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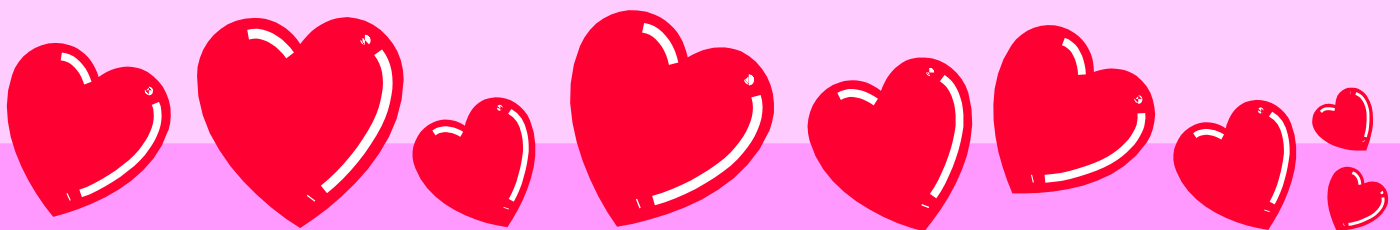
This is



my commandment,

*That ye love one another,
as I have loved you.*

John 15:12



CONTENTS

Contents	2
From the Editor	3
MESSAGE: “How Do I Say, “I Love God”	4
March Missions / Contact Us	7
Gone Home	8
MESSAGE: “Gods Love Is Shed In Our Hearts”	9
Special Thanks	10
VLB—The Victory Kid	11
Building Families of Faith	12
Mexico Report	13
Sharing With Pictures	15
Bible Training Institute	18
BTI Application	19
Dates For 2017	20

Editorial:



LOVE

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



The theme for this paper seems to be about LOVE and rightly so because, it is almost Valentine's Day in the U.S.A. This is a time of sharing and expressing our love and commitment to our most significant one in our life. This is a celebration carried on for many centuries.

According to statistics "Approximately 150 million Valentine's Day cards are exchanged annually, making Valentine's Day the second most popular card-sending holiday after Christmas." There is nothing wrong with telling your wife or husband that you love them, but the real message is in the display of affection toward them each day. Just imagine what is spent on just cards to say, "I love you" on this special day. The restaurants and flower shops reap the rewards of this special day and there is nothing wrong with that. However, let's remember what sincere words mean while we do the flowers and meals out. I want to learn how to say with every fiber of my body and soul, "I love you darling" and if I have done it correctly she will know it is true. God has truly made us one and without our companion we are not whole, only part of us is there.

Submitting yourselves one to another in the

fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. Ephesians 5:21-28

Love is the cord that holds marriage together and causes us to honor and cherish each other with respect and dignity. **Love** is also the cord that binds The Church of God together. The Bible says, *By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.* John 13:35

As we love Christ, let us love one another.



STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

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How Do I Say, “I Love God”?

International Overseer
John A. Wilkins, Jr.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Now we say we love God, but do we really love God as we should when all of life around us teaches us to hate one another without us being aware of the effect that news, everyday conversation, politics and all other things have on us. Let us look to the Bible for an example of real love in the story of the man who was left beside of the road who had been robbed, beaten and left for dead.

And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as

he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise. Luke 10:25-37

This story tells us how life is today as we hustle and bustle all through our days with everything being left behind instead of stopping to take care of the little things that matter so much to the Lord. We run like dynamos and never have time to stop and see if our neighbor needs something or if the new person that has moved into the house three doors down has a need that we might be able to help with. Now the lawyer in this biblical story stood up to tempt the Master when he asked, **“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”** Jesus then asked him, ***“What is written in the law? How readest thou?”*** Then Jesus gave him the chance to explain and replied to him that he had answered right so he then asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” Here is the answer that trips so many of us up and

finds us short of the blessing that God has intended for us to enjoy. He tells him about the man that has been robbed and left for dead and how the other men went around the man without offering to help him. They no doubt muttered a prayer for the helpless man something like, “God please help this man to find medical help, oil for his wounds, food for his strength and healing for the bad places which have been opened to the flies and disease.” The Samaritan man saw a need that he could minister to and jumped into action, because of his compassion on him. We need to spring into action because of our compassion when we see someone that has been hurt by the awfulness of sin and robbed of the blessings of a caring God who stands ready to forgive them and nurture them back to spiritual health. Many today have been robbed and they are lying dirty and clothes torn due to neglect while none around them bother to even tell them about Jesus and what He could do for them. Will God believe us when we say, “Oh, how I love Jesus” or we say, “God, I love you!” We must develop a life that shows our love for God by our actions from our heart.

I see men who say how much they love God, but then their actions leave one in complete wonder when they show hate by the deeds done toward godly men they have to have communication with in this life. Sometimes they throw spears (spiritual) at others and call them

names only the Devil could enjoy while all the time they testify to the love they have for God. The Bible tells us they are wrong and that it is impossible to hate your brother while you love God whom you have not seen. Today we see some who call their pastor ugly names and say all manner of evil against them without regard for the office they hold. It is a serious charge to belittle, tear down and falsely accuse the shepherds that give their lives for the sheep of God. Some of the things done to our spiritual leaders are so shameful that I won't mention any more of them here, but it is God who holds the record on these activities. It will also be God who administers judgment on these matters as these people come into His judgment at the end of life. We need to wake up to our responsibility before it is too late and love our pastors and church leaders with a pure heart and pure motives.

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also. 1 John 4:20-21

It is the same as murder to hate your brother although the Bible tells us that we will be hated by the brethren.

Hear the word of the Lord, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the Lord be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed. Isaiah 66:5

Many have been taken before the

counsel of the brethren and been thrown out while clinging to the doctrine with all their might and begging for mercy. They have cried "Let the Lord be glorified, because we are getting rid of them and their sins to let the Church roll on." They have lied on many good and godly men in many camps in the name of the Lord, but it will be to their shame eventually, because the God we serve sees all and He hears all. Now the scripture tells us that it is not possible to hate your brother and love God at the same time and it explains these men are nothing but murderers and will be judged by God as such. They intended to bring shame, but instead they have brought honor and joy to those who have been falsely accused and purposely shamed. God will honor those whom He loves and it will bring shame to those who publicly dishonor His children before men. You can say, "Oh, how I love God," but if we love God we will also love the brethren with whom we have the opportunity to work with down here on this earth. Please listen to the Bible in these next few verses.

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall

assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

1 John 3:14-24

We cannot live to ourselves and ignore the needs of our brothers and sisters while we shout and holler that we love God. The love of God will cause us to sacrifice and look after one another here on this earth as we experience our love and joy in serving God. The reason there is so little evidence seen in our churches today is due to our failure to love God by loving those we meet in our communities and reaching out with love and blessings as God expects us to do. We must return to loving God by loving others and giving of ourselves into His service to others. It is not just about praying, it is about working to provide for missions both here at home and in other lands where our brothers and sisters need our love and help. It is hard today to have a good mission service because so many are sitting there thinking of ways to improve their own life and their family rather than seeing in their mind the lives that are in need of food, shelter and other essentials of life. I have traveled where there is not even a drink of good water and

they need wells to supply their homes. Can you even imagine needing just good water to drink and not being able to have it?

Many of us need to develop a relationship with God that will move us to greater compassion for others who have so little. We need to learn that many around us need just a friend that will pour in a little oil and bind up some wounds that need the careful attention of someone who cares about them. Just think about the man who had been beaten and left to die without someone to help him. He just needed someone to care about his condition and through their compassion help him to get to a clean bed and clean food so that he could begin to recover and be healed. What would have happened if the Samaritan man would have said, "I will pray for you and kept walking" the man needed someone to care and express it by helping him. Our obligation is to keep the commandments of the Lord and to do so we must truly love Him and His Word.

"And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him..." 1 John 3:24a

We have a clear word from Him as to what we must do, keep His commandments by the spirit He has given us. Yes, He has clearly instructed us to love one another and in doing so we show our love for Him.

In the last part of that story about the man that had been beaten, we find these words from Jesus, "Go and do thou likewise." This is the message today for all of us, "Go and do thou likewise." We are to love God enough to go and do likewise to those with whom we

associate and to offer them a hand of love when needs arise and it is within our means to minister to their immediate needs. We are not just to pray for them, but we are to give them assistance, a hand of love, a pull up from where they are to a more enjoyable state. This is not fantasy; it is the Bible Way to show how much we love God as we love our neighbor and express that godly love to them. I have heard the term, "I love you" until I am sick of it and who can believe it anymore anyway. It is much like the term, "Pray for me" we have used it until it is worn out, and who means it? These terms need to mean something and not just be said to fill in the blanks. When we say them, we need to be sincere and really mean them. I remember one time a close friend of ours said, "Now when you have to go to the hospital just call me and I will come and keep your children for you." We thought she meant it so when my wife had to go to deliver our little girl, we called on her and she said, "Well, if I can do anything just let me know." So, I put the children in the car and we went as a family to the hospital so we could add one more to our loving group. Many times things are said to fill in the blank and they are meaningless, but we do need to be careful that we do not say things that we do not mean or intend to fulfill. Do we love God enough to keep our word and be the blessing to one another that He has intended for us to be?

And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes,

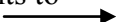
which I command thee this day for thy good?

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

O love the Lord, all ye his saints: for the Lord preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer. Psalms 31:23

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. Jude 20-25

Many want to see revival come back into the Church, Love God with all your heart, love His people without hypocrisy and allow His joy to fill the house again and see what will happen. Mistakes will be made but love will overcome them and joy will fill the entire house if we will learn to put others ahead of our own self-love. God is love and they that love Him will have to once again love others first and not just testify about loving God, but demonstrate it for the world to see. I remember hearing, "Those people sure do love each other and they care for one another down at the Church of God." It was visible to the world, but it has become covered over by our own selfish ambitions and desire to be recognized ourselves instead of others. God wants to



bless, but we must be honest with ourselves and admit we need to learn more about how to love God in deeds and actions.

Jesus said in Matthew chapter 25 verses 41- 46 *And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also*

answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. The Church will return to Her glory days when we learn to treat the family of God with dignity, respect and love. A fervent love will reduce the quarrels, disgruntled members and fights to achieve our acceptance in the popular groups within our congregations. The clubs and clicks we have to put up with today are displeasing the Lord and when we get it right and LOVE prevails

again, we will see the House of the Lord full of peace and blessings from God. The Ten Commandments are divided into two distinct groups; one group is teaching us about our relationship with God and contains only four commandments. The other group is about how we deal with each other and contains six commandments. It would seem that we are to have much concern about how we get along with each other in this life. We Love God again as we love others and others believe we do, because we have learned that it is not just spoken, it is shown and practiced.

**How Do I Say,
“I Love God”? □**

MARCH MISSION DRIVE

People across the Ocean are calling us. They have ask us to come. Will you Help Us?



PLEASE HELP US GO!

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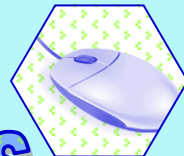
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Another Soldier Has Gone Home: Mamie Curtis-Oney

(April 15, 1930 – December 29, 2016)

Mamie Ruth Barlow Curtis-Oney was a true soldier of the cross. She loved the Lord, her church and family as well as many friends and we all loved her. She was a pastor's wife for over 25 years while they worked for God and learned the importance of loving those around her during that time. I heard many wonderful stories about her life during the final services for her and it seems she was always making people smile and encouraging them to be faithful to the Lord. She always had a smile for me when I approached her during her illness.



Mamie was born April 15, 1930 to McDonald and Maude Barlow in Lovelady Township of Caldwell County, North Carolina. She graduated from Granite Falls High School. Mamie married C. B. Curtis on March 9, 1947 in Sawmills, North Carolina. From this union came four beautiful children, Johnny Mack on January 11, 1948 in Hickory, North Carolina, Darlene Elizabeth on December 10, 1949 in Hickory, North Carolina, Rodney Dale on August 1, 1954 in Bethel, North Carolina and Marty Lynn on June 13, 1970 in Portales, New Mexico.

C. B. Curtis passed away on January 23, 1988 in Tucson, Arizona. After he died, she married a long-time widower friend, John Oney on June 2, 1988 in Portales, New Mexico. They had several wonderful years together prior to John taking ill and passing away on January 6, 2000 in Clovis, New Mexico. She then moved to Hobbs in 2008 and made her home with her daughter, Darlene and son-in-law Thurman Lowe. She lived with them until her death on December 29, 2016.

Sister Mamie was preceded in death by her parents, McDonald and Mause Barlow, her husbands, C. B. Curtis in 1988, John Oney in 2000, her oldest son Johnny in 2005, her great-granddaughter Amber Mckee in 2015 and her great-great grandson Tripp Chandler in 2015.

She is survived by her sister Reba Lynn of Hudson, North Carolina, her daughter Darlene and husband Thurman Lowe of Hobbs, her sons Rodney and wife Carmen Curtis of Saucier, Mississippi and Marty and his wife Carol Curtis of Gaffney, South Carolina and daughter-in-law Pauletta Curtis of Hobbs, 7 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great grandchildren.

She lived a full life with lots of travel, adventure, hardships, blessings and tears. She was a member of The Church of God of North Carolina in New Mexico. Mamie was a loved mother, grandmother, great grandmother, great, great grandmother, prayer warrior, mentor, care giver, provider and companion to her family and all those around her. She was always full of humor and laughter and will be missed very much.

God's Love Is Shed Abroad In Our Hearts

Dolores Yost
Aiken, South Carolina



Every year at this time the shelves in most stores begin to fill up with beautiful Red Heart shaped boxes of Valentine candy along with many other gifts to celebrate Love. Although it's a nice tradition, it has little to do with love. Most of us remember as far back as kindergarten, how we would share little paper Valentines with our classmates.

Love is much more than chocolate, gifts and sentiments. It's humorous when we think that something as great as love is celebrated only one day out of the year! As we begin to compare the true meaning of Love, we discover that its more than a word, or an emotion. Although it requires action on both the giver and recipient it's more than just saying I Love You, in fact Love is a person. 1 John 4:8b ...**"God is love"** but, many times we don't consider that truth of the real meaning.

God's Word also tells us about what Love is Not.

Romans 5:5-8 **And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts**

by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Paul again speaks of Love this way in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a 13 ***"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.***

8a ***Charity never faileth: 13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."***

Jesus commanded us to continue in His Love. Recently a friend and I were discussing the subject of loving people. She reflected on the great love and care the church had for fellow members and would do everything they could to help them. She was remembering how this love was operating whenever just a young girl in the Church. Is it yet this way among members? I certainly hope that the great Love and Care the Early Church had for one another is still prevalent



among us today. If not, we should be doing all that we can to maintain that Love. Jesus said, if we can't Love the ones that we see, then how can we Love God that we cannot see. (paraphrase)

Children we must keep the fires of Love burning brightly that all can see and believe that the Spirit of God lives in us. John 13:35 ***By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*** We must not cool and aloof in our feelings for one another. We must stay excited and stirred up about our Lord who is soon to take us up out of here! Let's show the world that we are truly governed by God's Love.

Today there are many ethnic groups who are filled with hate and violence, even against their own people. God said, Love your enemies. Many of us feel that these groups, because of their actions, are our enemies, and we talk against them. Even though we feel they are our enemies, if we don't show these people love, then who will? The Word says that the world loves their own, but the world Loves with a different spirit than born again Christians. They cannot reach out to these people, because only the divine Love of God can

capture their hearts.

John 15:9 ***As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.***

Again, divine Love should prevail among God's people. When we begin to find fault and Judge others and treat them harshly, we become divided and unity goes out the door. A house divided cannot stand. Personally, I plan on keeping Love in operation and staying true to my covenant, how about you? Looking back over the past twenty or so years, we have had struggles of all sorts, but I thank God for The Church of God at Dunn and great leadership that has helped us to continue on the path of unity. Hate and discord pulls down, Love and Unity builds up and supports.

Saints are we still striving to be the people that Peter described?

1 Peter 2: 9 ***But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:***

What makes God's people peculiar? Because we are different from everyone else, chosen, set aside and called to carry out the work of Christ on this earth.

James 4:8a ***Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.***

In the natural, we desire to be close to those that we love. When they are away from us any length of time, we become anxious to see them and wonder where they are. We miss them and begin to feel concerned. We need them and

rely on them to help us to feel complete and whole. In the spiritual, we should feel the same about Jesus, especially in this day and time that we are living in. Draw nigh to Him Saints. There is no Love such as what He has for us. He will never Love you any more than He does at this very moment, but we can certainly draw just as close to Him as we want to. He desires that from us, our praise, our worship, our Love and obedience, He's worthy!

Mark 12: 30, 31 ***And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.***

Love comes from the divine nature of God and we can possess this divine Love, but only through Him. God did not change our hearts when we became His children but, gave us a brand new one!

2 Corinthians 5:17 ***Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.***

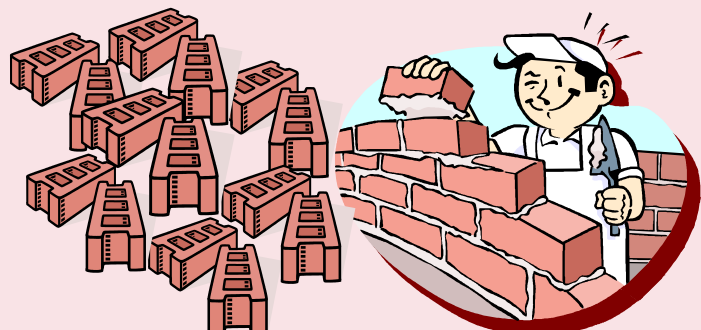
This new heart will govern us in Love, change how we think and feel. Our behavior should change and honesty and integrity will be seen in us. We will live clean and decent lives and will feel genuine Love for our fellow man, and we will live holy lives for Christ.

Ephesians 1:4 ***According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:***



SPECIAL THANKS TO "ALL" who are Participating in our **Brick Plan.**

YOUR HELP IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!





VLB—The Victory Kid

By: Emily Colón—VLB Secretary

The definition of perseverance:

Steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.

A wise man once told me a story about a young woman who held a revival.

She worked hard to promote the revival and in the end was discouraged because only one man was saved. My advice to you is don't make the same mistake. That one man was my great, great grandfather T. J. Lowe. He later went on to build many Churches, both in physical and in spiritual form, and in the process brought many to the Lord.

Don't give up when your work is not yet over.

In Romans 12:10-12 it says:

10. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

11. Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

12. Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Don't give up! One soul has been saved! Rejoice! Do not despair and dwell on your shortcomings; be fervent in prayer and know that God has a plan for your life.

God has a reason for allowing things to happen. We may never understand His wisdom, but we simply have to trust His will.



There **WILL** be **OBSTACLES**.

There **WILL** be **DOUBTERS**.

There **WILL** be **MISTAKES**.

But with **HARD WORK**,

And **PERSEVERANCE**,

There are **NO LIMITS!**



Building Families of Faith

Submitted by Jannece Colon
BTI Secretary



By nature, I am a planner. I do set goals and try my best to achieve them. However, some people believe that plans and goals are like New Year's resolutions and feel like they are just setting themselves up for failure. There is one area that should be an exception! That is reading your Bible everyday and not just a one minute per day scripture reading, but an intense reading of God's word. This is the best goal, habit, resolution, whatever you want to call it, that you could do for yourself and your family.

I was reading somewhere the other day and came upon some very scary statistics. Believers in Jesus who engage with (read or listen to) scripture "LESS" than four times a week have virtually the same moral standards and behaviors as non-believers.

The Center for Biblical Engagement discovered that the life of someone who engages (really gets into the Word of God) Scripture four or more times a week looks radically different from the life of someone who does not. In fact, the lives of Christians who do not engage the Bible most days of the week are statistically the same as the lives of non-believers.

If we are committed disciples of Christ and we do engage in and with the Inspired Word of God then we will and are being transformed (changed) into the true image of Christ.

John 17:17 says, *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*

I desire to be more like Christ, therefore I read our map, God's Word, the Bible.

John 5:39 says, *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*

John 1:1, 14 says, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

Every single word in the Bible is inspired, full of life, eternal, never changing, and true food for our hungry souls.

2 Timothy 3:16 says, *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*

John 6:63 says, *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

Matthew 24:35 says, *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

Matthew 4:4 says, *But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

If you are planning on influencing your children to live forever, I recommend engaging with the Word of God at least four times a week, better yet, on a daily basis. Put the scripture to life in your family, your ministry, your marriage, your job, your everyday rou-



Delegates Attend National Convention in Kinchil, Yucatan, Mexico

December 1-3, 2016

Report by: Jannece Colon



A privately funded delegation from the United States was blessed beyond measure by being able to attend our National Convention in Mexico held in Kinchil, Yucatan in December. The delegation was made up of: our International Overseer, Bro. John Wilkins; our National Overseer, Bro. Thurman Lowe and his wife Sis. Darlene; and our International Evangelism Director, Richard Colon and our International Camping Coordinator and BTI Secretary, Sis. Jannece Colon.

This trip was so amazing! We were able to spend 9 days with our family in the Lord from Kinchil, Mexico. Everyone made us feel so overwhelmingly welcome from the moment they met us at the airport with the All Nation's Flag till the moment we boarded the plane very, very early to head back home. Upon landing, we were greeted by: Bro. Jose Tzuc, Our Mexico National Overseer; Bro. Ricardo, Pastor in Kinchil; and about four others. We got everything loaded and headed out on what seemed to be a very long drive to Kinchil. Once we arrived in Kinchil at Bro. Ricardo's home and at the church, it was a whirlwind of what seemed like endless faces and names. At that moment, we had no idea how much those faces would come to mean to us and how hard it would be to leave them! We had a great time of prayer and visitation with all the wonderful people. The next day we spent the day getting to know more people and even recognizing some of the faces and actually remembering some of the names, but more than anything it seemed like they fed us, constantly! The food was definitely a success! We had an opening service where everyone greeted us formally on that Wednesday evening and met even more wonderful people and of course, had more food. I can't tell you what all we ate, except it was "MUY RICO" Very Good! We seemed to be eating all the time and everywhere around town. There is one thing for sure, You WILL NOT go hungry if you visit the Yucatan! The Spirit of the Lord was amongst us throughout this entire trip! The people were so wonderful, thoughtful, selfless, and giving. They gave when they had nothing to give, but they gave from their hearts to the Lord and to us!

The Convention began on December 1st and was tremendous, even with the little issue of us NOT having translators! God was with us in such a mighty way! God used me, Jannece Colon, who hasn't had any Spanish in over 30 years as translator. All I have to say, it was not me! It was All God! I even caught myself astounded at the messages that God translated through me! Thank you Lord for your mighty and miraculous works! We had two nights of the services in the City Square, like a Crusade. During those two nights, we heard wonderful messages. On the last night of the Crusade, Bro. Richard spoke about Kites and how they are like the yoke when we serve the Lord. Also, on this night, Bro. Wilkins dedicated Bro. Jose Tzuc's grandbaby. It was a wonderful time in the Lord! I don't know all the names and spellings and I certainly don't want to leave anyone out, but the messages from our ministers were a blessing and we felt the Holy Ghost with us throughout the entire trip.

This was not a trip where we got to do sightseeing of the area, but we did get to see how our people lived everyday there in Kinchil. We got to see the most beautiful example of Women Mentoring Women and Extended Families. We truly got to see God at work in His people!

It was amazing how these people that work so hard for a living do it! These brothers work 8 hours a day for \$5.00 in American money. Then, they get off have a little time with their families before going out for the evenings driving the mototaxis to make extra money to help out the family. They don't have a lot of material goods, but that is okay, because better than that, they have a Peace that Passeth All Understanding, they have a Relationship with their God and their family, not to mention their witness within the City.

We could learn so much from these dear Brothers and Sisters! In fact, we have! Our lives have forever been changed by this trip. We will never forget!

We just want to say Thank You to ALL of our Brothers and Sisters in Mexico who made us feel so welcomed and loved during our stay there! We can't wait to see you again and Pray for you each and everyday!

One more thing before I close, we had to leave Kinchil at 2:30 a.m. and there were about 11 people to see us off when we left Kinchil and 8 of those went with us to Merida to the airport and 3 of those stayed with us until we took off on the plane. They truly put others before themselves!

I could go on and on about this trip, but I will close for now with this. God blessed us tremendously by providing for us to go on this trip. God has blessed us for being obedient to Him and doing His work! This is just a beginning in our Foreign work and travels. We are now scheduled to go to Guatemala in May 2017 and we are going back to Kinchil, Yucatan, Mexico for BTI Terms 1 and 2 in November and December 2017.

Please be in prayer for us as we do these trips and that God will bless His Church and His Work! All for the Glory of God! Matthew 9:37-38 says, *Then saith he unto his disciples, **The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*** Isaiah 6:8 says, *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.*

Are we truly ready to say Here Am I; Send me! Can you truly say that? Think about it! What are you willing to give over to God to allow Him to work Miracles through your life? Are we truly ready to be like the pioneers of old that went out and gave all for Him? Are we truly ready to see what a dedicated, consecrated life of service is like? My words from the bottom of my heart says.....Here Am I Lord! Send Me! I will follow where you lead me!

God Bless You and May You Seek a Relationship With Him that is closer than you have ever been before!

Pictures from around the National Convention



Sis. Darlene Lowe, Sis. Martina, Sis. Ana, and Sis. Maria



Trying out the Crema de Coco

Mexico Trip

Nov—Dec 2016

Kinchil, Yucatan, Mexico

National Convention



Fried Fish—Amazing!!



La Siesta—Rest time—Sis. Maria



One of the favorites—The Moto Taxi



Bro. Wilkins enjoying a rest



Pascual and Jafet on the Moto Taxi



Sis. Maria cooking the fish!



Bro. Wilkins with Wilber, Sara, and Baby

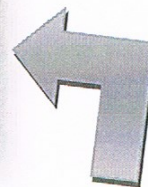


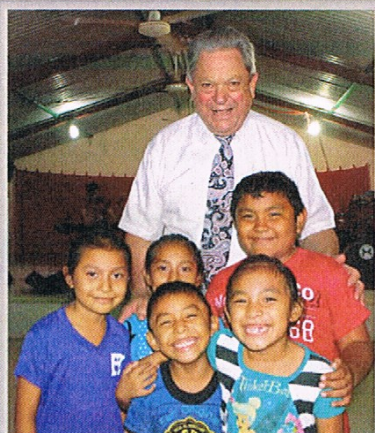
Sis. Maria and others making corn tortillas



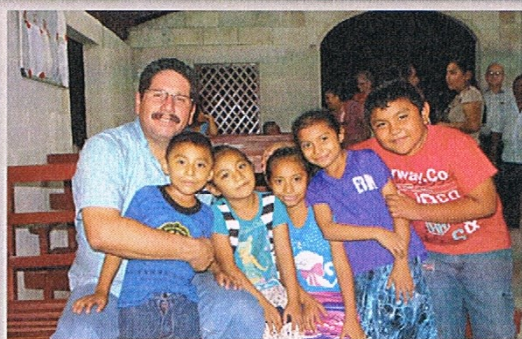
Making fresh corn tortillas

Bro. Jose Tzuc—National Overseer of Mexico, Bro. Ricardo—Pastor of Kinchil, Sis. Estelle, Sis. Maria, Bro. Thurman and Sis. Darlene Lowe, Bro. Wilkins, Bro. Richard Colon, Adrianna and Joel at one of our many meals together.





Bro. Wilkins w/ Jafet, Ruth, Judith, Merari, & Uziel



Bro. Richard with Uziel, Merari, Judith, Ruth, & Jafet



Martina making fresh juice



Bro. Andres and Sis. Yazmin



Jonathan & Jafet



Bro. Richard & Bro. Mayco



Homework Time with Adrianna



Sis. Estelle, Sis. Jannece, & Bro. Pascual



Sis. Estelle, Bro. Richard, & Bro. Pascual



Sis. Sara and Bro. Jose—Nat. Overseer



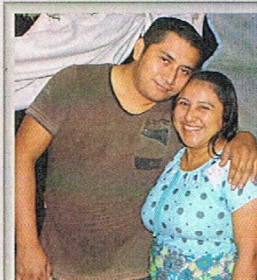
Sis. Maria and Sis. Jannece in Maya Dress



Onnice



Yazmin & Abel



Joel and Adrianna



Jesus Loves the Little Children



Lunch with Sis. Martina and family, Bro. Santiago and Sis. Fatima





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 310 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. If \$90.00 is a challenge for you to pay all at once, no problem, break it down into monthly payments with your final payment being due when you arrive at BTI. We are working on trying to find affordable arrangements for our students, but I do need to have numbers to make this more obtainable.

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. We want you to be able to attend, so 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 November and December. Participants will be able to take part in Term 1 and once completed, Term 2.

BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

The Church of God of N.C.
P.O. Box 2109
Dunn, NC 28335
(910) 891-5017
FAX: (910) 891-5693



Bible Training Institute 2017
Location:
301 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

Dates for 2017

April 13-16, 2017 - Southern District Conference - Haiti

April 21-23, 2017 - Philippines National Convention

April 24-28, 2017 - Philippines National Youth Camp

June 21-25, 2017 - National Convention - Haiti

July 17-25, 2017 - BTI - Dunn, North Carolina - (Terms 1,2,& 3)

July 27-29, 2017 - International Assembly - Dunn, North Carolina

****USA Family Camp**** To be announced soon!

October 30-November 3, 2017 - Western District Conference - Haiti

November 26-December 17, 2017 - BTI-(Terms 1 & 2 - Spanish)-Kinchil, Yucatan, Mexico

December 1-3, 2017 - Dominican Republic National Convention

Some of These Dates Are Subject to Change!

“THE BANNER OF TRUTH”

310 W. Edgerton St.

P.O. Box 2109

Dunn, NC 28335-2109

Address Service Requested

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