. Most of the bookstores have to special order the KJV Bibles now. I am attempting to get everyone that reads this to understand that I care about them and I want them to go God's Way and inherit eternal life in Heaven not Hell. Eternal Life will be given to all, the righteous in Heaven and the wicked in Hell!

Every minister in the Church has signed a form which states the following:

As I sign this application, I am voluntarily promising that if accepted, I will cooperate with the principles, doctrines, and practices of The Church of God of NC. I have carefully considered them and see the benefits to be derived from being associated with this organization and desire to become a member of it. I pledge my support to that for which it stands.

I further promise that to the best of my ability, I will comply with the decisions set forth and defined by the International Assembly of this organization.. I will pay to the International Headquarters monthly not less than 10% of my religious income and I will pay 10% from my secular employment and other income into the local church which holds my membership within The Church of God of NC, Inc.

I understand the principle of voluntary cooperation to mean that of my own free will I decided to become a cooperating member of The Church of God of NC, Inc. However, when I have become a member, my cooperation is an →

obligation and not an option.

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Applicant's Signature

We have lost some, who signed this document, but they did not mean it and when counseled about it they ignored the fact that this is a binding obligation in order to keep their ministry with The Church of God of North Carolina. I do not see any problems with this document if I love God and His Church. We must be honest and truthful in order to remain with the Lord's Church. I know that there are a lot of things to consider when coming into the Church, but we must not resist the authority of the International Assembly and Its leaders. We have promised to obey those over us in the Lord.

**Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein. We have an altar, whereof they have no right to eat which serve the tabernacle. For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to**

***God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.***  
Hebrew 13:7-21

The Prodigal Son was an example of one who had it so good that he decided to go his own way and his life was destroyed for a season. He got down so low he could have eaten with the pigs he was feeding, but God spoke to him and he was spared from total destruction when he remembered how those fared in his father's house. He returned to be treated with so much love that his brother became very jealous of him and failed to understand the importance of him returning. The Prodigal decided that his way was the wrong way and obtained victory when he returned home.

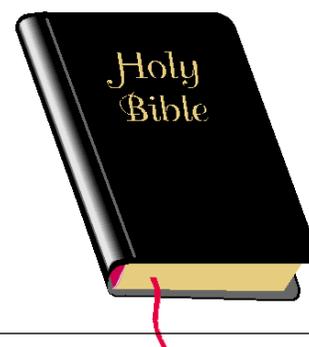
The Bible is true and we are not our own, but we have been bought with a price.

***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 Corinthians 6:19-20

Oh, how dangerous it is to become stubborn, rebellious, self-willed and determined to go your OWN WAY instead of GOD'S WAY. I cringe each time I hear someone say, "I obey God not man." This is one of the first signs of failure in a minister, because we are to be humble and submissive to those over us in the Lord. The Church of God must have humble and submissive people in order to fulfill Her mission on earth. I encourage you today to find His Way and walk therein. This is one of the main things that has caused The Church of God so many problems over the years. People pledge their support, but then will not give it when asked to do so. Those who have gone out from us and started something new will not succeed. There is nothing new, just the old paths and doctrine remain. The only thing they have is the lie they tell about us and the attempt to tear down all that we are trying to do for Christ and His Church all over the world. Please pray for them that they will repent and their souls be returned to the Lord. □

**"MANY WAYS, BUT ONE IS GOD'S WAY"**





## Christmas and the Christian

Cathy Elder  
Hartselle, AL



*Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.*

*Luke 2: 7-11 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

What is the true purpose or meaning of the season we have entered known as Christmas? The *true* answer is found in the scriptures above. The prophets of the Old Testament were moved upon by the Holy Ghost to write of the virgin birth of a child who would become the savior of the whole world. They prophesied as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost, that this child, who would become a man, would suffer much to become the ultimate sacrifice for the saving of the souls of mankind who had become separated from God at the fall of Adam.

*Romans 5:17 For if by one man's offence (Adam) death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.*

Remember the words of the prophet **Isaiah** in chapter **53:3-5** *He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

Oh, how thankful we should be for this wonderful gift of God! Paul says it this way in II Corinthians 9:15 **Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.** That means that the gift we have received from God through Christ is indescribable. It cannot be expounded upon in full. I love that old song "Joy Unspeakable" "Oh, it is joy unspeakable and full of glory, full of glory, full of glory, it is joy unspeakable and full of glory and the half has never yet been told" it goes on to say. Can you imagine the joy, after they got over the initial fright, of the shepherds that night when the angel of the Lord appeared to them as they were carrying on their routine of caring for the sheep and then gave them the message of the birth of the savior. The angel said he had some good news of great joy which would be to all people. God was very mindful of those shepherds and sent His angel, and a few minutes later a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God. God knows all who belong to Him this very day, and as we seek after Him, He will, by the Holy Ghost, reveal things unto us as we await His second coming! Continue reading in the second chapter of Luke and you will find that when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, the Bible speaks about a man named Simeon. The Bible describes this man as just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: v 25) **...and the Holy Ghost was upon him. V 26) and it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.** He then spoke words concerning the future of the child. There was also one there named Anna, a prophetess. She was a widow and 84 years old. She served God night and day with prayers and fastings, the Bible says. When she entered the place where they were, she instantly (v38) gave thanks to God, for she knew He was the promised redeemer of Israel. God had also revealed this to her and then she spread the word to all who were looking for Him.

What a wonderful privilege we have today to celebrate the birth of Christ. True Christians must keep this celebration in the proper perspective. The world will certainly not do that. The tradition of exchanging

gifts at Christmas is exciting, but how much more exciting is it to know that if you do not awake in the morning, you have the gift of eternal life and will be safe forevermore and in the very presence of the one who loved you and gave His life for yours. I love the beautiful lights on a Christmas tree and think about how Christ said that we are the light of the world and that we are to let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and *not* glorify us, but our Father who is in heaven. You do not have to look very far around you to find someone who is hurting. Homes are being broken apart and children scattered around with little stability in their lives. People need to know that there is someone who can give them peace in the midst of the biggest storm of their life and turn things around for them which nobody else, anywhere else, can do. The Christ of Christmas is real today and He is real in the lives of true Christians who have chosen to follow Him. To *follow* means to be in the way with Him. We have the way clearly provided to us in the Word of God.

Now the enemy of our souls knows that he has but a short time to work. He has always tried to turn as many away from the gospel of Christ as he can and keep as many from believing as he can. He has even twisted the Word of God through false teachings of false prophets and has caused many versions of God's Holy Word to be written, which in many cases is not even recognizable. Deception is rampant. Many ministers are preaching *feel good* sermons which do nothing to help their hearers to grow in grace and knowledge. There is nothing there to encourage the flock to seek after God with all their heart and to become everything He wants them to be and to be used by Him at His will. Christ came to this earth willingly to do His Father's perfect will. That plan included, along with salvation, another gift called sanctification whereby we can live a sanctified, holy life in this dark, sinful, adulterous world. One of the first things Jesus told His disciples concerning the end times was to ***"Take heed that no man deceive you."*** That is a tool of the enemy, but the scripture tells us that ***"greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world!"*** We are more than conquerors through Christ and only through His power can the victories be won. There is one battle after another here, but thanks be unto God who gives us the victory! These battles are spiritual in nature and one must be spiritual to overcome.

II Corinthians 10:4-5 ***For the weapons of our***

***warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.***

The origin of Christmas is the "Christ mass" or the annual church gathering in which the birth of Christ was celebrated. But there is a war on Christmas in many places today. It offends many to see a manger scene or Christmas tree and because of that, the word *holiday* has replaced the word *Christmas*. In some instances, you might see the word *Xmas*. Yes! Christ, who is the whole reason for the season of Christmas, is removed from the spelling of the word. I refuse to buy any kind of card with a verse, which has a version of the Bible, other than The King James Version in it. I refuse to say "Happy Holiday" instead of "Merry Christmas". The world has taken this beautiful reason for celebration and commercialized it until one who has never known Christ could certainly not learn of Him in the shopping places. I rarely see anything anywhere that remotely pertains to the birth of Christ. I have seen, with my own eyes, where fights broke out among customers over sale priced merchandise in Wal-Mart. People were injured and the police had to come to the place to try to restore order. Is this really the way to celebrate the birth of the savior of the world? No! It is not pleasing to the Lord.

II Timothy 3:1 ***This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*** We are certainly living in those times which are dangerous, not only physically, but spiritually. Some are full of fury and rage. There is so much hatred in the world today and no regard for human life. It's all about self. At the same time, there are those who are not ashamed and have even had their heads cut off for refusing to deny Christ. Jesus said, ***"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."*** Matthew 24:12 There is little regard or respect for leadership of any kind. These things should not take us by surprise. We are warned by them in the Bible and it states that things will only grow worse and worse as the day of the Lord approaches, but we must allow the warmth of God's love and the light of Christ to burn in our lives, no matter how cold and dark it is around us. When people are around us, as Christians, they should be able to feel the love of God through us. As Christians, let us not "X" out Christ in Christmas or Christian. Let us remind those all around us of the true meaning of Christmas and exemplify Christ in us as Christians.□



# Christmas, Begins With Christ!

International W.M.B Director  
Elizabeth Wilkins



**It is Christmas!** Can you feel and see the excitement in the air. All over the world those who have heard and believe in the birth of our Savior are enjoying and preparing for this great event. It is because of our Saviour's birth we have this joy within and the hope of His return to earth again. Some are busy decorating their homes with beautiful colored lights. Others are hanging stockings filled with good treats for their children on this great wonderful morning. This is a busy and joyous time of the year, as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour. Let us not forget that **"Christmas begins with Christ"!**

In Luke 2: 8-11 we can see the beginning of this great joy we now experience. *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

I can only imagine the astonishment of the Shepherds as they were busy in the field, keeping watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round them as they



were told of Jesus's birth. The Bible says, they were *sore afraid*. But, the angel comforted them by saying, "**Fear not, for behold, I bring good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people**".

The birth of Jesus

did not bring us the **spirit of fear**, but the **spirit of great joy**. We can experience this **"Tidings of Great Joy"** everyday as we continue our work for the Lord. The enemy wants us to be **"sore afraid"**. He wants us to live our daily lives in fear, which could hinder our work and service for the Lord. We have much work left to do for the Lord as we see that great day of the Lord's return coming nearer. This fear has even crept into our minds, and hearts as we enter our places of worship. We all have seen and heard the news of lives being destroyed as people gathered to worship the Lord. We know the source of this fear. Satan's goal is to hinder our work for the Lord. We must continue to win souls and tell them of our Saviour's **great joy which is to all people.**

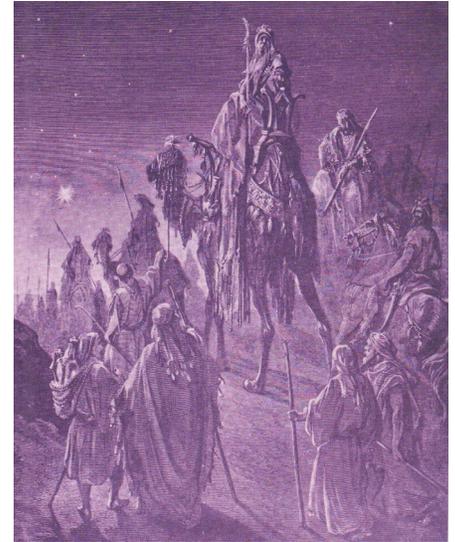
In 2 Timothy 1:7 Paul tells Timothy **"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind"**.

Jesus told us in Matthew 10:28 ***And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.***

I would like to encourage us all as we work for the Lord (Missions) with all our might and to encourage one another as we see the day of the Lord approaching. We must trust the Lord and **"Fear Not"** because He came to bring us **"Tidings of Great Joy"**. □

**Merry Christmas,  
Around  
The World and..  
Happy Birthday  
Jesus!**





to seek the Christ as those earlier wise men did.

There seems to be a dangerous trend also in some of our local churches. Many of God's people are craving for, and seeking more and more after, the material things of life rather than seeking after God and His fullness. Jesus admonished us to take heed, for a man's life consists not in the abundance of the things which he possesses. He also warned us to take heed to ourselves lest at any time our hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness and the cares of this life, and so that day come upon us unawares.

Unlike the worldly wise men of today, there are thousands of spiritually wise men and women around the world who, like the wise men of old, are searching for something far greater than the glittering things of life. They, too, are asking, "Where is He?" Thousands have found Him, and thousands—yea, millions—more who seek Him shall find Him.

Not only will there be those who will continue to seek for Him, but soon, under the direction of the Holy Ghost, there will be a massive search for the bride. Therefore, let us who know God spend more time seeking after the kingdom of God and the things of God, and not after the earthly things that perish with the using thereof.

Paul exhorted us to be heavenly minded. Of course, we do not want to be so heavenly minded that we are of no earthly use, but let us set our affection on things above, not on things of the earth. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21)

Let us, therefore, seek diligently after Christ, as did the wise men, and let no one or anything take away the desire we have to cause others to ask, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews?"

# What Are "WISE MEN" Seeking Today?

Samuel R. Rymer  
Overseer of Southern New England

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

"Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

"When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

"And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born." (Matthew 2:1-4)

The visit of the wise men from the east to Jerusalem was guided by the divine power of God. Their search for Christ was not an accident, for, being versed in the Old Testament prophecies, they were able to identify the star they followed from any other star. However, their visit to Jerusalem disturbed the king, for it was evident that their announcement of the birth of the King of the Jews—whom Herod assumed would be his supplanter to the kingdom—brought great concern to him and all Jerusalem. He immediately called a secret conference with the wise men to make sure what he had heard was correct.

Finding this to be true, "... he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him,

bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also." (Matt. 2:8) However it was obvious by Herod's later massacre of all male children that he had no intention to worship.

As the wise men continued their journey, the star that guided them finally stood over the place where Jesus was, and Matthew 2:10 says, "When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." Believing alone was not sufficient, but seeing what they believed brought great joy. They fell down and worshipped him, for this is a customary method of homage to a monarch.

This homage also signified religious worship, because they understood this much: that the child before whom they knelt was the Messiah, the religious Head of the human race, standing in a unique relation to God, and destined to establish the government of God on earth. It is also good to take note that they brought gifts, because it was an eastern custom not to approach monarchs or princes without a gift. Their gifts were of the most costly products of their countries, showing that nothing is too precious to be used in our service and gifts to God. It is also a mistake to think that our spiritual worship is purest when it is divorced from our giving to God.

The wise men's goal was to find Christ. It no doubt involved many sleepless days and nights, but they were determined to search and to seek for Him until they found Him. But what are today's so-called "wise men" seeking? Quite obviously, they are not seeking the same thing as those wise men of Jesus' day.

One of the greatest searches in the world's history is on today, but it is not for the Babe of Bethlehem, nor is it for the Prince of Peace. Today's wise men are seeking monetary gain and political power. And millions are being spent in quest for world peace without Christ. But there will never be peace in this world except the peace proclaimed by the angels over the Judean plain nearly two thousand years ago—"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth PEACE, good will toward men."

The wise men today are more interested in seeking a solution to stabilize our economy; controls for our polluted air and water; solutions to unemployment, and crimes in our cities; and to massive pollution in the highest department of our government. I do agree that these are alarming situations, and men's hearts are failing them for fear of what is happening all around. But I also feel that some of these situations can be attributed to man's miserable failure

# U.S.A. NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT

## In Alamogordo, NM

Thurman Lowe  
U.S.A. National Overseer



### THEME: Preach and Teach The Truth of Zion, The Church of God

***Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 2 Timothy 4:2***

We had excellent messages that we focused on the TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD. The Lord led me to this, because we must teach the truth no matter what the cost. We are obligated to preach the whole Bible and not just part of it. I wish all our members and pastors could have been there. God blessed and we did not hold back on the truth based on the attendees to convention. All people need the truth so, they can make their decision to follow Christ or reject Him but, we must preach true Bible doctrine to our congregation or God cannot convict their hearts to make a change in their life and serve God.

I would like for all our Pastors to teach the teachings of The Church of God in their Bible studies and use question and answer approach to the studies. We all need a refreshing of the teachings regardless of who we are. It could and will be some of the greatest blessings to all the congregation as well as the teacher. We must do what God has commanded us to do and that is to teach all nations, the beauty of The Church of God. We will see people get excited and want to be part of His Body. This is The Church of God that Jesus purchased with His own blood. Acts 20:28 ***Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.***

What greater honor is it than to be purchased by God. We can't sugar coat and tickle the ears of the congregation and preach whatever we want to get numbers by letting down on the doctrine, it is not what God has commissioned to do. We must not uphold our families in sin. If we uphold our families we are guilty of sin ourselves.

Isaiah 60:1-5 says 1) ***Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.*** 2) ***For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.*** 3) ***And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*** 4) ***Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side.*** 5) ***Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.***

God gave a Banner to the church in 1933 Psalms 60:4 ***Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah.*** and, we must display it, because of the Truth. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. He does not and will not change His mind for the times we live in. It is important that we live closer to Him now and do all we can to please God. We must hold strong the Word of God and live our lives so that we are good examples before our families as well as the people we may come in contact with daily.

# Super Hero Training Academy Report

October 26-28, 2018

Alamogordo, NM

This year we emerged on Alamogordo, NM for our USA National Family Camp for our Super Hero Training Academy. We were blessed with Bro. Richard Colon as our Camp Evangelist. He suited up for the part! The first night of camp he used Psalms 37:1-6 as his main Bible text. His title for the message was “The Brown Hornet has fallen, who will reach out and lift him up!” We have to make sure as Christians, Super Heroes for God and the Church, that we are cultivating our Super power and giving to those who are in need, we must be in service to the Lord! He discussed qualities and attributes of a true super hero in the duty to the King of Kings to our One True Super Hero. After the service that evening we had fellowship and movie night. Our movie this year was “God’s Not Dead 3—A Light in the Darkness.” It was a great movie that we all must take to heart and make sure we are that light in the darkness.

Saturday brought another great day in the Lord! We started off with a devotion by Bro. Darwin Gaba of the Philippines. He used the scripture 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 with the topic that My Strength is Made Perfect in my Weakness. Our strength is not our own, but comes from above! Our bodies get weak and need rest. Just like a car, for them to run, they must be maintained. Our bodies and souls need rest to be made strong. We don’t live by bread alone, but by the Word of God. We must always strive to be strong in the Lord! We were blessed with Bro. Gaba and his beautiful wife, Sis. Namnama Gaba to lead in our music and worship services, we learned new songs and sang some great oldies. We were truly uplifted, encouraged, and refreshed in the Lord. Sis. Nellie Lowe was able to be with us and teach a class on the Super Heroes of the Bible. As Super Heroes of God and the Church of God, we must be obedient to Him and His Word! We must take action, have faith, and be obedient. The majority of Super Heroes in the Bible all first doubted their ability before rising to the occasion of being the saving grace that was so needed at the time. Sis. Jannece Colon taught a class on Jesus—The True Super Hero and His attributes and what truly made Him to be a Super Hero. Saturday Night—Our evangelist, Bro. Richard Colon came in as Mr. Incredible and spoke using Ephesians 3:11-21 on His Eternal Purpose. Our strength is not our own! Mr. Incredibles one major flaw was thinking he could do everything and save the world on his own. We must stand and realize where our strength comes from. We must have boldness, because of God’s Eternal Purpose. We are never alone and we are not small! His eternal purpose will be completed with or without us. Ephesians 6:13-17, we must put on the whole armor of God and STAND!! After the message this evening we had feet washing and communion services, followed by fellowship.

Sunday morning brought us a wonderful devotion by Bro. Gaba using James 4:6-8, we are to draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to us. Bro. John Wilkins, our International Overseer, spoke on The Remnant and how God will fight our battles just as He did in days of old with Gideon and Israel. We were truly blessed by a wonderful outpouring of the Holy Ghost and a true renewing of our spirits! Can’t wait to see what God has in store for us this next year!



# USA Family Camp 2018

Report submitted by: Sis. Jannece Colon



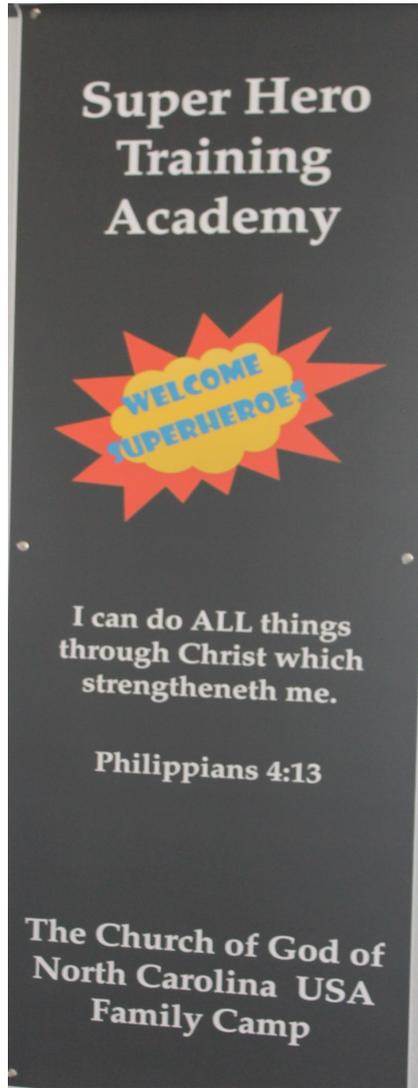
Ready for Super Hero Training Academy



Bro. Richard & Kimberly Colon ready for Service!



Bro. Richard Colon—1st Evening Message



Bro. Darwin and Sis. Namnama Gaba—Worship and Music time



Bro. Darwin Gaba—Devotions



Sis. Nellie Lowe—Teaching about Heroes of the Bible



Super Heroes creating their own costumes



Bro. Gaba and Sis. Emily Colon—masked

# Costume Preparation

Bro. Richard Colon



Costume Prep



Bro. John Wilkins



Dorcas—Sis. Elizabeth Wilkins



Bro. Darwin Gaba



Sis. Emily Colon



Bro. Darwin & Sis. Namnama



Sis. Nellie Lowe



Sis. Jetta Lee Lowe & Sis. Emily Colon



Bro. Thurman & Sis. Darlene Lowe



# Mexico National Convention

November 16-18, 2018

Kinchil, Yucatan, Mexico

*National Overseer—Bro. Richard Colon*



Through this first year in Mexico, my wife and I, have been blessed in innumerable ways. The people have opened their hearts and homes to us and have accepted us as their own family. Beyond blessings, we have learned so much and are so excited to see what God has in store for us this coming year. Also, through this journey we have discovered that the people of God, The Church of God, are hungry for God, His word, THE TRUTH, and teaching of all of those things. We have also discovered that our people are hungry for fellowship of the believers. A wise man, Bro. Dumas Michel, told us two years ago that “the people of The Church of God does not need our money, that helps material wise, but what they need more than anything is the fellowship with the saints.” Until going to Mexico and being a part of their lives, I never really realized how important that was to our people. Through this great experience, that is one of the many things that God has showed us is important. We thank the Lord for giving us this opportunity to serve the humble servants in Mexico, not as a dictator, but as a Brother and Sister that love them and are there to serve them!

Our National Convention was November 16-18, 2018 in Kinchil, Yucatan, Mexico. The theme this year was—“Choose” with scripture text of Joshua 24:15. We would gather in the mornings for a wonderful breakfast before diving into the Word of God. We would then all gather around the tables at the front of the church from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. That would be followed by lunch and fellowship and of course the important siesta. Each evening, we would come back together for services from 6:00 p.m. until it was finished and follow that up with more food and fellowship.

**Friday morning**, Bro. Richard Colon, National Overseer of Mexico opened the convention by greeting all that were in attendance and opening with prayer. After a good season of prayer, Bro. Colon read Luke 21:1-22. He described how we are the leaders of the Church and that it takes faith to walk with Him with no fear. We must give all to Him and He will care for us. We must be a testimony of peace in the way that we live. Bro. Honorato and Sis. Ines came up for a testimony and singing as we all worshipped the Lord. Following the morning worship service, we went into what we call Table Talk with the Overseer and all in attendance. This is where we discuss what is on their minds and hearts, what is needed, what is happening—the good news and the bad, it is a time of fellowship and training. This went on the rest of the morning till we broke for lunch. We had a joyous time in the Lord together!

**Friday Evening**, Bro. Richard Colon opened with greetings to the general convention followed by prayer by Sis. Maria and introductions of all ministers and guests by Bro. Ricardo (Host Pastor of Kinchil Church and our Regional Overseer). This night was our WMB night of the convention and we had great music and worship throughout the evening. We had a message by Sis. Estelle on being a Mary in a Martha world. Then, we had a message on Women Mentoring Women by Sis. Jannece Colon. For the final message of the evening Bro. Colon spoke on “As for Me and My house we WILL serve the Lord.”



**Saturday Morning**—We opened with prayers and scripture from Psalms 42:5-6 and we discussed how God will lift our spirits when we are downcast and tired. Bro. Colon talked about how as a minister, it is our responsibility to preach the best you can when your spirit is down. It is during those times that we must spend extra quality time with our God and in His Word. This morning we had a message around the table by Bro. Bibiano. We had singing and worship and prayer together with the wonderful ministers of God. We then had Table Talk followed by a special song by Sis. Estelle and a wonderful message on The Church of God and the history of the church by Bro. Estevan. It was an amazing morning with the Lord!

**Saturday Evening**—We opened with prayer by Sis. Inez, had singing and worship with Sis. Arely. Then, we had a CPMA service that was unbelievable by Bro. Estevan. He knows the history of The Church of God and the flag and when he got finished everyone else knew about it through his enthusiasm, joy, and the Spirit of the Lord! Our daughters, Emily and Kimberly were with us and they don't speak or understand that much Spanish, but they understood Bro. Estevan's message that night and had tears in their eyes, they both said it was so amazing and a blessing to hear his message. The spirit of the Lord can fix language barriers! Following the CPMA service, we had singing and worship followed by messages from Bro. Ricardo, and an ABM message by Bro. Felipe. To finish up the night, Bro. Colon spoke on how sometimes we must "Cut it off!" It can be difficult when that is speaking about family or other things that are close to us. But, when we truly choose God and to serve Him, we sometimes have to cut things or people out of our lives. We had an amazing altar service with many experiences.

**Sunday Morning**—Bro. Richard Colon opened with prayer followed by reading Ephesians 4:1-13. We are to walk worthy of the vocation to which you are called. We must walk in the revelation of the word that God gives us. He discussed how the song of Zion can't be sung in other churches and how we as a prisoner of the Lord are to be lead to those whom we are to work with, God chooses, not us. Unfortunately, the message of the church is not for everyone. We don't all walk the same path, but we are all prisoners of the Lord. We have to live, preach, and use the truth of the Word. When the Lord shows us that someone is a deceiver and not of God, we are to walk away. We are to preach and teach the truth. We need to be as Paul and make sure that we are not following people, but that we are following Christ. Just like he said, "Follow me as I follow Christ." If we get lost along the way, make sure you follow Christ and not me! We had a great time of worship, singing, and prayer. Then, we were blessed with messages by Bro. Manual, Bro. Felipe, and Bro. Ricardo. Bro. Richard recapped all the messages and reminded all in attendance to remember to rely on God for the message, always preach the truth even when it is not easy, and ask for assistance from your fellow ministers. We can't work together with the world, we are THE CHURCH OF GOD and we must be different, called out, chosen!

**Sunday Night**—This was our Youth Night. We opened the service with prayer led by Bro. Pascual followed by music and devotion by Sis. Estelle. Sis. Emily Colon, International VLB Director spoke on having a true passion for prayer. Had a special song "Open the eyes of my heart Lord" by Bro. Jafet. Then, we had a youth message by Bro. Pascual. There was then a very special song with all the ministers holding hands, united in love and peace as we sang the song "Hand in Hand." Bro. Daniella and Sis. Rafael sang a special song "Our God is Big!" We finished the evening service off with a message from Bro. Colon about Choosing to walk in the Spirit and choosing to be separate from the world. They don't have wolves in the Yucatan, but tonight they were taught about wolves from New Mexico and the viscous wolves that dwell among us. We had an altar service and the spirit fell and blessed in a mighty way with many experiences. The convention closed on a very high note with all of our ministers coming together in fellowship and UNITY!

***See pictures of this event on next Page...***





Preparation for the Convention



Bro. Estevan singing a Special Song - "The Church of God March"



Bro. Colon with Interpreter Bro. Victor



Bro. Ricardo



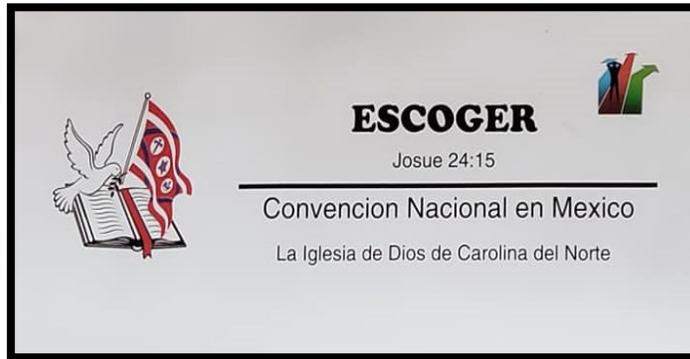
Bro. Honorato singing Praises



Sis. Anai with the Children's Choir



Bro. & Sis. Colon with Bro. Estevan



During Altar



Bro. Manual

### "Choose" - Joshua 24:15 Convention Theme 2018



Bro. & Sis. Colon with Bro. Ricardo & Sis. Maria



Bro. Felipe



Bro. Bibiano

Bro & Sis Colon with Victor & Sara



One of the Altar Calls



April 3, 2017

# The Church Of God of North Carolina



TCOGNCAlamogordoNM.org

575-489-6505

## Alamogordo, NM



The Church of God of North Carolina in Alamogordo, New Mexico was blessed with a new building in April 2017. It was cute, warm, inviting, and just what we needed. In July 2017 we had a lot of rain and we noticed that there were cracks appearing in the walls, but we thought, no problem we can fix that. In September 2017, God blessed us with beautiful new carpet for the sanctuary. We went to pull up the old carpet and found major issues in the foundation. We called in an inspector and they gave us the worst news imaginable. Our foundation was collapsing on all four corners and it was bad and we could not meet in the building or have services there, it was unsafe. The contractor came in and we even discussed knocking the building to the ground and rebuilding from nothing. However, the inspector and contractor that were not Church going people said that when they walked into the building it was different and it gave them chills. They counseled us not to tear down the building, because God would see us through this. We prayed and waited on the Lord! In June 2018, we had raised the money to complete the raising of the foundation, which was completed the end of that month. From there we started remodeling the church and rebuilding. It was a very long process and lots of hours. God saw us through and we have the greatest testimony to share. Through all this time, the inspector knocked off \$1,000 from the cost of the report, the contractor on the foundation knocked off \$20,000 from the cost of the raising of the foundation and purchased a storage container and brought for us to store all the belonging and furniture from the church in at no cost for 6 months. The list goes on, we had an Electrician here come in with 6 employees and donated all the wiring, supplies, and labor for 2 days to completely rewire the entire church. We had people that brought us food, came to work with us, donated time and labor. It just kept coming. The contractor even donated stamped concrete from our entry way, dug out trees that were interfering with the foundation and relocated them, and helped us with multiple other things at no charge. God is good!! He never fails us! We now have a new building that God has truly blessed us with. It is not completely finished, but we were able to have our National Convention and Camp there this year followed by a Church Dedication Service. We have been so blessed of God this year and we can't wait to see what God has in store for us this coming year!

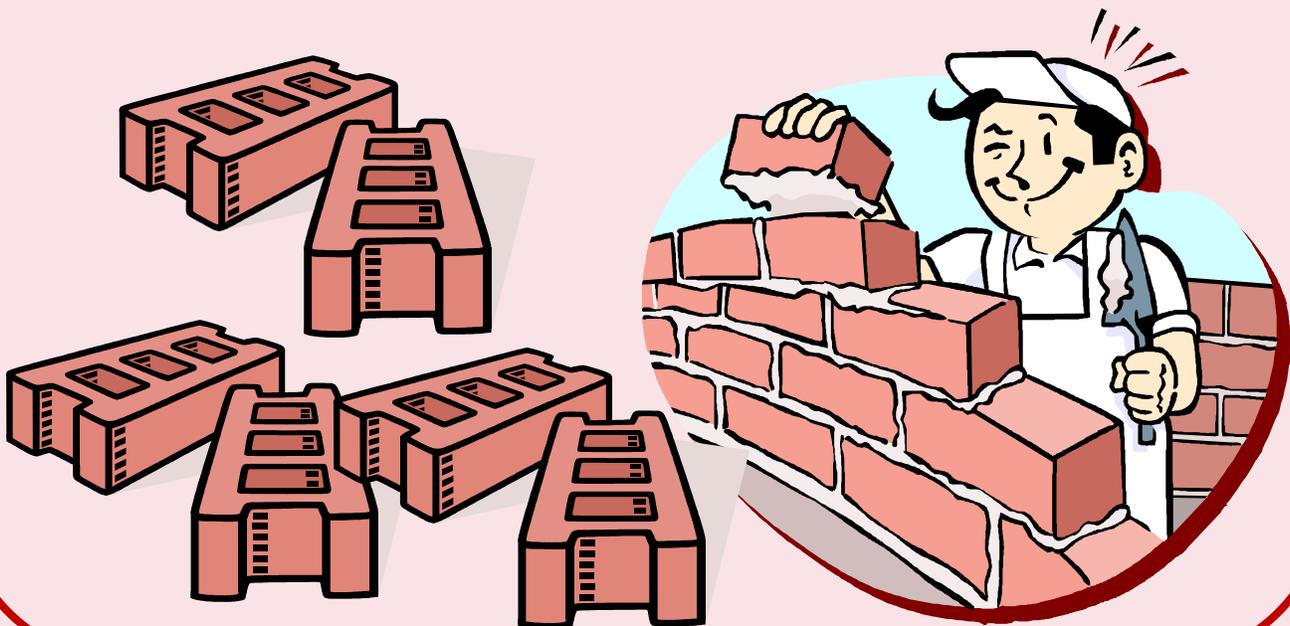


**SPECIAL THANKS TO “ALL” who have  
Participated in the **Brick Plan** this year .**



**YOUR HELP IS GREATLY  
APPRECIATED AND NEEDED.**

**Have A Wonderful Christmas!**



# Christmas

# Begins with Christ!

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