



**International Voice of The Church of God of North Carolina**

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## Editorial:

### Congratulations to our graduates of 2016!

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



Many proud parents and grandparents watch as their graduates walk down the aisles in eloquent ceremonies that distinguish them as graduates of their respective schools of higher learning. It is a time of true celebration as they have finished a prescribed course of studies and are moving on to something else such as the military, college or some other venture. They have made all of us very proud of them and their achievements as we celebrate with them. Let us remember however, this is only another beginning for them as they leave from one victory and head yet for another. They have now been equipped to learn and hopefully it will be

continuing process for the rest of their entire life. Life is an end-

less cycle of learning, graduating and heading off for other challenges which it seems will never end. Once we finish one challenge there will be another and another until one day we graduate from them all and our eternal reward is with the Lord who gave us life in the first place. This will be our new beginning, if we have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ and received Him into our life to keep us on the right path. Graduates, walk with the Lord down the path of life and He will guide you for the rest of your life.



### Madison Johnson Class 2016

Madison Johnson is an Honor Graduate of Mc Bee, SC High School. She is the granddaughter of John and Elizabeth Wilkins of Dunn, NC.

She will be attending USC in the fall to become a Pediatric Oncology Nurse.

Congratulations Madison we love you and are very proud of you.



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# CONTENTS

- 2** From the Editor/“Honor Graduate”
- 3** Poem: Graduation
- 4** **MESSAGE:** “Our Final Graduation”
- 6** Remember in Prayer
- 7** “Business of the Week”
- 8** **MESSAGE:** “As In The Day’s of Noah”
- 10** **MESSAGE:** “The Love of Many”
- 12** When The Vision Fades
- 13** **MESSAGE:** “Love”
- 14** Special Notice!
- 15** Celebration on Flag Day
- 18** There Is But One
- 19** Remember These Dates...
- 20** Contact Us



## Graduation Prayer

Dear Lord,  
Please bless these graduates  
as they go out into the world  
to make it a better place,  
while they pursue their dreams.  
Gently guide them, lead them,  
show them Your way to success and  
happiness  
through service to others,  
as they maximize their own potential.  
Fill them with joy when they reach their  
goals,  
strengthen them as they deal with life's  
obstacles,  
and show them that every challenge  
is a path to character development.  
Give them the intelligence  
to make a plan for their futures.  
Give them the patience and persistence  
to pursue their ambitions.  
Most of all, give them caring hearts  
to look for ways to help the people they  
meet  
on their life's journey.  
Encourage them and lift them up now,  
as they spread their wings  
into a clear sky of limitless opportunity.  
Let each and every graduate here  
be wrapped in the warmth of Your infi-  
nite love,  
and let Your wisdom show them the  
way  
to make the most of their lives.  
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

*By Joanna Fuchs*



## “OUR FINAL GRADUATION!”

*International Overseer  
John A. Wilkins, Jr.*



***For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 2 Timothy 4:6-7***

It seems the whole world is in a hustle these days as there are graduation exercises going on everywhere. What does this word graduation really mean? It means one has completed a course of study by a school or college and has received a certificate or diploma for those studies. They are now free to continue their studies elsewhere now that they have completed and finished the required course of studies at that school.

All of this reminds me of our final graduation that is set before us. I get so excited about all of this and look forward to my final graduation when Jesus Christ will receive me and I will be finished with my time on earth and can live with Him forever more. Graduation is a big event, a big day and worth celebration as we receive our diploma and receive the accolades for our achievements. It is a time when everyone seems to be so happy, especially the teachers who have seen absolute miracles as those whom they have taught finally get past this day of graduation. We all will finally graduate from a life subjected to challenges and test as we serve God in an imperfect world in an imperfect body that must be turned over to a perfect

God. He has provided us with course of study (His Word) that will guide us so that we too can obtain and reach our final graduation. He has made this possible through His own shed blood as we walk through this sinful world.

We are working for an incorruptible crown while others work for a corruptible one.

***Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.***

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Our Crown is to be an incorruptible one and we run for it, because of our love for God and not for ourselves. In this life we want to teach those around us the importance of this crown and how it can be for everyone that will run for the Lord and not for their benefit. I know that we are in it to win it and whatever the cost we want nothing short of the prize when we get to the end of life and hear Him say, “Well done my child.” In the early part of Paul’s life he fought against God’s

people with all his might believing he was doing the right thing. One day on the way to Damascus Jesus called to him. Acts 9:5-7 ***“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?”***

Paul was a new man, he had met the Master. After the Lord told him what to do he did it with all his might. He let nothing or anyone slow him down from doing what the Lord told him to do. He had many battles and suffered lots of percussion for the cause of Christ. Paul was truly a winner he attained his graduation. Read his last words.

2 Timothy 6-8 ***For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.***

The Lord will keep us if we fully trust in Him for our direction and guidance while we live out our lives on this earth. If we aren’t careful someone could cause us to run in fear so that we will never receive our prize at the end of the



way. Some will not run successful, because they are not sold out to the Lord. This race must be run to obtain the prize at the end. It is true that everyone that runs does not graduate!

*And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.* Daniel 12:3

*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.* Proverbs 11:30

Yes, graduation from a high school or college is something worth working hard to achieve but I am talking about a life achievement, that of successfully running the race and finishing it pleasing to the Lord. Until a student becomes convinced that his/her finishing is for them and not someone else, then their graduation they are working for becomes a joy. It is the same with us as the Children of God, once we get a hold on the idea that Heaven will be worth it all then it becomes easier to do the work and trust in God, all the way to the finish line. Serving God is not easy as some teach it to be, there are times of trials of our faith, times of illness, times of sadness and sometimes trials of loneliness, but at the end there is God! Jesus will never leave us or forsake us along the way, but Satan will try to make you believe that He has so you will give up. There are a lot of hills on this trip through life, but just over the top of each stands Jesus! Let me encourage each of you to keep on climbing and one day we will reach the end of life's journey.

When a runner sees the finish line they run just a little harder as they cross it, they get their second wind

and easily push a bit harder as they cross into the finish. We too must get that second breath of wind as we see the finish line of our day before us and strive to win others to Him. There is an old song that says, "I was born in His likeness, created in His image, I was born to serve the Lord". We were born to serve the Lord and ready ourselves for the finish of this life when we will step over into eternity with the Lord. Life is the dressing stage for our eternity with the Lord and if we fall short of the finish line we will then miss the very reason for being here on this earth.

The previous scripture says, "... **And he that winneth souls is wise.**" It has become increasingly hard to see the Church in the darkness of the world, because Her light is almost out at times as souls continue to stumble in the darkness of the world as we huddle around in our circles and call it church. Our Church is the world and its lost people. Let's begin to call attention to our Lord as we find ourselves out in this dark world and teach them about the Church as we go to visit them in their homes, business and other places where they congregate. Everyone will not graduate from this school of training, but they should if their heart is stayed on Him. Recently, I heard of a man who was supposed to graduate with his class, but he was pulled out because he had facial hair and refused to shave it off. Now that saddened my heart, but there were standards that were required and someone with the authority decided it was time to enforce the requirement so he could not walk down the aisle with his colleagues. The Bible warns us regarding these issues for graduation.

*And ye have not his word abiding*

*in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not. Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life. I receive not honour from men. But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?* John 5:38-47

In order to graduate with the class we must search and learn at a pace equal to those with whom we work in order to finish in a timely manner and receive our reward (diploma) along with them. Graduation is coming so let's learn to work and prepare ourselves for that day. Many say, "Oh, I don't know what God wants from my life?" He wants today to be first in our lives.

From a child Jesus knew His purpose in life. Luke 2:41-52 *And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in* →

*Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, **How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?** And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.*

Many of us today have known from a child what God wanted us to do, but some rebelled and refused to follow the Lord's path set for them, because the way seems too hard. Many have set their on goals in life and have suffered a life of sadness and pain. Our goal in this life should be to please the Lord and to do what he wants us to do or to be. This is how we should strive to live, one day at a time. If we give Him today, when tomorrow comes we can deal with another day. If only people would learn to live this way life would be so much easier for us. It will not be an accident when we graduate, but

will be because of a deliberate move on our part to find and do the will of God. Then we too can say as Paul said, **"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:"** But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. **I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.** 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Our graduation day is almost upon us. We have worked and labored with our hands for this day that God has promised us and not too far off in the future we will hear Him tell us we are finished. I used to hear my grandfather talk about the Lord and Heaven and it sounded so far away. I could not understand what it was all about then, but it sounded exciting and now I understand it better each day that I live. Want it be something when we get the word that we will be graduating and now we will have the grand honor of receiving our reward from our Lord. He will give it to us for our finished work. Can you imagine after this life of trouble, tears and woe having the

Lord call you to step up and receive your own crown of righteousness, because you have graduated and the race is finished?

***Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*** James 1:12

The graduates are going to enter into joy, peace and an eternity with God and no man can stop us if we have walked in His likeness and followed Him into His eternal rest. The unbelievers and doubters will not be allowed to enter there, it will be for those who have kept the faith and been found worthy to enter with their sins covered by the blood of Jesus.

***His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*** Matthew 25:21

Congratulations are in order at this point and you are finished! Your diploma is your crown of righteousness which the Lord will give you upon completion and no man can take it away. We have something to smile about even now as we think about the day of graduation and it is for everyone that will listen to the Lord and allow Him to guide them toward the Graduation Day! □

## ***Remember in Prayer***

Hillard Foster  
Eunice Foster  
Anna Goins

Ray Bradshaw  
Regina Johnson



# *Certificate of Recognition*

*Business of the Week*



*The Church of God of NC - International Office*

*Recognized the week of June 13-19, 2016*



## **North Carolina General Assembly House Of Representatives David R. Lewis**

We are proud to accept this  
Certificate of Recognition  
***“Business of the Week”***  
on your behalf  
**THE CHURCH OF GOD**  
around the world.

 North Carolina General Assembly House Of Representatives	
<small>REPRESENTATIVE DAVID R. LEWIS SERVING HARNETT COUNTY</small>  <small>OFFICE: 2301 LEGISLATIVE BUILDING 16 W. JONES STREET RALEIGH, NC 27601-1096 PHONE: (919) 715-3015 EMAIL: DAVID.LEWIS@NCLEG.NET</small>	<small>COMMITTEES: RULES, CALENDAR, AND OPERATIONS OF THE HOUSE CHAIRMAN ELECTIONS, CHAIRMAN AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS COMMERCE AND JOB DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION—UNIVERSITIES FINANCE HEALTH UNIVERSITY BOARD OF GOVERNORS NOMINATION</small>
 June 14, 2016  The Church of God of NC 310 W Edgerton St. Dunn, NC 28334  Dear Friends,  Sincere congratulations on receiving the Business of the Week Award from the Dunn Chamber of Commerce. Your accomplishments and contributions to our community are certainly worthy of this recognition.  I appreciate your commitment to the Dunn Chamber and our community.  Please reach out to my office if we can be of any assistance.  Sincerely,  David R. Lewis	





# AS IN THE DAYS OF NOAH

M.A. Tomlinson former General Overseer

WHITE WING MESSENGER FEBRUARY 13, 1982

## The Earth Was Corrupt and Filled With Violence But God Had A Program

"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

"For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

"And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:37, 39).

The return of Jesus Christ to this earth is the topic of much discussion in many Christian circles today. There is little doubt that predestined events are moving rapidly toward that wondrous time when the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout.

When Jesus likened the conditions which would be existing in the world at the time of His second coming to those which existed in the days of Noah, He described conditions which we now see existing. In the account provided in the Book of Genesis relative to Noah's day, we read the following: "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually . . . The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence" (Genesis 6:5, 11).

It seems easy for our minds to be drawn to the terrible conditions that existed both then and now, but while these evils are not to be denied, there was also something good going on, a program of divine origin, both then and now. In those wicked times there was a man who found grace in the eyes of the Lord. The scripture says, "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world; and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith" (Hebrews 11:7).

Now it is generally accepted that the ark was a type of Christ, Jesus being the sinner's refuge from eternal destruction. While this is true, another analogy is portrayed with the ark being a type of the Church. Both the ark and the Church have their origin in the mind of God, with human participation being required in the completion of each.

To pursue the work for which Noah was especially chosen required great faith on his part. The event of which He was told was something never before heard of. There had never been a flood before and there

had never been a mass destruction of humanity. Yet, Noah had faith in God and in God's message.

Likewise, the Church is being prepared for an event which has never occurred previously. She is being prepared as a fold for the righteous, wherein they will be sheltered from the barrage of false doctrines by which many will be deceived. The Church, as the Lamb's wife, is being prepared for presentation to Jesus as a glorious church without spot or wrinkle. This has never occurred before, but those who are involved in this divine program today move forward with the same kind of faith as Noah possessed when he built an ark *to the saving of his house*.

Many people today are declaring a message about Jesus, seeing Him as the ark, and they are urging souls who are lost to flee to Him for safety. But so few have a vision of the Church and of its importance as a place of refuge for saints of God, for those who already have found salvation by turning to Jesus.

The truth is that Jesus did not come to earth just to save the lost; He came also to build His Church, which would provide shelter and safety for those who had been thus redeemed by the blood which He shed at Calvary. These covenanted people are bound together in a fellowship which affords mutual care for one another.

This Holy Nation, this divine government, has been given laws to be administered for the protection of its citizens. It is not God's will for those whom He has received as His children to roam about unprotected from the roaring lion who goes about seeking whom he may devour. As He built His Church, the Lord provided that in it would be teachers and leaders who would watch for the souls which should be redeemed by His own precious blood.

Left on their own without pastoral care, these who have become new creatures in Christ Jesus are in grave danger of being victimized by Satan who will set out immediately to destroy them. Now the message of the Church and of its importance should be expected to come under attack by the enemy of souls, who despises the protection afforded the sheep of God by the fold He has provided for them.

Yes, Noah's ark may well be likened to the Church, a refuge for the children of God. It may be well to point out that when the wrath of God dictated the destruction of all mankind from the face of the earth,



it was the ark which provided safety, bearing Noah and his family above the destroying waters of the Flood. The wickedness of this world today is once more awaiting the judgment and wrath of God. This period during which earth's inhabitants will again experience God's vengeance is referred to as the Great Tribulation. But even as the ark rose above the devastation and suffering caused by the Flood, the Church will be spared the misery of the Great Tribulation, rising above it and being borne to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." While most people tend to compare the wickedness of these two periods when reflecting upon this scripture, it is the purpose of this message to draw attention to the two programs of God which are given prominence in the Scriptures—the ark and the Church.

Neither was the product of man's ingenuity. Both were designed by God. The ark was completed and ready for its purpose right on time, but not without the faithfulness and obedience of Noah. We can only imagine the disdain and scorn this righteous man endured, as he persisted in an endeavor which was so foreign to the thinking of his society. But he knew the Source of his vision.

Likewise God's purpose for His Church which is now under construction will be fulfilled, but not without the faithfulness and obedience of men and women who are dominated by a vision of this to which they have been called and chosen.

Many who have become infatuated with the wonder of Jesus possess little comprehension of God's wonderful plan for this age. God's Word reveals His plans for presenting to Jesus Christ a bride who is spiritually mature. Paul wrote, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13). Writing further he said, "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 idea of a perfect church seems so unattainable in many minds that those who are possessed by this vision often become victims of ridicule, even as must have been the case with Noah. But this does not hinder them from proclaiming this last-days message and laboring toward its fulfillment.

It was Noah's warning from God of "things not seen as yet" which caused him to move with fear and build the ark. Faith deals always with "things not seen as yet," and some of the things with which faith deals

seem totally unattainable and unreasonable. But God has wondrous things ahead for the end of this age. His children need only to know Who has spoken and what He has said, then to follow His instructions obediently and with great expectations.

Just as the ark was completed in accordance with God's timetable, so will the Church reach her perfection according to God's design. John was allowed to get a glimpse of this and in his revelation penned the following words: "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready" (Revelation 19:7). This last-days message includes more than a mere infatuation with Jesus; it includes a wonderful plan for the gathering together in one of the children of God and for presenting them perfect to Jesus Christ as His glorious bride. □

### REFUSE TO QUIT OR ACCEPT DEFEAT

*Too many people blame Brother Pete  
for so easily accepting defeat.*

Easy for them to boast and say,  
"Why, I'd have never looked away!  
I'd have stepped out of that boat,  
Just expecting my feet to float.  
Take my eyes off Jesus? Oh no! Not I!  
Peter was such a faithless guy."

But Peter had dared to ask his Lord  
Something that never had been asked before.  
'Twas Jesus who bade Peter to come.  
(After all Peter wasn't totally dumb.)  
For how many of us would ever dare  
Step out of a boat with a storm out there?

When Peter saw he was about to sink,  
At least it caused him to stop and think;  
And he called on the One he knew would care.  
He faltered, yes, but he saw his error.

Of faults Peter had his share,  
But he definitely knew the power of prayer;  
He knew he was sinking but refused to drown  
When the boisterous waves would pull him down.

He gave an example we should not forget;  
It's sad to falter but worse to quit.  
A few of us should be more like Pete  
And refuse to quit or accept defeat.

—Gayla Tulensru, Salem, Oregon



# The Love of Many

~Cathy Elder~  
Alexander City, AL



Matthew 24:12-13 *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

I love candles, and I also like the little “plug in fragrance warmers.” It is really neat how they work. They are shaped like a small ceramic box. Inside is a light bulb which can be seen through holes on the side of the box. On the top is a square shaped piece of ceramic. A fragrance cube is placed in the ceramic piece and it is ready to be plugged in. Soon the wax becomes warm and begins to melt. As it does it gives off a sweet fragrance that fills the air.

In this illustration, I can see that we are like the small box. Christ on the inside of us is the light, which gives us connection to the Father. That light will shine through us in everything we do or say as long as it is burning brightly. The love is like the wax. The love of God in us through His son will cause the cube to melt and our hearts are warmed with the love of God. Unplug the unit, and the liquid loses its warmth and soon becomes a hard, cold piece of wax again. The sweet fragrance soon disappears. Jesus speaks to us in Matthew chapter 24 and gives us the warning that in the latter days, because of abounding iniquity, the love of many would become - as the wax in the warmer - cold.

We are admonished in many other places in the Bible to keep the love of God burning. Jude admonishes us in verses 20-21 *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.* If you don’t poke the fire in the stove every once in a while and add firewood to it, it will eventually go out. If our fire goes out, we can’t blame anyone but ourselves. We are living in perilous times in more ways than one. There are many things coming upon the earth now that are actually causing people to suffer heart attacks as they look upon them. Jesus said it would be this way. (read Luke 21:26,34-36)

Without the love of God, we are nothing. The Bible tells us in I John 4:16 *And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us.*

*God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.* In fact, Matthew 22:37-40 *Jesus said unto him, (a Pharisaic lawyer who wanted to know which one is the great commandment in the law) **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Love is very important.*** If you haven’t read I Corinthians 13 in a while, read it. It says there that I can have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but if I have not love, I am nothing. I could give away all the food in my cabinet and refrigerator and freezer to the poor and even give my body to be burned, but if I don’t have love, it will profit me nothing. Now abides faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. In that chapter is a description of the marks of love. V 4-7 *Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself (to brag), is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, (shamefully) 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.* And in verse 8, **LOVE NEVER FAILS.** And finally, it speaks about putting away childish things after becoming a man. The early church faced great persecution, but because of the love and unity that abounded with them, it only grew stronger and the church increased numerically. Why? They had the favor of God upon them. The Lord knew the day would come when that love would be put to the test.

In Matthew 24, Jesus is talking privately to His disciples. He had told them that He had to go away, but



that He would come back again, and they wanted to know what the signs would be of His coming and the end of the world. The first thing he discussed with them was deception. He went on to talk about many things which would transpire, including being killed because of His name. We are seeing many of these things Jesus spoke about that day happening this very hour. But in verse 12, He talks to them about iniquity abounding – have you ever seen such a time that it is abounding more than now? The taking of human life in many ways is an everyday news cast item. But what Jesus said to them in this verse 12 was a clear warning of what was to come in the hearts of many believers. He warned that the love of many would wax cold. He didn't say all, but many.

The enemy of our souls knows that one of the greatest accomplishments he can make is to cause division among church members. Paul addressed this issue to the early church on many occasions. To the Corinthian church, he said that it was declared unto him that there were contentions among them. He addressed them in I Corinthians 3:3 as men of carnal minds. ***For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*** What a thought provoking question that was. It mattered not what the strife and contentions were about; what mattered is that they get it solved and go on with the plan of God. Carnality is very displeasing to God. The business of God's church cannot be conducted properly by carnal minded men who behave as children. Paul wrote ***To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: ...*** (Romans 1:7a) and in Chapter 8: 6-8 ***For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.***

Again, Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, chapter 4:31-32 ***Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*** All of us make mistakes, and all of us must ask God for forgiveness, but if we do not forgive each other, then God will not forgive us. That's what Jesus was telling the disciples. The world is going to be cold and dark, but do not let that darkness penetrate your hearts. Instead, let the love of God be so that everyone you come in contact with will be affected. Our families and our family of God is the most important possession we have. We

must keep the fire of love burning in our hearts one to another. Jesus said this in John 13: 34-35 ***A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*** Remember, LOVE NEVER FAILS.

Love is listed as the first fruit of the spirit. Strife and variance are also listed as two of the seventeen works of the flesh, which stem from carnality. John 3:16 talks about how God so loved the world that He gave... which results in eternal life for those who believe. James 3:16 however talks about where envying and strife are, there is confusion and every evil work. God is not the author of confusion and certainly not of evil work! Paul again wrote to another church. This time it was the church in Colosse. A part of his instructions to these saints is found in chapter 3: 12-14 ***Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forebearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.*** Forebear means to put up with each other. Because we are human and have varying personalities, we will from time to time have to put up with some things, but that is just like in a marriage. If the commitment to each other is there, nothing will be able to separate them. They will find a way to work through it. You have the tough times and you have to give sometimes, but that's just the way it is. Love is the bond that will keep us together, just like cement bonds the bricks together. Philippians 2:3 ***Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*** Psalms 133:1 states ***Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*** I think about conventions, assemblies, camps, meetings of whatever sort that the church comes together. Many have not seen each other in a while because of distance, but when they get together, you see hugging, hear laughter and feel the love that is prevalent among them. As the love of God is manifested one to another, it is like a sweet smelling savor in the nostrils of God. You can look for showers of blessings to flow throughout the services to follow. But if there are contentions and strife, you may as well lock up and go home, because unless the spirit of reconciliation works first, the spirit will be bound.

We are one with each other and disagreements will come, but we must be committed to our love one to another and to the Lord and get the differences worked out at any cost. The accuser of the brethren is going about seeking to cause divisions, but remember, LOVE NEVER FAILS. If we love as we have been commanded to do, we can work through anything together in a manner that is pleasing to God and then go on in victory working for the Lord together – all of us together – none lost. I Peter 4: 8 *And above all things have fervent (intent, without ceasing) charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.* The Holy Ghost will help us with these things, if we will allow Him to.

We know that as the end draws closer, we will have to endure many things. We each need the love and prayers of our brothers and sisters in the Lord to be able to stand in this evil day, but remember, Jesus said if we endure unto the end, we will be saved. Remember the prayer of David in Psalms 139: 23-24 *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

Remember the old song that says “it’s me, it’s me oh Lord, standing in the need of prayer.” II Corinthians 13: 5a *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves...* Will you be among the many whose love waxes cold or will you not? □

## WHAT IS LOVE

- Love is an attitude—Love is a prayer,
- For a soul in sorrow, a heart in despair.
- Love is good wishes for the gain of another,
- Love suffers long with the fault of a brother.
- Love giveth water to a cup that’s run dry.
- Love reaches low, as it can reach high.
- Seeks not her own at expense of another.
- Love reaches God when it reaches our brother.

## WHEN THE VISION FADES

When the vision fades  
And shines no more so bright,  
Just as if some shade  
Was drawn upon God’s eternal light,

The vision can once more shine through  
And draw men from around;  
It can shine forth, because the Truth,  
Of God’s love does still abound.

When the vision dies  
And speaks no more of life,  
Souls still remain precious in His eyes,  
As they should be to His Wife.

The Church of God of Prophecy,  
God’s plan for the age,  
Declared the “fellowship of the mystery,”  
Laid out on His eternal Page.

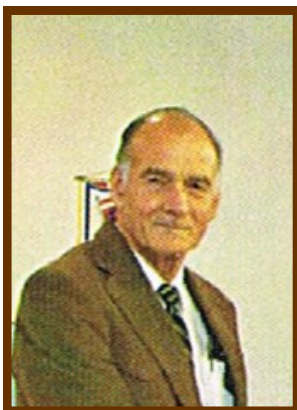
So, even tho’ your vision’s dim  
And shines no more as bright,  
Just remember when  
All is dark as surrounding night

That God’s love is still strong,  
And shines forth as before.  
To God’s House you can still belong,  
Just come in at the door.

—Allen Shiels

WHITE WING MESSENGER April 6, 1985





# Love

~Keith Murphy~

Philomath, OR

International Bible Training Institute Director

Ephesians 3: 9-11 *And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery,*

*which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:*

*To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:*

The fellowship of the mystery is mentioned several times in the scriptures, and of course is written only for His beloved, those that are willing to give their lives for others. In verse (10) the word manifold has several meanings (Ungers dictionary). It means various in kind or quality, numerous, multiplied, complicated. The only one I disagree with is complicated. The only time it gets complicated is when man tries to take over.

I want to bring something out that needs to be said. This country is under demonic attack and many church groups have caved in to avoid law suits or loss of members by giving in to the homosexual, transgender and abortion groups. If we do not pay heed to the scriptures mentioned above and love one another, fast as the Church, the devil will come in any way that he can.

Do we have problems in the church? Yes. Did they have problems in the early church? Yes. **Galatians 2:11** *But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.* Who did Paul think he was talking to Peter that way? Peter was a true Apostle, not some Paul come lately. Peter probably never spoke to Paul again. If you think that you are wrong!

Philippians 2: 1-8 *If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil*

*ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

When the Apostles and Deacons traveled far and wide to preach the gospel, how did they know where to go or who to contact? By the Spirit of God! They completely trusted in God first, and then one another. Their very lives depended on it. Verse (3), in part says, *but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.* How can we fight and bicker if we esteem others better than ourselves? Impossible!

Jesus took upon Him the form of a servant, and became obedient unto death. Remember this church – when the crown of thorns was thrust upon His head, He felt all the pain. When He was slapped in the face, He endured the pain and humiliation. When He was spit on, He took it, and when He was cursed at, He remained silent. Who would do such things? God's own people, the Jewish people did. But in all fairness, when Jesus died on the cross, the world was turned upside down, and many of the Jews became Christians.

Finally saints, when you come to the national convention in a couple of months, leave the things of the world behind you, have on the whole armor of God, fast and pray, and be stewards one of another. Let us love one another and be of one Spirit. □

# Special Notice!

## Family Camp

**Family Camp** will run Friday, September 30-02 October, 2016 in Cloudcroft, NM at Sivell's Conference Center. It will start on Friday at 5:30 p.m. with dinner and check-in, followed by Opening Session and Service at 7:00 p.m. Program will be all day Saturday with 3 meals provided, and on Sunday till noon with Breakfast and Lunch served that day prior to clean-up and packing to leave out. Our **Theme** this year is: **Suit Up! The Battle is Now!**

The cost of the "WHOLE ENCHILADA" will be \$180 per person. That includes 4 nights lodging, 9 meals, and all program supplies for camp and convention. The price for just Convention is \$100 per person. The price for just Camp is \$100 per person.

Hope that helps in giving you some insight!



## USA National Convention

### Theme: How Secure is Your Foundation?

**National Convention** will be September 28-29, 2016 in Cloudcroft, NM at Sivell's Conference Center. It will start on that Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. with dinner and check-in, followed by Service starting at 7:00 p.m. Services all day Thursday with 3 meals provided. Services on Friday till noon with Breakfast and Lunch served that day. The theme for this year's Convention is: *"How Secure is Your Foundation?"*

## Introducing!

Thurman J. Lowe

USA

National Overseer



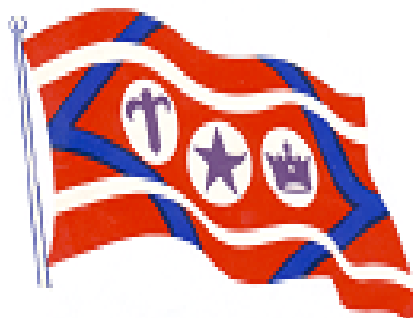
We are happy to announce that we have a new USA National Overseer, Thurman J. Lowe. He resides with his wife Darlene in Hobbs NM. He will be over the entire United States and will be in contact with you soon through letters, e-mail and Facebook.



# THERE IS ONLY ONE AND IT IS CELEBRATED ON

## FLAG DAY JUNE 14, 2016

### THE CHURCH OF GOD FLAG



The Church of God Flag was given by the Holy Ghost on Saturday, September 16, 1933 in one of the most awesome dedication services ever known to the Assembly. The Church had been going through some troublesome times and God lifted up an ensign to both comfort and direct His people. The flag was so definite and inspired that it gave a different distinction to the Church and separated it from others who called themselves by the same name, The Church of God. It soon became accepted and permanently imbedded in the minds of our ministers around the world. It was like DNA for The Church of God in distinguishing it as His Church in every country of the whole world. When it is raised there is a feeling of the presence of God and those who love it are inspired by the presence of the flag wherever it flies.

It had been only 10 years since the terrible split that rocked the Church and left it in such bad shape with the loss of much of the property that had been obtained. The Publishing House which had been such a viable part of the Church advancement was gone and now we had begun a massive rebuilding of the local churches, the headquarters and many other things that the Church needed. The happenings then were much like they have been since the recent split in 1993 when once again most of the property was lost and a new start was implemented. In 1933, people were struggling to know just what they should do and the Lord gave us a flag to be displayed because of the TRUTH.

***O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us, thou hast been displeased; O turn thyself to us again. Thou hast made the earth to tremble; thou hast broken it: heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh. Thou hast shewed thy people hard things: thou hast made us to drink the wine of astonishment. Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah. Psalms 60:1-4 (KJV)***

The Church of God needed the attention of the Holy Ghost and She got it during the twenty-eighth Annual Assembly of 1933 as the Spirit moved on men and they submitted to Him in accepting the flag to

represent a Holy Nation. Now every nation is to have a flag to represent them in the world, but this nation is different, because it is a nation without a leader other than God and the Holy Ghost. It has no words on it; it has no national symbols on it so it is acceptable in the entire world to be flown beside the respective flag of that nation. Where it is flown, it represents the members from all over the world as the family of God and honors those of the respective nation upon whose soil it flies. It has symbols and colors that are Bible based and are significant to every believer no matter where they are in the world. I would like to share with you from the General Overseer's Annual Address.

Excerpt from General Overseer's Annual Address (Twenty-eighth Annual Assembly, 1933.)

"For more than ten years I have been contemplating suggesting a flag specially designed and pre-pared for the Church of God. The idea has kept growing in my mind without saying much about it to anyone. In one of the conventions this year Brother O. S. Carter made mention of a flag for the Church in one of his discourses. As I learned that I was not alone in it I thought of calling on our people to submit samples of their ideas of designs so we could take up the matter

at the Assembly and decide about it and if it was passed upon favorably at the Assembly, steps could be taken to decide upon the design.

"While I was in the office one day a few months ago between conventions, Brother Evans made mention of the flag as mentioned by Brother Carter. I suggested that we prepare a design and submit it to the Assembly. He made a little suggestion and I added to it until I told him to try to get a drawing by the time I got back. On my arrival he showed me what the artist had developed. It suited me fine, but studying over the Scriptures as they came before me I finally decided it would need a scepter and crown to make it complete. Then we made a search for a picture of a scepter. This was finally produced, and the drawing we already had was taken to an artist to have the scepter and crown added thereto. The next thing was to get a flag made as a sample to display at the Assembly. And here is the result of our efforts. (He showed the sample copy of the flag that had been produced.)

"The Scriptures that pointed out this design and the importance of having a flag and showing its usefulness all point to our Christ, and His Church in His glorious service.

"The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be' (Genesis 49:10).

"This is a prophecy of Jesus, to whom the people will gather in the last days. Naturally, then, His Church should have an ensign, banner, flag, to display everywhere the Church which is His body is located.

"I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel' (Numbers 24:17).

"This is another prophecy of the coming of Jesus and refers to Him as a star. "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre' (Psalm 45:6).

"This is a prophecy of the coming of Jesus to reign as king. This is represented on the flag by the scepter, the star and the crown. "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: "And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end' (Luke 1:32, 33). "Where is he that is born King

of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

"When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy' (Matthew 2:2, 9, 10).

"But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom' (Hebrews 1:8).

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts' (2 Peter 1:19).

"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star' (Revelation 22:16).

"And he will lift up an ensign [flag] to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly' (Isaiah 5:26).

"Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard [ensign or flag] to the people: and they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders' (Isaiah 49:22).

"Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard [ensign or flag] for the people' (Isaiah 62:10).

"In that day shall the Lord of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty; unto the residue of his people' (Isaiah 28:5).

"We see Jesus . . . crowned with glory and honour' (Hebrews 2:9).

"All these verses together tell the story of the flag, and also tell how this last-days movement is going to draw the people of all nations. The red of the flag represents the blood of our Saviour, the blue represents truth, and white purity. The purple of the scepter, the star and crown, represents royalty or kingship. We are to go through any opposition and set up our flag of victory on the territory we take for our King. "We could not include any letters or writing, because the flag is to represent the Church of God in all nations and languages. When we establish a church we will soon want to raise our flag over the place and nearby should be the flag of the nation in which we are establishing the Lord's Church. "I am herewith introducing this flag and its design for consideration

by the Assembly. In order to get the subject before the Assembly properly the Questions and Subjects Committee should consider it and bring this subject before the Assembly in proper order. If a better and more appropriate design can be found it will be satisfactory to me. But I really think the time has come for the Church to have a flag with a design of its own, and which cannot be duplicated by any other institution or government. Hurrah for the flag! Three cheers for the red, white, blue and purple!"

### **Dedication Of Church Of God Flag (September 16, 1933)**

*(Note: The intervention of the Holy Ghost during the dedication of the Church flag was so great that the General Overseer offered an award to the clerk which could capture the moment most effectively. He selected A. J. Lawson and A. D. Evans as judges to decide. Chief Clerk, L. A. Moxley's account won the prize. We quote it here in full.)*

"Ever since our General Overseer asked me to write a history of this dedication service, I have been wondering how I would find words to express its greatness; and there has been a kind of sacred feeling at every thought of the attempt; nevertheless after much prayer I have decided to make the start and trust God for the inspiration.

"First, I wish to mention a few things leading up to the dedication referred to above.

"The General Overseer discussed the subject of a flag for the Church of God to be displayed in all nations of the world at some length in his Annual Address, and at the same time displayed the design, giving the scriptures to explain the Scepter, Star, and Crown and the colors, Red, White, Blue and Purple.

"It was on Saturday, September 16th, that the Questions and Subjects Committee brought the subject before the Assembly in regular order in their report, after which the General Overseer was asked to give the scriptures bearing upon the subject, to which he readily and gladly responded.

"Immediately following this the Holy Ghost fell upon S. R. Ferguson and he came to the platform speaking in tongues, took the General Overseer and led him back and forth across the platform two or

three times, with the flag in his hand, holding up both of his hands.

"C. H. Randall and V. R. Sherrill were then led to him under the power of the Spirit. Then came a message and the interpretation, a few words of which were as follows:

" 'Listen, my people 0 listen, I will teach this man how to control. Come to the place of obedience. Don't rebel.'

"At this juncture all stood, raised their hands and cried out to God.

"The next scene in this great dedication service was: The General Overseer with flag in hand was stood upon the speaker's stand, with uplifted hands, while the congregation of approximately two thousand waved their handkerchiefs to the glory of God, and oh, what a scene as the people leaped, screamed and shouted the praises of God.

"Another message flashed down over God's wireless a few words of which were:

" 'I am inviting you to be of one mind. United we stand. Divided we fall. I am calling thee to oneness. I am calling now as never before. Children hearken. Oh! Oh! Oh! The world will know that I am with thee. I have been guiding this man and will be with him, as long as he leans upon Me. Wilt thou hope in Me and go in wisdom? I am begging you to step out upon my Word. Again I will ask you to humble yourselves.'

"All then kneeled and prayed in concert. The volume of prayer sounded as the falling of many waters. As the sound of this prayer died away at the request of the General Overseer all stood in prayer, and asked God to saturate every flag that is made like it with the power of God, after which he said: 'I had intended to have a formal dedication of the flag, but since the Lord has so wonderfully taken control of this service we will just consider it dedicated by the Holy Ghost.'

"Thus closed the most wonderful dedication service that I have ever had the pleasure of witnessing. Surely the angels of Heaven were rejoicing, and many will remember it for years to come."

L. A. Moxley (Assembly Clerk)



(Assembly Minutes, 1933)

### Summary of The Times

"The adoption of the Church flag by the Twenty-eighth Annual Assembly brought a new chapter to the history of the Church. To many it seemed emblematic of prophetic fulfillment and they felt that it made a definite distinction between the Church of the Scriptures and the many other groups calling themselves the Church of God. They anxiously anticipated the soon arrival of their ensign or flag when they would have flag-raisings and other dedicatory exercises and the impressive Church flag displays. Being aware of the fact that to some the Church flag would become the object of persecution and false accusation because it made a definite distinction, and because it was a new flag it invited inquiries, but they felt it was God inspired. Soon, Psalm 60:4—'Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth'—became a Scriptural axiom among the ministry and membership, and before long the flag was entrenched in the consciences of the ministry and membership of the Church. It became a part of them wherever they were."

(C. T. Davidson, Upon this Rock.)

—CPMA Department. □

This is a reprint of the explanation of our flag which was taken directly from an old copy of the White Wing Messenger for our learning and acceptance of our flag. The flag was given for us by the Lord to empower us and help us to all stand for the doctrine unchanged and uncompromised until the Lord returns for us. I promised God, "I will stand, how about you?" □

September 16, 1933 – 2016

## There Is But One!

ALL NATIONS FLAG



It seems that every year about this time I run across a vehicle with this bumper sticker and the American Flag above it and this year, a few days ago I saw one. The reason that this thrills me so much is that I believe in the flag of these United States of America and I served under it, in the uniform of the United States Air Force for 28 years. It is nothing but normal to feel the pride in our country when the Stars & Stripes floats by us and all of the blood given by our men and women to keep us free is remembered. Our national heritage is something we can keep for as long as we live and be proud of America or any other country in which we live.

All of this reminds me of the flag I have stood for and under for a much longer time, the flag of The Church of God given in 1933 during the Assembly. I have proudly stood for this one for 56 years until this present time and have no intentions of laying it aside. Many has changed their mind and doubted about God and what He has done. You could no more change the flag, its colors, design and symbols than you could change the rainbow and its colors. To do so would be to invite the wrath of God upon us for disobedience and wrongful teaching although some have done it without regard for their actions. These acts of disrespect will be regretted either here on earth or at the end of the way. The flag of the Church was given for a sign to others that God resides where it is found and that He will protect us as we fight to keep our word to Him and be The Church of the Bible, the Church of Prophecy. As you have come to celebrate "Flag Day" please do so with pride and thankfulness for the flag and its meaning and remember, ***"O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast scattered us, thou hast been displeased; O turn thyself to us again. Thou hast made the earth to tremble; thou hast broken it: heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh. Thou hast shewed thy people hard things: thou hast made us to drink the wine of astonishment. Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah. Psalms 60:1-4***

# Remember These 2016 Dates:

**Haiti:** June 22-26 **13th National Convention**

October 30-November 3 **Western District Conference**

**Dominican Republic:** December 1-4 **Convention**

**U. S. A.:** September 28-29, 2016 **National Convention**

September 30-2 October 2016 **Family Camp**

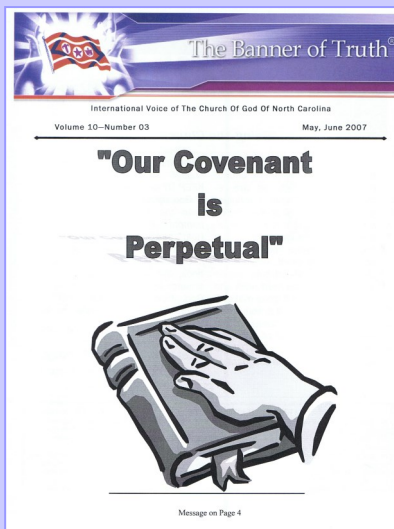
**New Dates!**

**Mexico:** December 2-4 **National Convention**

**KEEP THESE DATES IN YOUR PRAYERS!**

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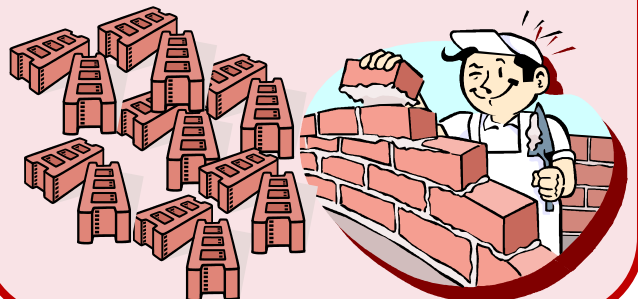


[www.thechurchofgodofnc.org](http://www.thechurchofgodofnc.org)

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To **"ALL"** who are Participating in the **Brick Plan**. Whether it be: \$1.00 \$5.00 \$10.00 etc., or **\$50.00 each month**, for Headquarters expense.

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# "The Witness Tree"

Have you purchased your 11x14 painted copy of the "Witness Tree"? It is our prayer that these pictures will soon hang in all our homes as a witness of the Glory of God. They are available for a donation of only \$25.00 plus postage.



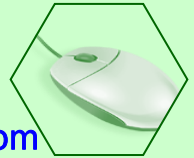
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