



International Voice of The Church of God of North Carolina

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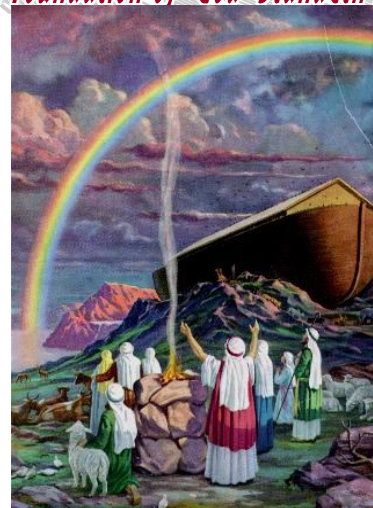
**The Church of God  
106th International Assembly  
July 27 - 29, 2017**

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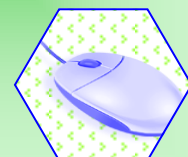
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## Editorial:

# It's Assembly Time!! July 27– 29, 2017

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



Look around and you will see people loading up their cars with coolers, tents, fishing rods etc. Where is everyone going? It is summer time and school is out and the children are home for a few weeks so why not go somewhere exciting and relaxing for the soul? May I suggest the 106<sup>th</sup> World Wide Assembly? It will be relaxing, inspiring and soothing for the soul and you will meet a lot of friends there whom you haven't seen for a long time. The Assembly is required of all our ministers and their families and unless something prevents us from going we are all supposed to meet there for the refreshing that God has for us. There is just no place like the Assembly for God to heal us, save our children and bless them with a blessing that they will never forget and it is also biblical so let us not forget this as we make our plans for this International Assembly.

***Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*** Hebrews 10:22-25

A year ago or more someone told me they could not

come to the Assembly because they were too sick and this year they are still here complaining about being too sick. It makes you wonder if they really want the Lord to heal them. It reminds me of the man in the healing line and a Brother asked him, "Sir do you want to be prayed for and he quickly replied NO, I am on disability." Some get a lot of good out of being sick and having people pet them, but we need God's healing power in this Assembly. Why not come and get healed? I remember when people who were sick would not stay away and we filled part of the Assembly Tabernacle with crutches, wheel chairs, and other handicap devices. The lost ones were also saved, sanctified, filled with the Holy Ghost and added to the Church.

We need each other so please come this year and go home changed from the old into the new man or woman God wants you to be. Christian fellowship is really important in this evil time that we are in. So come on out to the 106<sup>th</sup> International Assembly—The Lord just might come during this Assembly!



### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

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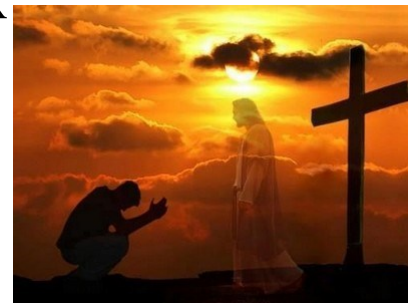
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## “PERSONAL SURRENDER”

International Overseer  
John A. Wilkins, Jr.



*Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?  
Then said I, Here am I; send me. Isaiah 6:8*

We used to sing the old song that says, “...*I’ll go where You want me to go, dear Lord, O’er mountain, or plain or sea;*”, but then we begin to analyze our position when He calls and soon we say, “I have misunderstood You, dear Lord, and I can’t go.” We really need to be careful when we sing, talk or even think, because God is looking for unconditional surrender where we will just do what He says do without much thinking about it. In the text we find a man that did exactly that. He went as the Lord directed him and obeyed God. Then we sang, “...*Where He leads me I will follow, I’ll go with Him, with Him all the way.*” Many sang these old songs with no thought at all regarding the words; they just muttered them out without thinking about what they were saying. God wants us to surrender our lives totally and completely unto Him and then serve Him out of love, not fear!

Today we need to hear the voice of the Lord and recognize Him for who He is, the Son of God, our redeemer and soon coming King. King Jesus will soon rule this earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords when the day of the Lord cometh and no one will stand against Him with success. Don’t you want to be part of this world government? He has promised that He would return and we can count

on it, He will. He is not coming back for the invalid ones, but He is coming back for His children that have followed His teachings without reservation and have never let them go when things were against them. Many say today that we are old fashioned if we follow the teachings of Jesus Christ, because the world has adopted, almost universally, double marriage, fornication, adultery and other acts of wickedness and our church houses are full of it. Many of them speak in tongues as the Devil gives them utterances (not the Holy Ghost), and makes them comfortable in their works of iniquity. Let us look at an example of one of God’s young men of the Old Testament whose mother had given him back to the Lord at birth and had been responsible for placing him in the temple for training with Eli, the priest. Now Eli had gotten himself into a mess over his sons that had drifted off into sin and become a reproach to the Children of God and God was about to remove him and place another in charge of His work.

*And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep; That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he*

*went and lay down. And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him. And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child. Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle. In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end. For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that*

*the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever. And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision. Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I. And he said, What is the thing that the LORD hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee. And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good. And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD. And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.*

1 Sam 3:3-21

At first when the Lord called to Samuel, he did not know who it was doing the calling, so he ran to Eli and answered the call, then the second time he again ran to Eli, but the third time he answered, **"Speak; for thy servant heareth."**

Now we have the lines of communication established and it is clear to Samuel that the Lord is speaking to him and he is ready to listen carefully to what is being said. **And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.** The Lord is telling this young man some things that will be hard for

him to say to Eli, because it will be a message that is informing Eli of the end of his reign over His **concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.** For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

Eli was a good man of God, but had allowed his two sons to make havoc of God's plans and they had gotten themselves involved in much of the iniquity which Eli was fully aware of. Eli did as so many do today, he ignored their mischief and said nothing to stop them. God said, **"For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever."** There would be no more sacrifice for their sins and the judgments that God was bringing could not be atoned for anymore, it was payday. We can turn our heads on our children's sins and just say nothing, but it will not render us innocent or clear. God holds us accountable and He will not let us get by when we uphold their sinful acts.

***Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I. And he said, What is the thing that the LORD hath said unto thee?*** We see here that Samuel is between a rock and a hard place in the sense that the Lord's anointed has asked for the **THING** that the Lord has said to Samuel that will be performed against him. He then goes on to explain to Samuel what will

happen to him if he holds anything back from him, in other words, tell me everything and leave nothing out. Samuel then does as he was instructed by Eli and tells him everything just as the Lord had told him. Samuel did not become a problem for Eli but he grew and continued to serve the Lord as Eli continued for a time as the anointed of God until it was time for Samuel to move into his position. The Lord spoke to him again at Shiloh and this new prophet of God knew who was doing the talking now. Sometimes we get mixed up in our minds as to who it is doing the talking and who it is that we should follow. We need to know who is talking and then follow the Lord as He speaks to us. I recently had someone tell me some things the Lord had told them and it was all a bunch of lies because He will not tell you something that He has already said in His book that does not match up with what He is saying now. They may be condemned to Hell before they will ever recognize the truth, but they will know it is wrong someday for sure. It is like when the man told me that the Holy Ghost had spoken and said it was alright for the man to have another man's wife. You don't have to question that, it can just be thrown out the door as a lie regardless of who said it because the Word of God declares it to be one. Listen folks we waste too much time trying to figure out what is true and what is not true from messages and interpretations, some things are just plain wrong according to the Bible and if it is wrong according to the Bible, you better not accept it as truth because someone interpreted it a way that does not conform with the Bible.

When the Lord calls us to go, and we know who is doing the talking,

and we answer, “Then said I, Here am I; send me.” we can go in trust while knowing it was the Lord that made the call when things get rough we will still know who it was that called. A young man once asked me, “How do I know it was the Lord that called me to preach?” I answered him this way, “try not to.” When we say these words be prepared to make a personal surrender to the Lord and learn to wait for Him to direct you into the work. He is a good teacher, care giver, provider, and he will supervise us well, but we must listen and hear His voice, not that of a friend or neighbor. Many leap into ministries that they are not fit for because the Lord did not prepare them for it and they have listened to someone else.

Paul was on the road to persecute Christians when he heard a voice from the Lord and saw a great light. He personally surrendered to the Lord and was changed forever that day.

*And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to*

*do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. And when he had*

*received meat, he was strengthened. Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ. Acts 9:1-22*

Now this is the most perfect way to understand this message theme. Just read this passage of Scripture a few times and see how this blind man, that had to be led around for three days until the scales fell from his eyes, was then turned loose to become a most powerful preacher. He was never blinded by the world or anything else again, but saw everything clearly after this experience. He knew who it was doing the talking now and he immediately quit beating Christians and putting them in jail and started acting like them from this time on. He had ultimately surrendered to Christ and was forever changed. It amazed me how the ones he was going to were afraid of him, because they knew his past and that he was no friend of the Christians, but they did not know him after the change which had occurred when he listened to the Lord. This was no longer Saul of Tarsus, but Paul of Christ changed forever by the blood of one Jesus.

You too can be changed forever, but you will have to make complete and total surrender to the Lord for it to happen. If you sing the old songs that say, “I’ll go —→

where you want me to go, I'll do what you want me to do dear Lord," then you better mean what you say or you become a liar and then He will reject you. God is looking for the few and the humble that will sing this song from their heart and mean every word of it. He will not call you to go somewhere that He will not go, because He will go with you. Our job is to listen to His call and then rise and know that we are not going alone, but accompanied by the Lord Himself. It is time to answer the call of God and go with confidence, knowing our God is sufficient and we do not need our wife or husband to hear the same call, our call is personal from God and we must personally accept it. He is dealing with us and does not go through our husbands or wives to get to us. He speaks to us directly and our acknowledgement is direct to Him. Will you allow the

Lord to speak and then answer as Samuel answered? "*Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth*" This is the direct way God wants to hear from us and doesn't require us to say, "Wait Lord until I can find my wife or wait until I can find my husband, this will require both of us." While we appreciate our wives and husbands, God wants to deal with us on a personal basis and they didn't call us, He did.

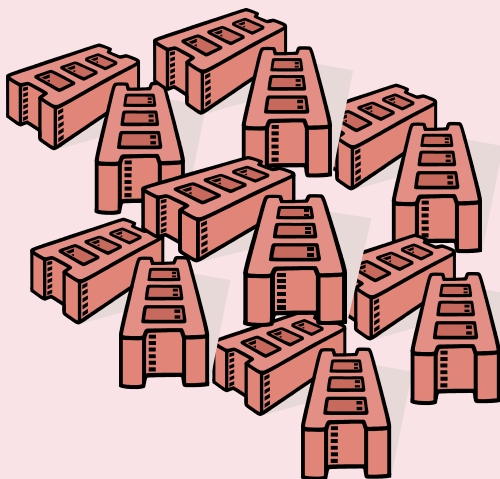
The Church will not be blessed as He wants to bless us until we become responsible for our own answers to the Lord. I keep hearing things like this, "Well, my wife and I are in this together and we discuss everything before we do anything, even for the Church." Hear the Lord today for yourself, and then do what you are called to do and then discuss it with your spouse and children, if you feel it

is necessary, and often it is absolutely necessary if we expect them to help us. I just feel that sometimes there is miscommunication because we feel that everything God says to us must be discussed with someone else and biblically that just isn't true and neither will it work. Our personal surrender to the Lord will yield us a DIRECT LINE to the Master.

## "PERSONAL SURRENDER" □



**SPECIAL THANKS TO "ALL"**  
**who are Participating in the **Brick Plan**.**  
**YOUR HELP IS**  
**GREATLY APPRECIATED!**





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*(From time to time the White Wing Messenger will be featuring messages in this spot on the theme "Reaffirming the Faith." These messages are taken from the book **The Glorious Church of God**, by M. A. Tomlinson, which is in the process of revision and re-editing for publication under the title **Reaffirming the Faith**).*

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## Reaffirming the Faith—

# The Scriptural Study Of The Glorious Church

### Introduction

One of the greatest misconceptions in all of Christendom is the one concerning when and where the Church was established. It is difficult to understand why this is so, because a careful study and consideration of the Scriptures makes this event clear.

With few exceptions, evangelical fundamental religious organizations hold to the notion that the Church was established on the day of Pentecost. With irrefutable scriptures to support and substantiate logical reasoning, it will be found that the Church had already been established and was a functioning entity when the day of Pentecost came.

This truth will be further developed and scripturally established in the body of this and succeeding chapters, but a few statements of fact will be given here as a basis for thought when the reader considers a more comprehensive discussion of the subject: The meeting with Jesus and His disciples as recorded in Mark 3:13-19 was clearly an organizational meeting—the twelve apostles were ordained; they were commissioned and given authority; the organization (Church) had its own financial system (Judas Iscariot was appointed the treasurer, cf. John 12:4-6; 13:29); and the meeting was a fulfillment of the prophecy of Psalm 72:16: "There shall be an handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon: and they of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth."

Other considerations are that on the day of Pentecost there were many members *added* to the already existing body of believers (the Church Christ set in order earlier)—He did it Himself and did not leave it to others: "...I will build my church..." (Matthew 16:18). The act of members being added is recorded in Acts 2:41; 5:14). It would be impossible to "add" members to something which did not exist.

### SOME EMPHATIC DECLARATIONS ABOUT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH

"...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. 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" (Matthew 16:18, 19). With these words Jesus made known to the disciples His intention to establish the Church. He declared, "I will build my church." (This is stated in the present progressive tense; meaning it is now being done.) The Scripture also records the time and place—when and where—Jesus established His Church. He went up into a mountain and called unto Him whom He would and there He ordained twelve of His disciples whom He called **apostles**, and sent them forth to preach (cf. Mark 3:13).

The Apostle Paul wrote many things about Christ and the Church: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:25-27).

The subject of the Church is perhaps misunderstood more often than any other point of Bible doctrine. Jesus declared that He would build a Church (cf. Matthew 16:18), and Paul confirmed the fact that Jesus gave Himself for the Church and purchased it with His own blood (cf. Acts 20:28). Paul went on to point out that the Church will be cleansed with the washing of water by the Word (cf. Ephesians 5:26) and that Christ will eventually



*“Some of the erroneous ideas about the Church are generally accepted by many Christians of our day. . .”*

present it to Himself a glorious Church without spot or wrinkle (cf. v. 27). In spite of these and many other positive declarations about the Church, there exists in the minds of many Christians a certain amount of reservation and uncertainty about it.

### **THE MEANING OF “CHURCH”**

The word “church,” as used in our discussion and in the religious literature of our day, has come to have a variety of meanings. When we speak of the Church, it is often confused with the kingdom of God or misinterpreted to mean some specifically named religious group. Some of the erroneous ideas about the Church are generally accepted by many Christians of our day, and before one can gain a true understanding of what the Church of God is from the Scripture, it is beneficial and enlightening to re-evaluate some of the accepted, or traditional, ideas about the subject. Many people have more or less settled the issue in their own minds, but this does not mean that their thinking could not be wrong according to God’s Word.

For many centuries it was generally believed that the earth was flat. It has been said that before Columbus made his historic voyage to the New World, some of the sea captains of his day hesitated to venture far from the shores of their homeland for fear that their vessels would sail off the edge of the earth and be lost forever. Those people were sincere in their belief, but they were wrong. The fact that they believed and taught that the earth was flat did not make it so. Christopher Columbus opened the way to a greater knowledge of the earth’s surface with his voyage, but it was left to another explorer to sail completely around the world and prove conclusively that the earth is round.

The fact that some of the misconceptions about the scriptural identity of the Church are accepted by outstanding religious leaders, does not mean that these misconceptions are true.

### **THE TRUTH ABOUT THE CHURCH IS FOUND IN THE SCRIPTURES**

What is the truth concerning the Bible teaching about the glorious Church of God? Naturally the best place to find the answer to this question is in the Bible itself. The honest seeker looks to the Bible as the basis for doctrine, Christian practice

and the plan of salvation, and it is from the Scripture that we can gain a clear understanding of the Church that Jesus established while He was on the earth. A thorough examination of the Word of God, with an open mind, a receptive heart, and an eagerness to receive and embrace the truth of the Bible, can eliminate a great deal of misunderstanding and clear away some of the questions of honest-hearted men and women who are searching for the Church that Paul said would be a glorious Church without spot or wrinkle—the body of Christ.

Man’s ideas and opinions are of little or no value in the pursuit of truth, since the Bible is the absolute and only rule of faith, belief, and practice that will reveal the true plan of God for the ages. Preconceived notions must give way to the divine revelation contained in God’s Word. Even honest and sincere conviction that will not stand the searching light of the Bible must be abandoned in favor of a scriptural understanding of the Church. In order to make a true and thorough study of the Church of God from the Bible standpoint, it is best to eliminate from our thinking unsubstantiated opinions that have been formed, and begin the searching analysis with a clean slate and an open mind in an effort to clearly understand the Church as it is presented in the Word of God.

For this searching of the Scripture to be most effective, we should establish a mutual base and a common point of beginning. First, if we are to accept the Bible as the final authority in religious and spiritual matters, then we must be in agreement that it is the divinely inspired Word of God. We must agree that the Bible is infallible in context and that it does not contradict itself. If we accept the Bible on this basis for part of our Christian belief and practice, then we must accept it as the final authority on all religious and spiritual matters. If we are willing to accept the Holy Word as the basis for repentance, regeneration, justification and the new birth, then we should be willing to accept what it has to say about the Church. From this point we can begin an examination of the subject in the Scripture text.

### **THE WORD “CHURCH” DEFINED**

Before going further, we should consider some definitions that will aid us in understanding the subject. The word “church” has various meanings,

# *"This divine Church of the Scripture should not be confused with any man-made institution or organization."*

both in the New Testament and as we use it today. In some instances, the word refers to a particular local congregation. Paul addressed epistles to "the Church of God" at Corinth. Reference is also made to the "church that was at Antioch" and to the "church of the Laodiceans." These were local congregations such as we would refer to the "church at Cleveland" or to a local church congregation in any particular city; but it is to be understood that these were not separate independent churches, sects or denominations. The word is sometimes used in the plural, as in Acts 9:31, "Then had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee," but this refers to collective local congregations of the same universal Church. It is not a reference to different religious organizations with different governments and doctrines, but to local bodies of the Church of God.

In some references found in the New Testament, the word "church" refers to a meeting of the members of the local church to transact business. This is the definition of the word as Paul used it when he gave instructions regarding speaking in tongues (1 Corinthians 11:18), and the admonition that the women keep silent (not have a deciding voice in the business of) the church (1 Corinthians 14:34, 35).

Many scriptural passages refer to the Church of God, the divine institution established by Jesus. Peter, Paul, and many of the followers of Christ were members of this Church, and James was the General Overseer (cf. Acts 15:13-21). The Church of God in this sense refers to the universal body of the disciples of Jesus banded together under one government in unity to perform God's will on the earth. This is the definition that should be applied to the word "church" when Jesus said, "I will build my church," and later when Paul said, "Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it...that he might present it to himself a glorious church." Paul also used the word in this sense when he wrote, "He is the head of the body, the church," and "...for his body's sake, which is the church" (Colossians 1:18, 24). These verses clearly indicate that the Church of God is the Body of Christ. This divine Church of the Scripture should not be confused with any man-made institution or organization.

Reference is also made to the "church in the wilderness" (Acts 7:38), and refers to the congregation of Israel under Moses. Many parallels or types and shadows can be pointed out between the "church in the wilderness" or the government that

God gave Moses for the children of Israel, and the Church of God of today, the Body of Christ.

So it is evident that these meanings may be applied to "church" as it is used in the New Testament: a local congregation, the business sessions of the church itself, the Church of God as the divine institution established by Jesus, and the church in the wilderness as represented by the Israelites under the Law.

Various definitions are also applied to the word "church" today. We use "church" to refer to the building in which religious organizations conduct services. We may speak of the little country church, or the stately old church building that serves as a landmark in the city. This is only a man-made building for a particular purpose, and is not to be confused with the Church of the Bible.

The service itself is sometimes referred to as "church." We may say that we are going to church on Sunday, meaning that we will attend religious services.

Neither is this worship service itself to be defined as the Church that Jesus established. Perhaps the most common error is to define a particular religious organization as a church, or to refer to all Christian people as the church. These organizations with various (many times conflicting) governments, practices and doctrines are not the Church of God, even though many of the members may be born-again Christians. The word "church" as the divine institution of the Bible is not correctly used to refer to the building, the service, any religious organization other than the one Jesus established, or as a reference to all Christians.

## **THE EFFECT OF THE ELAPSE OF TIME ON THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH**

In studying the scriptural nature of the Church, it is good to keep in mind the references of time. Jesus established the Church, and Paul wrote about it several hundred years ago in a setting that is different from present-day conditions. An individual may have different characteristics and appearances at different points in his lifetime. The infant child differs in many respects from the fully-matured adult. An observer might give an accurate description of the baby, and this account would hardly be recognized as referring to the same per-

-TURN TO PAGE 14



Together with their family  
Thurman  
And  
Darlene Lowe  
Cordially invite you to their  
50th Wedding Anniversary  
Vow Renewal

July 1, 2017  
5:00 p.m.

At their home at  
1311 E. Linda Lane  
Hobbs, NM 88242

Dinner and Reception  
to follow.

*50 Wonderful Years Together!*

*Come Celebrate with us as The Adventure  
Continues!*

*If you would like to send them a gift:*

*Thurman & Darlene Lowe are registered at  
Bed Bath & Beyond and at Walmart. They  
also like Gift Cards to Home Depot, Lowes  
Home Improvement, Outback Steakhouse,  
and Red Lobster. There will also be a money  
tree at the Anniversary Celebration.*

*The favor of a reply is requested before  
June 23, 2017 to Jannece Colon at 5026 N  
Florida, Alamogordo, NM 88310 or email  
RSVP to [jc@thechurchofgodofnc.com](mailto:jc@thechurchofgodofnc.com) or  
text/call at 575-631-3412.*

*50th  
Anniversary*







# Vessels

Harry D. Elder

September 20, 1930 - June 21, 2014



## A Chosen Vessel

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you,...John 15:16a

2 Corinthians 4:7 *"But we have this TREASURE in earthen vessels, that the EXCELLENCY of the POWER may be of GOD, and NOT OF US."*

## Of Honour (God's Chosen) and Dishonour Vessels of Mercy and Vessels of Wrath:

Romans 9:21-23 *Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,*

## Sanctified Vessels meet for the master's use.

2 Timothy 2:20-21 *But in a great (rich) house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; (clay); and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.*

Isaiah 52:11 *...touch no unclean thing; ...be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD.*

What God cleanses, He fills—what He fills, He uses—what He uses, He fills again.

## The Importance Of Being A Vessel Of Honour.

1 Corinthians 3:13 *"Every man's work shall be made*

*manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of WHAT SORT IT IS."*

Vessels of wood and earth turn to ashes and dust in the fire, but gold and silver become more pure with fire.

**SILVER** is a precious metal, second only to gold (in value and in malleability).

Proverbs 25:4 *Take away the dross (impurities) from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer (refiner, God).*

**GOLD QUALITIES**—Beautiful, valuable, rare and durable.

Gold because of its great value, it is a beacon for explorers and a lure for thieves. People can learn from your knowledge, wisdom, experiences and teaching the enemy will always be after you, to steal your gold.

Gold is the most malleable (capable of being shaped, tempered, changed and pliable, flexible) of all metals. It is a soft, heavy metal; not gray or white when pure and resists corrosion and weathering. There are different levels of purity in gold. Gold is measured in karats or parts of pure gold (example: 14 karats gold is 14 parts pure gold and 10 parts alloy).

Matthew 13: 8 (100%, 60%, 30% *But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.*

Other metals can be coated with a thin layer of gold (on the surface). People need to have the real gold on the inside-out, not a deception of appearing to be the real thing.

2 Peter 1: 17 *For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a*



voice to him from the excellent glory, *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.* Wells Without water—FALSE

In the natural state, gold is always entrapped in large quantities of other minerals. In other words, a tried and true gold vessel of the Lord is truly a rare individual, not many of them and lives among all the many different vessels in this world and in the church.

### **Three steps before a deposit of ore yields pure gold.**

1. Ore must be removed from the ground or mined (Jesus saves us from sin and removes and separates us from the world). Gravity separation (pan shaking) - the motion separates the particles. I have prayed many times that God would shake up the sinner. (Even Christians need shaking.)

2. Ore must be treated or dressed to extract the gold and remove the impurities and discard the worthless material (sanctification).

3. Gold must be refined. Purified gold is a slow process. The impurities are continuously being pulled put. (The fire of the Holy Ghost after sanctification is the fire that continues to refine and purify our vessels).

### **VESSELS FULL OF OIL: 2 Kings 4:1-7**

V. 1, 2. *Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen. And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil.*

Little is much, when God is in it. She only had one pot of oil in her house until there was God! When we begin our walk in the Lord, we may have a little portion. If we are committed to God with that small portion, He will bless and increase that little.

Matthew 13:12 *For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.*

If we don't keep increasing in the Lord, we will be like the five foolish virgins who took their lamps but no extra oil. (Read Matthew 25:)

She had this little pot of oil, the divine power worked upon it teaching us to make the best of what

we have. God could have supplied regardless. But he chose to use what little she had to show His great miracle.

2 Kings 4: 3 *Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.*

Borrowed vessels; sought among neighbors and friends. We are to seek the lost so that they may be filled with the glory of God also. They are empty vessels desiring to be filled. Borrow not a few always look for an opportunity to witness to the lost. V.4 *And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.*

"Shut the door", private. (prayer, fasting, etc. done in privacy) The oil was to be multiplied in the pouring. The way to increase what we have is to use it. It is not hoarding the talents, but trading with them that doubles them. It must be poured out by her, not by anyone else (not the prophet). We must do it for ourselves, the preacher or prayer-warrior cannot do it for us. Certainly they can instruct us, pray for us, but the ultimate duty lies with us.

V.5 *So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out.*

She did it accordingly. She acted on faith. She believed and was obedient. (The Word of God—Bible)

V.6 *And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.*

The oil continued flowing as long as there was an empty vessel to receive it; when each vessel was full, the oil stayed. Isn't it wonderful to see someone you helped in the Lord, grow and become victorious in Him? When we become satisfied where we are in the Lord, we become stale and we have nothing to give to others to help them. The vessel had to be empty before God would fill it.

Jeremiah 48:11 *Moab (ourselves) hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed."*

We should always be pressing toward the mark, changing for the better, a sweet savour and a sweet taste to the Lord. I'm sure there was none spilled or wasted. God gives above what we ask. Were there more vessels, then there was still enough from God to



fill them all. (as Elisha) and be ready to do good to those that are in need of it.

2 Kings 4: V.7 *Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.*

She must not keep the oil for herself, her own luxury but sell it and pay her debt with the money she received for the oil. We cannot be selfish when we experience the anointing - it is strictly used for the purpose of glorifying God. We are not to abuse it in any other way. Serve God cheerfully in the use of it.

### Conclusion:

We are to desire to be vessels of honour, even of gold; tried by fire, purified, meet for the masters use. Filled with the anointing of God for the purpose of his glory, to help those in need.

Isaiah 10:27 *"And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.*

Isaiah. 58:6 *'to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke'?*

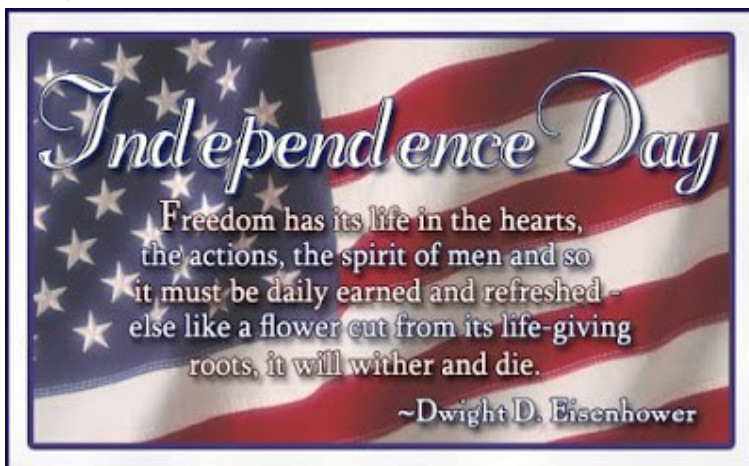
Isaiah 58:12 *"thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, (gap) the restorer of paths to dwell in."*

2 Corinthians 4:7 *...That the EXCELLENCY of the POWER may be of GOD, and NOT OF US.* □

The Banner of Truth

Jul Aug Sep, 2005

**HAPPY 4th OF JULY!**



### REAFFIRMING THE FAITH. . .

*Continued From page 10*

son after he has reached maturity and performed his mission in life.

In studying the Church, it is necessary to consider various points in time. We know the Church as it existed in the New Testament, as it exists today, and we have prophecy to indicate the future state of the same organization. Although the doctrine, government and certain practices of the Church are not subject to change with time, and in these aspects the Church was glorious as Paul knew it and is glorious as we know it, yet it has not reached the height of its glory and the perfect state that it will achieve at some time in the future. The Scripture indicates that when the Church is perfected according to God's plan Jesus will present it to Himself as His bride.

It is necessary to realize that when Paul wrote his epistles, there was only one Church—the one established by Jesus. The present-day structure of so-called "denominations" with different governments, doctrines, teachings and practices was unknown in Paul's day. For this reason a superficial reading of certain Scriptures seems to indicate that the new birth is the same as the entrance to the Church; however, upon closer examination of the Bible, it is evident that the kingdom of God and the Church of God are not the same. They are two distinct entities, although interrelated. Recognition of this difference is vitally essential to an understanding of the Church of God from the Bible standpoint.

It should also be pointed out that the Church is not exclusively a New Testament Church, but it is the Bible Church, having prophetic roots in the Old Testament and its birth in the New. It is based upon the prophets and their writings as found in the Old Testament and the teachings and practices of Jesus and the apostles as recorded in the New Testament. Paul referred to the foundation of the Church when he wrote, "the foundation of the apostles and prophets" (Ephesians 2:20).

With this common ground as a beginning point, one is ready to undertake a searching analysis of the Church as outlined in the Scripture in an effort to determine just what the Bible teaches concerning the Church that Jesus established and purchased with His own blood, and that Paul declared would be a glorious Church without spot or wrinkle. □

A Christian is the keyhole through which  
Other people see God. —Robert E. Gibson

APRIL 28, 1990

# USA Family Camp 2017

Theme: Created For HIS Eternal Purpose

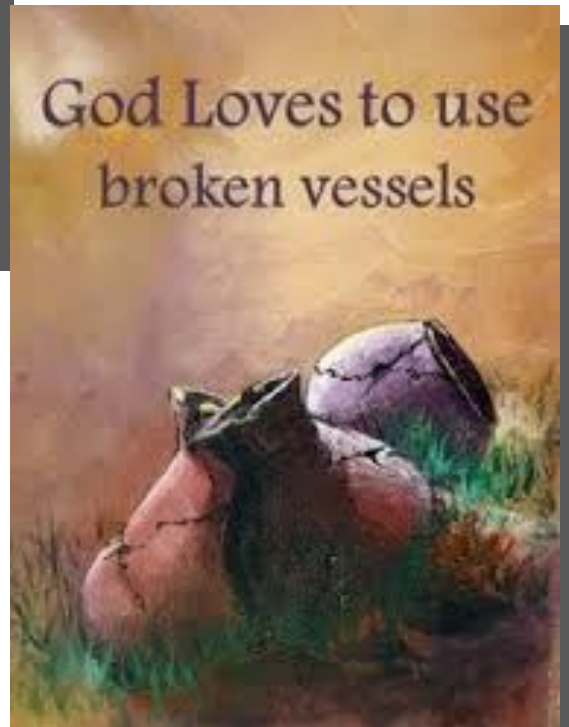
Ephesians 3:10-11

Mark you calendars!!

Coming in October 2017!



God Loves to use  
broken vessels





# The Church of God of North Carolina travels to Guatemala!!

In May, a private pay delegation consisting of Bishop Thurman Lowe, Sis. Darlene Lowe, Bishop Richard Colon, Sis. Jannece Colon, Bro. Jose Tzuc and Bro. Mayco Soto traveled to Huehuetenango, Guatemala to meet with some contacts that we had. We look forward to the opportunity to visit Guatemala again in the near future to set churches in order and bring in numerous members. At this time the seeds have been planted, initial contacts made, and look forward to the time that God tells us that it is time to go back and get The Church of God of NC in order in Guatemala!! We thank the Lord for safe travels and a great adventure!!

Guatemala is a beautiful country! God's creation is magnificent! The architecture, history, colors, fresh fruits, vegetables and countryside are magnificent!



Guatemala City  
Fruit Stand



Bro. Richard, Bro. Thurman, Bro. Mayco,  
and Victor (Our Interpreter)



Guatemala  
Botanical Gardens



Guatemala County side



Antigua, Guatemala  
Lady weaving



Bro & Sis Lowe  
Enjoying Guatemala



Bro. Richard & Victor (His Interpreter)  
Preaching the Word!



The Lake and Inactive Volcano in Guatemala



## Kinchil, Yucatan, Mexico—May 2017

We were so very blessed to be able to stop by Kinchil, Mexico in the Yucatan on our way back home from Guatemala! When we arrived at the airport, we were greeted by numerous smiling faces that were eager to see us once again. We drove to Kinchil from Merida's airport to be tremendously welcomed by a Surprise Birthday Party for Sis. Jannece Colon and dinner with Pastor Ricardo and all of his family. The next morning we started out with breakfast, catching up with everyone, studying God's word, talking about the trip to Guatemala, and answering questions about everyone in the Churches back home. We had a glorious two days with the people there in Kinchil. On Thursday evening, we were very blessed to get to go to a new mission that was started in Tetiz. We all jumped on a charter bus and headed down the road. There was no room in the house for everyone, so, we set up chairs and had service in the middle of the street. It was a glorious night and the Spirit moved in mighty ways. Bishop Richard Colon preached and he had an interpreter that did very well. The message was received with open arms. We were able to see some old friends, meet lots of new friends, and were thoroughly encouraged by the Love of God and the many things that can be accomplished in The Church of God when we all communicate and work together for God's glory.

**Surprise Party for  
Sis. Jannece's Birthday**



**Bro Thurman & Bro Pascual**



**Bro. Thurman & Sis Darlene  
taking a nap**



**At the Mission in Tetiz**



**Bro. Richard Colom &  
Bro. Estevan Alcocer Uitzil**



**One of our meals together**



**Just a few of the Wonderful Saints working for God and His Church!**





**Bible Training Institute**  
*Jannece Colon*  
**BTI Director**



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This year, just prior to our International Assembly, we will be holding our BTI—Bible Training Institute. We will be providing Terms 1, 2, and 3. BTI is a chance to get together with others in The Church of God of North Carolina in great fellowship with each other, as well as, to gain knowledge and understanding of the Bible and The Church of God.

We have a great staff that has been praying for BTI and the students. We are looking so forward to having you join us this year! The dates for BTI are July 17-25, 2017 in Dunn, North Carolina. It will be held at the International Headquarters at 301 W. Edgerton St. Our schedule starts at 8:00 a.m. with Breakfast followed by Morning Devotion at 8:30 a.m. in our Chapel. Classes will run from 9:00-12:00 noon with a lunch from 12:00-1:00, followed by the continuation of classes that will start at 1:00 p.m. and run through 5:00 p.m.

The fee for this year's BTI is \$90.00. It will cover your breakfast, lunch, BTI book, class supplies, and class recognition. BTI is well worth every penny spent! We are looking forward to a wonderful year! Hope you can join us!

Our theme this year is: ***Here Am I; Send Me!*** Our scripture text is found in ***Isaiah 6:8***.

Now is the time to plan on being at BTI! It only takes a \$25.00 deposit to hold your spot. NOW is the Time to get in your applications! This promises to be the biggest Class of BTI students ever! Hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me, Jannece Colon at 575-631-3412 or by email at [jc@thechurchofgodofnc.com](mailto:jc@thechurchofgodofnc.com). We want you to be able to attend, please let us know what we can do to assist to make sure you are able to join us!

***Here Am I; Send ME!! - Isaiah 6:8***

***Please be in Prayer! We are taking BTI Internationally in 2017! We will be holding BTI in Kinchil, Yucatan, Mexico in December. Participants will be able to take part in Term 1. I have been visiting with them and our participants are getting excited to learn more of God's beautiful wonders.***

**BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE**

**Mail Application to:**  
**The Church of God of N.C.**  
P.O. Box 2109  
Dunn, NC 28335

**Phone:** (910) 891-5017  
**Fax:** (910) 891-5693



**Bible Training Institute 2017**  
**Location:**  
310 W. Edgerton St.,  
Dunn, NC 28334

**Dates:** July 17-25, 2017  
**Times:** 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

***I hereby make application for admission to Bible Training Institute***

**\_\_\_\_\_ Term 1    \_\_\_\_\_ Term 2    \_\_\_\_\_ Term 3**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ (Students must be 12 years of age or older, unless granted permission by BTI Director)

***\*\*16 years of age and under, must be accompanied by a parent or guardian!!\*\****

Name of Nearest Relative: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Single    \_\_\_\_\_ Married    \_\_\_\_\_ Separated    \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced    \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Are you Saved? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you Sanctified? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you filled with the Holy Ghost? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of The Church of God of NC?    \_\_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_\_ No

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

For what special work are you preparing? \_\_\_\_\_

If a minister, what license do you hold? \_\_\_\_\_

If in the ministry, in which state are you presently working? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you physically and mentally able to take this course? \_\_\_\_\_

Education: Elementary \_\_\_\_\_ years, Secondary \_\_\_\_\_ years, College \_\_\_\_\_ years

(No certain amount of education is required, but you should be able to read and write.)

I do hereby pledge myself to be loyal to all the rules as outlined by Bible Training Institute.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***A deposit of \$25.00 is required with the application (Non-Refundable).***

**Total BTI Fees are \$90.00 per participant**

# UPDATES

**There have been a couple of changes  
updates and additions.**

July 17-25, 2017 BTI (Terms 1-3) - July 17-25, 2017 - Dunn, NC

**July 27-29, 2017 International Assembly**

October - Family Camp (USA) - New Mexico - \*\*Date To Be Announced!

October 30\_November 3, 2017 Western District Conference - Haiti

December 1-3, 2017 Dominican Republic National Convention -

December 4-8 & 11-15, 2017 BTI - (Term 1) - Kinchil, Yucatan, Mexico -

December - Romblon Camp in Philippines

January 28-29, 2018 National Convention - Honduras

**“THE BANNER OF TRUTH”**

310 W. Edgerton St.

P.O. Box 2109

Dunn, NC 28335-2109

POSTAGE

**Address Service Requested**