The Banner of Truth®

International Voice of The Church of God of North Carolina

Volume 22—Number 01 January, February, March, 2018

THE VISION

Catch It!
Share It!

Equip for It!
Grow with It!

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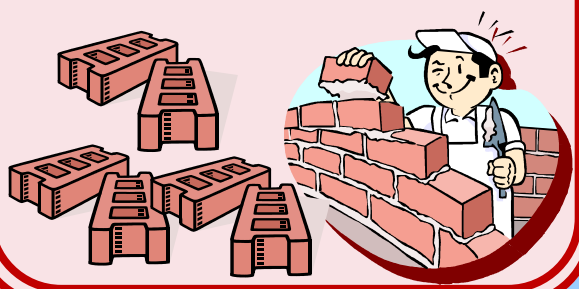
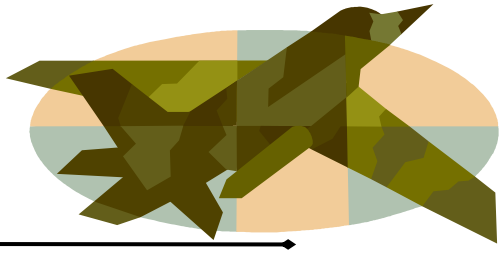


Editorial: A Shortage Of Power



International Overseer
~John A. Wilkins, Jr.~

Some years back while in college, I had my airplane parked just outside the college and I was often found at the airport after classes, as I never saw a landing that I didn't want to watch. I have always watched as the airplanes took off in flight and then watched them as they come back to land, what a beautiful sight! I listened as one of the pilots called in and let us know he was inbound for landing, but had only partial power, just enough to keep him flying toward the airport. He continued to talk and let us know that the throttle control had come loose and that he had gotten partial power by continually jamming the throttle until it caught just enough to give him partial power and hopefully he could make the airport. He finally puttered on in and made an uneventful landing for which we all were very thankful, especially the pilot.

I have told you this little story to help you remember that we have experienced a Power Shortage here at headquarters during the months of December, January and February. It has caused us to function with some problems and delays. We have been forced to put some things off, cancel some and just continue the approach with only partial power. Our desire was and is to get everything done on time and keep up the good pace which we have been used to, but it wasn't possible with only two of us working full time here at headquarters. I had to go into the hospital for one month back in December of last year and then continue therapy at home and I am still under the therapy at this time. I should be fully recovered about December of 2018 if the doctor is correct. The pilot in the story had all the power just in front of his legs that he would ever need to get him back to the airport, but he was limited because he could not access the power because of the broken control. I found myself in a similar situation, Sister Wilkins was all the power we needed in our office, but I needed her with me to help power me until I was better and that she did. There was no way that we could get the all work done with both of us out of the office. I do hope that you will understand and give us some time to catch up with the work.

God is our refuge and strength, <u>a very present help in trouble.</u> Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. <u>God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early</u>. Psalms 46:1-5

May God bless all of you? Thank you for your prayers and support during our illness and hospitalization and because of Him I am still walking and should be able to make a complete and full recovery. I love all of you and I am looking for His soon return to capture away His Bride!

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

The Banner of Truth **®**, official quarterly publication of The Church of God of North Carolina, Inc., owner with International Headquarters at 310 West Edgerton St. P.O. Box 2109 Dunn, North Carolina 28335-2109; published by The Banner of Truth Press, John A. Wilkins, Jr., Cathy Elder, Executive Editors; and Elizabeth Wilkins, Managing Editor.

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"Governance By Obedience"

International Overseer
John A. Wilkins, Jr.

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.*** Hebrews 13:17

What does it mean to be governed by someone? It means that someone has control over us by either influence or power to force us into compliance with their values and ideas of what is proper or required. The dictionary gives us this explanation: **govern**–to exercise authority over; rule, administer direct, control, manage, etc. 2 – to influence the action or conduct of; guide; sway public opinion. Many of us know that in the form of government we have, which is THEOCRATIC, our role is one of submission to the Holy Ghost, because if He doesn't guide us then we crash. Our leaders are under submission to Him also and that is why it works so well. Those over us in the Lord are just as much submitted as we are so then when they teach us and ask us to do things we obey, because of submission. We are governed in The Church of God by the Holy Ghost. Did you ever hear someone say, "I don't care what my pastor says; I will obey God rather than man." Now that is what the Bible says for us to do, but it is about the spirit of the man that says something like that. Does he/she say these words while angry with the pastor or upset with the International Assembly? This could be a bad statement if made out of angry thoughts and actions. In order to obey God in a theocratic government, we must keep ourselves quiet and permit Him to speak and sometimes He speaks to us through our pastors and other leaders. **Theocratic Government is government by the immediate direction of God.** Pure Theocracy operates on three fundamental truths; theocracy is the law given by God, the rule under the direction of God and the willing submission to God by the people. It will not work until all three of these principles are prominent in the practice of Theocratic Government. His people must be willing to accept these principles in order to be "His Church" and nothing else will work to build His Church. The question is; ARE WE WILLING? When we join the Church, we do so by taking a covenant which is between God and us and here is what we say; "I Will" and that makes us a member by covenant which is perpetual and will always stand even when we backslide and the Church removes fellowship with us. That doesn't end the covenant; it shall never be forgotten by our God and will stand against us or for us in the judgement by God.

The Church of God is one of the most dividing, splitting Churches in the world, just since 1903 we have split more than 33 times and that is a shame, because Christ prayed for us to remain one. Listen to His words in John 17***;***

I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. 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.

While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the

keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them. John 17:6-26

Does these few verses of Scripture make you think of a diversified church which is now being taught? If you don't like what we preach either find one you do like or better yet start a new one. Do you think if Bishop A. J. Tomlinson could come and sit in some of the so-called Church of God services that he would recognize them as THE CHURCH OF GOD that he left? He would probably think he was in a denominal church! Imagine Bishop M. A. Tomlinson who died a few years back coming into one of our services today to find that the teachings which he promoted until the day of his death has been replaced by articles of faith and other summaries of the faith. The covenant is replaced or missing entirely from the reception of new members. Saints this is not what these two men were about and it is time for us to arise and preach the doctrine and practices again just as they preached and taught.

The Spirit of God has departed from these places where the doctrine is no longer a part of their churches and the pastors are taking in the members in double marriage and some of the members feel they have been forsaken. It is so sad when we stop to think about what is happening. We never thought that the Church of God would ever lower Her standard, but man has done it and the members stood and watched as committees ruled out the holiness doctrine and subscribed to the doctrine of devils. God will always have a remnant that will not bend or bow! They will continue to walk in His Word and maintain the doctrine for those who want it. I am thankful that God will not permit Bishop A. J. Tomlinson and Bishop M. A. Tomlinson to see the ruins of what they were willing to give their lives for. It would look like to them that their years of sacrifice and hard work were washed away and that the sins of man had taken over all the good hearts and minds of the Church. They would weep and tears would flow from their eyes like rivers as they looked at the rubble and waste called the church today. Those who will come out and dare to keep the faith are just a remnant, but if God builds the house it will not be in vain! When Bishop Tomlinson was preaching there at Bible Place on a fish box with only a hand full standing with him, it seemed to many that it was hopeless but no, because God took over and it became once again a strong house that Jesus built. If our house is ever strong it will be because Jesus built it! What do you say that we rise up in faith and build the house together with Jesus Christ the Head of the Church? This is all about Him and He has been the Head since the beginning, God is in charge! There will be a remnant saved and they will not cave in when the committees and executives give their reports and try to take our properties. The Church will survive without compromise. How many will continue is the big question. The number does not matter, but the covenant does.

Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, <u>Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved:</u> For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth. Romans 9:27-28

But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. <u>Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.</u> Romans 11:4-5

When men start up new churches to present their own selfish theologies and unrestrained religious philosophies they are in violation of the scriptures given in this message, read again Jesus Christ's own →

words in John 17. We do not have to worry about these men, because their works will come to naught in the end. I recently heard this man building up one of the leaders of one of these churches who probably should be serving time in prison for his past actions, but God has it all in His hands. My concern is for the Church of God which is that, because of Her actions, not some man or some committee. No man shall survive who knows more than the Assembly or the Overseer whom he serves under and is willing to tell either his views with a robust disrespectful spirit. Over the years I have watched them fall prey to their own fleshly spirit and seen them stand in defiance during the Assembly and have little respect for their overseer or the Assembly. Then God very quietly removes them from their office and in some cases they do not even live. We have been talking about the Church being governed by the Holy Ghost and willing people submitting to that governance in the fear of God, but how many will hear what I have said? Probably only a few, but a few led by God can remove mountains.

Without our leaders who have been filled with the Holy Ghost and their guidance where would we be today? How about our International Assembly, where would we be if everyone felt the assembly was of no use to us. It is there that we receive instruction from the Lord and He often speaks to us in a voice we can understand.

I remember and Assembly not very long ago where a teaching was being added and the Holy Ghost took over and changed a short passage in that teaching which made it unquestionable and it has been challenged by doctors without success, because it was what God wanted. Without the assembly and those who watch for our souls we would have no Church! It is not every man for himself, to start up new churches and teach whatever feels good or sounds good. We have enough of those already doing that. It is time for us to preach and teach the doctrine of The Church of God from the Bible.

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. Hebrews 13:17-21

When we lose our respect for those over us in the Lord we are at the same time losing our sanctification and the spirit of God can no longer guide us. It is the power of God in us that causes us to respect our elders and obey them as they watch for our souls. Paul said, "***Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."*** I Corinthians 11:1

We are given no right to make light of what our leaders say or to belittle them as though they had no authority to tell us anything. One of the problems we have had is the members doing this in their homes and in front of their children so that virtually all respect is lost for our pastors and overseers. They can be wrong and our responsibility is to follow them as they follow Christ as we have been instructed by the Apostle Paul. Some have the idea that they can tell their pastor off anytime they want to and it will be alright, but that is not true.
As we walk in theocratic government let us learn that we must obey those over us in the Lord and respect them for their area of responsibility and watch care for our souls. God's government only functions when people submit to His will and obey those over them.

Your pastor, overseer and other leaders deserve your respect and loyalty as long as they are following the Lord.

Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else. Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for ever.

Deuteronomy 4:39-40

God is it, there is no other and we must keep His statutes and His commandments.

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.

Ephesians 5:27-28

Jesus is coming back for a Bride that has made Herself ready, not one filled with the same sins of the world. It will be a sanctified Church with holiness as Her mainstay waiting for His return. The world church is full of glitter, but not full of God's holiness and the crowds might be large, but without His power. A man called me and wanted to know how many churches we had, then he asked about the number of members and I am sitting there just wandering what he is looking for. If you want the big crowds then go to the world church and you will fit right in, but we are striving for the power of God and His righteousness in a world filled with sin. Where are the ones washed in the blood of the Lamb and walking in the paths of His righteousness awaiting the return of the Lord?

This message is one about governance by obedience! When we are willing to obey the Holy Ghost we don't even have to worry about how we will treat each other because He will check us. We will be governed by Him and willingly walk with each other in submission and love. He will have a Church that loves one another and there will be no one telling the others off without care for their souls. □

"Governance By Obedience"

"FINALLY MY BRETHREN"

Dolores Yost
Aiken, South Carolina

Matthew 10: 34, 35, 36

34 ***Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.*** **35** ***For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.*** **36** ***And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.***

In this passage Jesus is speaking of a time when truth and sound doctrine will not be accepted by many and those who do hold to it, will be persecuted. The truth indeed will set us free, but we will also suffer broken families, children against parents, and turmoil in our own houses. Not only are we seeing that going on today, but we are seeing it in God's house as well. There is only one enemy responsible for this kind of division. Let's begin to blame the one who is really at fault. His name is Satan.

Truth will always have an opponent and if you have not yet seen this adverse behavior, you will. The times in which we now live are termed in the Bible as "the evil days to come." We are now living in the last days. The closer we get to the coming of the Lord, the more evil we are seeing.

Our defense lies only in one source and that is the power of the Holy Ghost. In the sixth chapter of Ephesians, Apostle Paul shares with them the reality of existing evil and the evil days that are to come. Paul teaches that people that carry out the evil deeds, do so by allowing themselves to be manipulated and used by satanic powers. They are destructive, decisive and deceiving, with one objective in mind. That devilish agenda has been at work from the very beginning, trying to destroy the plan of God to save mankind from eternal destruction!

That evil that is working today is the same evil that was in the Garden of Eden. From Eden to the birth of Christ, through His death, and resurrection, and in every age in history. It will cease just briefly when Christ is ruling during the thousand year millennial reign on earth. Satan will be bound in the pits of Hell for a season. Upon his release, he will go out once again to deceive the nations. He will then be once and forever, permanently locked and destroyed in Hell.

Christians globally await that day when we no longer have to endure any evil that has tortured mankind for thousands of years! But until then, we are in an all out spiritual warfare. We will be victorious! Think not for a moment that we are fighting this battle alone. God has fully equipped us and we are not powerless against the enemy. When Christ left and returned to God, He left us mighty and precious gifts for us to use in His name and in His authority. Take the authority! Take the keys!

Matthew 16:19 ***And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.***

When we speak His word and believe it, all the powers of heaven come to our defense. The Word of God is powerful and will forever stand throughout all eternity. When ever we bind the powers of darkness in Jesus name, He, the Father and the Holy Ghost with an innumerable army of heavens host, declares it bound! When we loose the powers of Heaven in Jesus name, the same thing occurs! The works of evil have no chance against the mighty works of God. God immediately will release grace, peace and victory over whatever situation that we need authority over. Learn to use the weapons that we have been armed with.

He has already given us power in His name to do His works on the earth. It is sad to see so many of God's children suffering all manner of evil things when we don't have to. Some things, God will allow us to endure for a season to make us stronger, to increase our faith, but sometimes His reasons are known only to Himself. But be sure, whatever circumstances we may find ourselves in , all things really do work for our good. We must trust him and know that He truly

never will leave us alone nor forsake us.

Remember, we are not fighting flesh and blood, but against an unseen enemy. We must stay alert and constantly stay armed and ready, and guard your thoughts, because your mind will be your greatest battlefield.

2 Corinthians 10:4, 5, 6,
4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 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; 6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

That is why we are told to have the mind of Christ working in us. Our complete obedience to the Lord is key to Him being able to operate the gifts of the Spirit through us. We have to be committed to Him and be all in when it comes to being obedient to His leading. The power of the Holy Ghost cannot be manipulated by man, that he can receive glory. All glory and praise belong to our Lord Jesus Christ. When we are led of the Spirit, the gift of discernment will be operated through us so that we cannot be caught up and be hoodwinked by the Devil. We are not ignorant of his sly devices and cunning ways.

1 Peter 5:8, 9, 10
8 ***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:*** 9 ***Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*** 10 ***But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.***

Psalms 34:19
19 ***Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.***

In this life we are sure to have problems and trouble, but we have the promises that Jesus has given us. Our victory lies in His promises and His provisions. Problems, promises and provisions! What a comfort it is to know whatever we may face we have victory that cannot be found in any other than Jesus!

Hallelujah! He has armed us with everything that we will ever need to stay victorious in Him! So we really can say the battle is not really ours, but His. We just have to do what he has told us to do as obedient children.

God's people are not beaten down, defeated, torn and ragged beggars without resources to win. Child of God, stand and fight the good fight of faith! That old blue book hymn says "We must fight, be brave against all evil, never run or even lag behind, If you will win for God and the right, just keep on the firing line." Oh, the power He has given us to win this battle!

Matthew 10:1 ***And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.***

The key to the disciples being able to carry out and do these miracles is their faith in Jesus and by believing that they could. We can go exactly the same if we trust and believe and are obedient. It requires us to do our part. Jesus has already completed what the Father sent Him to do. We have been left here to complete what we're supposed to do. We know that it is necessary for us to receive the Holy Ghost to be able to operate the gifts through Him. Without Him we can do nothing.

Many people today are trying to operate in their own ability just as Sceva and his sons did. Israel did whatever they wanted to do. They promised to do what God said to do, but they didn't do it His way, but theirs. The Old Testament repeatedly tells of their covenant with God and said all God has said to do, we will do. They broke that covenant and paid severely. Today in the Church of God we had better have enough love and fear of God to do what He says to do. Our advice to members, the rulings of the General Assembly and our precious Covenant we made to God, should be enough to keep us within the parameters of the government that God has given us to live by. God says, if we love Him we will keep His commandments. That has always been good enough for me, how about you?

With that being said let us continue forward in the power and strength of the mighty Holy Ghost. We don't make excuses, we simply do what He says to do, Amen? We are the most privileged people on the →

earth when we stop to remember what Jesus did to purchase the Church and place us in the Body as He saw fit. Glory to Almighty God for all that He has done for us.

He is our source. All that we accomplish must point to Him. We have no sufficiency of our own. We must do the works of Christ.

Mark 16:17,18
17 ***And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;*** 18 ***They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.***

He has given us great authority in His name to do His works on earth. And even greater things than He did when He was here. The baptism of the Holy Ghost had not been given.

John 14:12 ***Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.***

Jesus planned to return to the father and told them to wait for the promise. They met together in the Upper Room and 10 days later the Holy Ghost came and filled them all! Thank God for faithful, obedient children of God. He told them, they did what He said, no debate, no lingering, just obedience. Things have not changed today. What would have happened if they decided to go to Bethlehem instead of Jerusalem? We had better do exactly as He says, and it will be well with us. We Are Not In Charge, He Is! Praise the Lord, Amen!

Galatians 5:1 ***Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.***

Ephesians 6:10-17
10 ***Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*** 11 ***Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*** 12 ***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.*** 13 ***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.*** 14 ***Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;*** 15 ***And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*** 16 ***Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*** 17 ***And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*** □

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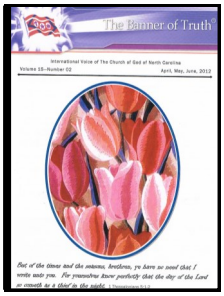

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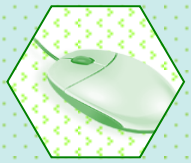

The Church of God of NC/USA
National Convention 2018

October 24-26, 2018

Sivell's Baptist Camp and Conference Center, Cloudcroft, NM

Cost for Convention—$110.00 per person
(Includes Lodging for 2 nights in hotel rooms with private baths in rooms and 6 meals)

Starts with Dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday with service starting at 7:30 p.m. and runs through 1:00 p.m. following lunch on Friday.

Special Offer—Camp and Convention Registration both will be only $200.00 per person (Special Price)

Please contact Jannece Colon for more information at 575-631-3412 or at jannececolon@hotmail.com

Introduction

International W.M.B Director
Elizabeth Wilkins

In our last International Assembly to my surprise I was appointed as our International Women's Missionary Director. Since that time of course I have been pondering this appointment and praying about it. I ask for your prayers for the Lord's inspiration and guidance. Although I have held many jobs within the church, this is a new one for me. I accept this appointment in the fear of the Lord and I do not take it lightly. You see I have had the privilege from my youth to meet and witness the leadership of several International Directors. One that left such an impression on me was Sister Sylvia Hardin. This is such a great responsibility and I have shared my inward heart with the Lord. If I can only accomplish a small portion of those before me I would feel very honored.

There is a program I read from time to time on the internet called "Face Book". In this program different people post and share their "Fond Memories of the Church". The definition of the word memory is 1. the faculty by which the mind stores and remembers information.. 2. something remembered from the past; a recollection. The memories shared here are wonderful memories to reflect upon. Although I have never posted any of my memories I would like to share some of mine in this, my introduction of myself as your International WMB Director.

Yes, I too like to look back and reminisce on my personal memories of those years of glorious services in our old Assembly Tabernacle. When people would shake, shout, dance in the spirit and speak in other tongues as the mighty Holy Ghost would move. I remember the joy and excitement as we anticipated our move into our beautiful newly built Assembly Tabernacle on Keith Street in Cleveland, TN.

I also have fond memories of helping my mother for many long hours cook and sell dinners, watching her crochet, make dolls, sell Christmas cards, donuts and etc. to raise money to cover her pledge she had made for missions each year. I even got in on and was introduced to door to door Solicitation for these events. As I look back on these fond memories I now ponder them in my heart and smile as I go forward knowing the Bible says, our labor is not in vain. These memories will forever be etched in our minds and hearts and be a part of us as long as we live. We are proud of our past but we must focus on the future and go forward in the Lord as He leads us and directs. I believe many great things are in store for The Great Church of God and believe the best is yet to come. Brother A.J. Tomlinson once said, "I see nothing but victory on top of victory for The Church of God.

When I was in my early teens I would hear our older members talk about The Church of God and how the Lord was coming back after His Bride. Their excitement and hard work confirmed their passion for this great event that was to come. The talk at that time was that Moses led the Church in the wilderness for 40 years, Brother A.J. Tomlinson led the Church for 40 years and Brother M.A Tomlinson would lead the Church for 40 years, lead us onto perfection and then the Lord would return.

As I grew in the Lord and into adulthood, I married, continued to work for the Lord, had my three children and taught them about this wonderful Church. I followed my husband in the USAF and ministry all over the US and other countries. As I got older and observed I could see Brother Tomlinson growing older. In the April 29, 1989 issue of the White Wing Messenger his Editorial title was, **"ALMOST HOME".** Below is what he wrote.

"ALMOST HOME!"

What a welcome announcement for those who have traveled a long way, who perhaps are weary from the trip. Home is what they long for as they travel the last few miles. Most of us can identify with the comfort this announcement brings.

Many began a spiritual pilgrimage many years ago, and today they are on the final part of their journey. They found themselves in a world which they recognized was not their home. Like those to whom Peter wrote his epistle, they knew that they, too, were "strangers and pilgrims" (1 Peter 2:11) on this earth.

The journey has not always been pleasant. Some parts of it have been very enjoyable, but some segments have been painful; however, they knew they were headed for home and that the trip would not last forever. They just kept forging ahead.

Jesus' promise, " I go to prepare a place for you," has special meaning as they get nearer home. They know He will be there, and to have Him welcome them home will be the zenith of their joy upon arrival. Of course, there are others they will want to see. After all, all those who are there to greet them will be members of the family, brothers and sisters whom they love and who love them. What a homecoming!

The last few miles will be ones of eager anticipation. ***Almost home!***

I knew then he was excited about the future of this great event of going home. Then the day came, he stepped down (retired) due to poor health. In 1990 the gavel was passed and in 1995 He went to be with the Lord. Since that time we have seen many things... But if Brother Tomlinson could speak to us today I believe he might say something like this... Press on, keep the faith, win souls, go forward, as you too, are **"Almost Home".**

I believe, Brother Tomlinson could join Paul in saying, ***"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*** 2 Timothy 4:7–8

Brother Tomlinson knew this earth was not his home. He knew "The Church of God" was not "His Church" but it was "Christ's Church".

Peter knew this was Christ's Church. ***And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*** Matthew 16:18

Paul knew this was Christ's Church, he told the people, ***"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.*** Acts 20: 28

All these men gave up all and followed the Lord. They worked with all their might until their work on earth was finished. They did not seek wealth or fame. Their goal was to please God and this should be ours.

Jesus said, ***For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.*** John 6:38

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom. Matthew 16:25-28

Will we see the Lord's return? Will He find us still believing, working diligently and still looking for Him? It had been a long time since the promise of Jesus Birth. The Bible tells us the wise men had not lost hope, they were looking for him.

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 they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Matthew 2:1-2,9-10,12

Herod could not STOP God's plan then and neither can the Devil or our enemies STOP God's Church. Just as the Lord placed the star to guide the wise men to the savior so is the Holy Ghost guiding God's people and His Church. He is counting on us to do our part as he continues to lead HIS CHURCH.

Memories are wonderful but, Luke 17:32 reminds us to, ***"Remember Lot's wife"*** **.** In Genesis 19: 26 the Bible says, ***But his wife looked back from behind***

him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Don't be a pillar of salt. Let's let others see and feel our excitement for Christ, and His Coming! Do we still believe that he is coming back after us. Keep the faith and keep looking because it could be any day now!

How long has it been since we pledged a $100.00, 500.00 or $1,000.00 for missions. Is God's work lacking and suffering now, because we are hanging on to past memories. **We need to pray and ask God to stir us once again.** We need to look to the future and go forward. pressing toward the mark that is set before us (Heaven). The enemy would have us view His Church in a lost and hopeless state. The conditions of our day should not be a surprise. Jesus himself told us we would see these times before His coming in Matthew 24:36-39 ***But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.***

I STILL BELIEVE IN HIS CHURCH
and **HIS COMING.**

LORD STIR US, ONCE AGAIN!

Keep working, Keep the Faith,
Keep moving forward, Keep Looking
Until He Returns! □

The Church of God of NC/Mexico
National Convention 2018

November 16—18, 2018
Kinchil, Yucatan, Mexico

Each Day of the Convention will open with Minister's Meeting and Training at 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. with Evening Service beginning at 6:00 p.m. each evening

If you would like to attend please contact Bro. Richard Colon, National Overseer—Mexico for an invitation letter. We would love to have you attend! Sis. Jannece Colon can help assist with travel and lodging to and from Mexico and while there.

Contact at: Richard Colon—575-441-0454 or at rickjannececolon@yahoo.com

or Jannece Colon—575-631-3412 or jannececolon@hotmail.com

Daily Planet

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CALLING ALL SUPERHEROES

Caped Crusaders, Masked Marvels and Mighty Mutants for their most important mission yet—

Family Camp 2018—USA

When: October 26-28, 2018

Where: Sivell's Baptist Camp and Conference Center, Cloudcroft, NM

Details: $110.00, Hotel Rooms with Private Baths in Rooms, Starts with Dinner at 6:00 p.m. and ends on Sunday at 1:00 p.m. after lunch. Price includes room for 2 nights, 6 meals, and all camp supplies.

If attending both Camp and Convention—Special Price of $200 for both!

For more information: Please contact Jannece Colon at 575-631-3412 or at jannececolon@hotmail.com

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