



International Voice of The Church of God of North Carolina

Volume 19—Number 01

January, February, March, 2016

*Special  
Easter  
Greetings  
To One  
And  
All*



## Editorial:

# “The Tomb is Empty and So Are Many Lives”

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



Many people went to see the empty tomb and were not impressed, because they felt that His disciples had taken his body away. The disciples did not even understand what had happened even though they had been taught by the Lord and should have understood. I believe it will be much the same when He comes for us and our families are wringing their hands and trying to figure out what has taken place. We have been telling them for years that it will be a great mystery for the world, but it should not be for those who have been warned and told about His coming. The soldiers who were there to watch were given money to say that during the night His disciples came and stole Him away while we slept.

*Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.* Matt 28:11-15 (KJV)

Many do not yet believe because they want Jesus on their terms and understanding instead of allowing Him to be the Lord of their lives. They are

confused and empty, void of understanding of who Jesus is or where to find Him. While He has not left them with just empty promises, but has given full and explicit instructions on how to find Him and take Him at His word, but you must believe for yourself.

If you do not believe, you will be just as empty as the tomb and Jesus will be gone forever from you.

Why not believe, and accept Him today so that you too can rejoice at His coming and His promise of our resurrection.



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

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## Christ Arose

He hung high on Calvary's hill,  
For it was the Master's will,  
For Him to hang there on that tree,  
Just for you and just for me,

And for His enemies He prayed,  
And what a sacrifice He made,  
Yes, the blood ran from his brow,  
He took all this, I wonder how.

His hands and feet were scared by nails,  
As the old, old story also tells,  
It tells a long sword pierced his side,  
Just before our Saviour died.

And on his head a crown of thorns,  
But no complaints, no, not a mourn,  
They laid Him in a tomb of rock,  
And guards would stand there around  
the clock.

The thunder rolled, light left the sky,  
And all were scared till this went by,  
Three days passed and the stone was gone,  
But why this was to few was known.

Yes, Christ arose, He lives today,  
He saved our souls, now guides our way,  
So we should be the best we can be,  
And live for Jesus, He made us free.

Donna Giles



# “Words Do Matter?”

International Overseer  
John A. Wilkins, Jr.

***He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.*** Proverbs 13:3

You might hear someone say, “Oh, well that is just my opinion and what I say doesn’t really matter anyway.” What we say does matter and words can hurt very badly and like ringing a bell, once the bell is rung you can’t retract the ring. Once words are out, they are out and cannot be recalled and no matter how hard we try to restate it, things just get worse. Did you ever say something and then wish you would have never said it? This is especially hard when dealing with souls, because the enemy is always attempting to have us misunderstood anyway. If he can cause us to say something that is a bit unacceptable he is delighted. Our conversation must be pure and straight forward in order to keep ourselves out of some bad situations so our words must be carefully selected. It is better for us to listen as much as possible and in many cases the listening ear is what is most needful in most cases.

***Should not the multitude of words be answered? and should a man full of talk be justified? Should thy lies make men hold their peace? and when thou mockest, shall no man make thee ashamed? For thou hast said, My doctrine is pure, and I am clean in thine eyes. But oh that God would speak, and open his lips against thee; And that he would***

***shew thee the secrets of wisdom, that they are double to that which is! Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth.*** Job 11:2-6

Many men feel that they have so much knowledge that it must be shared with everyone and they fail to stop to measure their words before they are spoken. I can tell you from experience that when a man feels this way, it will only be a short time before the tongue will engage before the brain and trouble will be the end result. The tongue is an unruly member of the body and only Sanctification will bring it under control.

***Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no***

***fountain both yield salt water and fresh.*** James 3:5-12

We can see from the Word of God just how dangerous the tongue can be for our brothers and sisters that we love and would do nothing to hurt or harm them. It is the little foxes that spoil the vine and sometimes make it impossible to ever undo certain things that happen which can eternally separate us from one another. I have heard things said and they would cause me to feel, if only I could help that person, but we usually can’t help someone to see themselves in time to be of help. Once they say hurtful things it is not possible to recapture the good spirit which has been lost.

***A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.*** Proverbs 18:19

We have been using some Old Testament Scriptures to establish a basis for this message, but the New Testament is filled with them too. Here Jesus is speaking and the words are clear regarding our speech.

***O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be***

***justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.*** Matthew 12: 34-37

***Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake. One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth. Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.*** Titus 1:9-16

Over the last year we have had multiple problems with those who promote themselves to be wise, far above The Church of God and Her leadership. I have been with them and they would take the service over and just speak in tongues and declare that the Church was behind in understanding and doctrine. I along with some others have tried to get them to look at the Bible regarding these matters, but they refused to look at the Bible or receive counsel on the matters and now some are out of the Church because of this. When a young Christian looks at the Regional Overseer, National Overseer and the International Overseer and says, "Don't expect them to

hear you because they won't listen to you, they do not believe that what we have is the Holy Ghost teaching us." When you hear these things you need to pay close attention to the Word of God rather than your leader who utters these things because the leader just might be in error with the spirit of the Anti-Christ. He wants to be out front and he wants to be listened to as he projects his will rather than the will of the Lord Jesus Christ. Everything you hear speaking in tongues is not the Holy Ghost of God. He has a humble and quiet spirit not one demanding attention. The tongue talkers are everywhere in the world and often what they are saying in conflict with the Word of God. When the Holy Ghost speaks he is always in complete harmony with the Bible and He doesn't give you directions for your life that do not conform to the Word. You must try the spirits to see if they be of God. When you question these people, they get mad and really possessive and they quickly tell you not to listen to your headquarters or your leadership, but rather to move quickly against them. Some time ago we had to deal with some of this business and maybe one or two really good members got caught up in this and will possibly be lost because of it. This is shameful, but this is what happens when the spirit of the Anti-Christ is permitted to work for just a little time. Our job one is to protect the Church from these, and there will be more of them in the future, because the time is now short and Satan is making a big push. God will alert His Church and we need not worry about new revelations and signs. They are coming through our back doors rather than being introduced through the right sources and when they are false they must be confronted openly by our leadership for what they are. It is time to

become fully alert to the false gods and spirits of the underworld. I have been confronted by these demonic spirits and had them call me names right in the Church during this past year but please do not worry about them, because God will smite them without warning and put an end to their foolishness in due time. We are without fear, because of the Holy Ghost warning us over and over regarding these confrontations. We must be prayed up, waiting on the leading of the Lord and everything else will be all right. God has given us His Word; He will take care of us. We must trust Him and obey Him and not allow some smooth talking person to influence us to hear them instead.

This is perilous times and very dangerous to the Children of God, because of deception. They come and speak words of consolation, words of comfort and words that are partially filled with wisdom. Then they will openly speak evil of the Church Leaders and Overseers that have given their whole life to preserve the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

***Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*** 1 John 4:1

A lady who was a wonderful child of God called me some time ago and told me about the Holy Ghost Messages that had been given out in a church she had visited and how that the Lord was working in that place. I knew about some of the people there so I asked her how many of these giving messages were living with their real companion and she got real quite. You see God does not give messages and interpretations to those who live in adultery with someone else's husband or wife. →

It is the same as a bank robber telling someone, "I am saved now; the Lord has forgiven me of robbing banks." Then he goes back and robs another bank and just continues to teach Sunday School down at the local church. Yes, God will save a bank robber, but he must quit robbing banks and live the life. We don't fool God and when He saves us we must give the wife that we have taken from another man back to him in order to be saved in the end. Yes, words do matter and some have stood before God's altar and lied to one woman after another or one man after another without much regard. This is the spirit of the Anti-Christ at work in our day. In my early life a lot of churches condemned this behavior and His Church still does.

*And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. 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. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a***

*witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.* Matthew 24:4-14

Jesus cared enough to warn us that they were coming. It is now time to grab this idea and understand that Christians are losing their heads as I write this message. Their heads are being cut off, they are being shot, and they are beaten just because they are Christian. It is high time that we realize the end is near as more and more of our liberties are taken and it gets harder and harder to serve the Lord openly, even in America. Jesus has taught us that we will be hated and betrayed by some we call brothers and sisters.

We have lived for and longed for a time when we would be loved and appreciated by our brothers and sisters in the Lord. We have needed their support and love in order to be able to stand and fight for the Lord in these last days, but now we learn that those we trust must be carefully selected and observed before we completely put our lives on the line with them. They are put to the test by the Lord and some will not make it. Listen to the Bible!

*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.* Matthew 7:21-23

When you hear those who want you to believe that they have the gifts of healing, spiritual discernment, prophecy and other things, please beware of their craftiness, because these gifts are placed

into the Church to be used by the Church. Just standby and wait and watch to see just how long these lift up the name, of Jesus, because many times they are wanting their name to be lifted up instead. We must lift up His name not man's name. When a child of God is living close to the Lord and the Spirit says for them to pray for someone and they obey God the healing will be performed by the Lord. They are doing the work of the Church by the same power of God without actually being in the Body of Christ by covenant. Jesus told His disciples to leave them alone! These gifts however, were given to the Church, not to individuals to be used as they see fit. I knew an evangelist one time who had a pretty big name throughout the United States and would say, "If the Lord healed you don't forget to tell who prayed for you." I did not find that to be amusing or worthwhile. When God is not receiving the glory for these miracles, then it is done in the wrong spirit and will soon come to naught. This man was soon gone from the Church.

We are still looking at words that matter and realizing that we are accountable for every idle word. Our goal is to glorify God with our words and honor Him in all things we do.

*For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.* 1 Peter 3:10-12

I have seen evil done against some of our good people and we can all rest assured that evil will be punished by the God →

we serve; it will not be overlooked nor ignored. We must not claim to love them and do evil behind their back. Often a man or woman will say, "I love you" without one thought of what it really means to love someone with an "Agape" love. The term is abused, misused and in many cases just a habit which is repeated without thought and meaningless.

Yes, WORDS DO MATTER" and every idle word is to be accounted for even if spoken privately or from the Sacred Desk. Let us all be aware of what we are saying and give the Lord full charge of our mouth in every situation. The spirit of the "Anti-Christ" is at work and will speak out where ever he is permitted and often is hard to recognize at first unless we are prayed up and packed up with the real Spirit and power of God. One way to recognize him is to listen to not just what he is saying, but the spirit in which it is delivered. He often knows more than anyone else, and has the answer for the whole Church and is ready to line up those who have carried the load of the Church for many years. He is not respectful of anyone, but himself and will badger and blast any who get in his way if they challenge him. He usually has the answers to all questions and speaks as one having great authority and power.

Let us speak the Word of God with power, dignity, authority and love in humility and honor to the Christ which we represent, knowing we are accountable for all of our words.

"WORDS DO MATTER" □

## Sunday School

~Polly Murphy~

International Sunday School Director



### Count your blessings in 2016

LOVE: Be encouraged, Love one another John 3:16-17 ***For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*** God's love for man is the greatest blessing we have. Where would we be without this promise, this would be a very bleak place. Faith to believe God is a special gift from the Lord to all who receive Him into their life, This is part of our blessings.

SALVATION: Luke 1:17 ***To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,*** Thank God for the wonderful Salvation given through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. That we might have salvation. Jesus gave His life. Missionaries give their lives helping others to know about salvation, Ministers devote their lives to others. What will we do? God wants us to do our part. This is a question we all must answer, "What will I do?" First we must recognize and accept that we are sinners, and then understand there is only one remedy for sin, JESUS! Luke 3:17 ***Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.***

WISDOM: James 1:5,25 ***If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*** If we do our part we will be blessed. The world is growing more and more against Christians. We must stand up for Christ and His Church. Those of us who want His blessings in 2016 must be doers of the work in order to have His blessings. Those who aren't doers will never realize the blessings.

STRENGTH: Philippians 4:13 ***I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*** Our strength comes from Jesus. He energizes us by His spirit to be all that He has designed us to be, when we allow Him to be our source.

FRUIT: May we let the "Fruit of the Spirit" shine in our lives. Galatians 5:22-23 ***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*** These are the results of a dedicated Holy Ghost led life that is fully committed to the Lord.

Shine, Shine, Shine for Jesus in 2016!

# Meet Our Evangelism Director and Family

~Richard Colon~

Alamogordo, NM

International Evangelism Director



Hello! My name is Richard Colon and I was appointed at the International Assembly as the International Evangelism Director. I wanted to introduce myself to anyone out there who has not had the opportunity to meet me in person or follow us on our Facebook page titled The Church of God of NC International Evangelism Department.

I started attending The Church of God in 1982 in Alamogordo, New Mexico. In January 1983, I was shot in the face and to everyone's surprise I walked away from this incident. It wasn't time for me to go, it was just the beginning of greater things that the Lord had in store for me! I met my wife in June of 1983 when I was just 18 years old.

We were both young people in our state and attended all the conventions and youth camps together. We were counselors for the Junior campers and did everything as a team, when we were not competing against each other. I moved to Hobbs, New Mexico in March 1988 and we were married on December 17, 1988. From there, I became an assistant pastor under her grandfather before moving to Melrose, New Mexico, where we pastored for 2 years, from August 1990-July 1993. We then moved back to Hobbs and soon accepted a pastoral position there where I would stay until 2010. During this time, I continued on in the camping ministry, worked as State Assembly Band Movement (ABM) Secretary, and worked in the Children's Ministry in our area. In 2010, my family and I moved back to Alamogordo, where I soon found myself in a pastoral role once again. We love Alamogordo and all the people here! My wife Jannece Colon is the International Camping Coordinator and believes that her calling is the Camping Ministry. We have three children: Ricky is 22 years old, Emily is 18, and Kimberly is 11. Christ and His Church is our life and we are blessed to be about His work.

I can be emailed at [rc@thechurchofgodofnc.com](mailto:rc@thechurchofgodofnc.com) or follow us on Facebook at The Church of God of NC International Evangelism Department. If you have anything that you would like me to boost, please send it to me. If you have activities in your church, state, region, or nation—please send pictures or articles and we can post it on Facebook. If you have prayer requests (public or private) please let us know, we can pray for you or with you, whether privately or you would like it posted on Facebook and sent out for others to pray for as well. If you have Evangelism tips or messages to share, ideas to make our page better, praise reports, etc. Please don't hesitate to contact me!





## Everyday Evangelism “Thinking Outside the Box”

~Richard Colon~

International Evangelism Director  
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In days gone by, there were these great Evangelists that had great hair, shiny shoes, fancy suits and would travel from church to church holding revivals. Having a church revival with an evangelist can be valuable to your local church. In years past, there were so many great evangelists that were a valuable part of the ministry and they did many great works in the Kingdom of God, but that is not the only way to evangelize and spread the gospel.

God is calling THE CHURCH to do personal evangelism! We must think outside the box! Every Christian must make a conscience decision to evangelize and spread the gospel. That doesn't necessarily mean leaving your home for unknown territories, it could be in your own backyard, better known as EVERYDAY EVANGELISM

A few years back, a gentleman told me a story of how he witnessed to his neighbor while working in the fields. The two men shared a fence, and they were both out hoeing the weeds from the fields. They would both work in opposite directions and when they would come back together, they would take their water breaks and visit about the scriptures. The two men found themselves watching the other as they worked, as to make sure that they would meet up at the fence at that same moment. So, one might work faster or the other slow down so they would arrive at the same time to hear more about the scripture and God. Although their work started out as the most important thing that they had to do, soon it became their time with the Lord together that became the greatest and most important mission they had. The opportunity to witness and uplift each other became the highlight of both of the men's days. After several years of meeting at that fence, this gentleman saw the man, his wife, and their children saved and serving the Lord. One day, he looked up his fields and the man wasn't at the fence to meet him, because he was at the

other joining fence sharing God with the next neighbor. The evangelized became the Evangelist!!

We MUST all be on the lookout for any opportunity to spread the gospel in any way possible, no matter where that may be. We can not be ashamed of Christ and His Church! We have a mission to accomplish, let's be UNSTOPPABLE in the work of the Lord! Where will you be evangelizing today?? ☐

**FAITH  
IS NOT  
HOPING  
GOD CAN  
IT'S  
KNOWING  
GOD WILL !**

# *Lasting Memories Of* **Theodore “Ted” J. Lowe**

February 11, 1929 ~ January 3, 2016

Hobbs, New Mexico.



The Church of God has lost another soldier to his eternal reward; Bishop Theodore J. Lowe has finished his assignment on earth and moved on to his home which is permanent with Jesus Christ in Heaven. I knew him as a friend for many years and always looked him up during our General Assembly where we literally spent hours talking about old times and our experiences through the years. I will miss these times greatly, but we have both been preparing for this change for a long time and it will come, if the Lord tarries for all of us. I can only imagine the great joy he is now experiencing in the presence of the Lord.

He was born to Taylor J. Lowe and Velma Ruth Osbourne Lowe on February 11, 1929 in Borger, Texas. He then moved to Melrose, New Mexico and fell in love with his lifelong sweetheart, Jetta Lee Leeder and married her on March 9, 1947. From this union came two sons, Thurman J. on December 14, 1947 and Herman J. on October 29, 1948.

He was saved in 1940, called into the ministry in 1952, ordained a Bishop in 1955 during the General Assembly in Cleveland, Tennessee. He served as pastor for 30 years and was State Overseer for some 20 years. His loyalty to The Church of God was proven through the years and the turmoil by the enemy, but did not unseat him as a minister, ever. When he slipped away his file was pulled and his reports were there even for his final month, this shows his dedication and faithfulness in reporting. He has left us an example to follow as ministers in The Church of God.

Bishop Lowe is survived by his wife of 68 years, Jetta Lee Lowe of Hobbs, NM. He has two sons Thurman Lowe and wife Darlene of Hobbs and Herman Lowe and his wife Nellie of Magna, UT. For 64 years he has carried the message of Jesus Christ and His Church to untold numbers of people. He will be greatly missed by all of us that knew him and treasured his warmth and kindness, but we look for our meeting in Heaven after this life is finished for us. Thanks, Bishop Lowe for the memories!

WHITE WING MESSENGER MARCH 27, 1982

# IT'S EASTER

A VOICE FROM THE PAST



The time is now; it's spring; it's Easter—the time of awakening. There's a newness and a freshness in this time of year. The grass springs forth, glistening and green. The trees are in bud, waiting for the warm rays of the sun to burst open. Flowers are beginning to show their bright colors. Birds, with melodies tumbling from their tiny throats, are working busily to build nests for their new families. The children in high spirits, with loud voices and bright colors, are breaking forth from their *cocoons* of snow suits, toboggan hats, snow hoots and mittens, dragging from their winter hiding places an assortment of roller skates, skate boards and bicycles, with all sorts of equipment for play. Some even haul out that pair of old tennis shoes that have been *ripening* all winter in the corner of the closet.

We are so busy, enveloped in our own little worlds, busy with our own little plans, that we fail to realize that spring has actually come, and that God is smiling down on His children in the warming rays of the sun, the soft warm breezes and the gently falling rain.

Instead, our hearts and minds are on, "But, Honey, the girls and I all need new dresses for Easter," and "but, Honey, the boys must have new suits, and you know, we all have to have new shoes," and, also, "if we don't get new clothes, we won't go to church on Easter. Do you want us to be the only ones

there looking so shabby?"

Just what is Easter? Why do we celebrate?

"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed" (Romans 13:11). "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16).

There was a cry made on Golgotha's hill a long time ago. The words that came forth from the bruised and battered body of our Lord were, "It is finished," and again, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit."

What Jesus did for us on that hill that day so long, long ago, was to make a *plan of salvation* that whosoever, regardless of age, color or creed, can come to God for the needs of his soul. Today there is a price on everything, but this one time, our Lord paid the supreme sacrifice for you and me and for all who want to come to the Lord.

This is not a day just to flaunt our new clothes or for checking to see if anyone else has a *copy* of ours. New clothes are nice; they give a lift to our spirits, they make us feel good, and when we feel good, we are more pleasant to talk to.

What we must realize now is that our salvation is nearer—the coming of Christ is closer—than any of us realize. "Redeeming the time because the days are evil." There is more sin and evil on every side than

any of us has ever seen or heard before. Murder has become commonplace, with a lot of kill-ings being related to drugs.

The world sees and hears *pot parties*, hard rock music or any-thing that will take them out of themselves. We can look on, not daring to do or say anything. Even the authorities, in many places are afraid to interfere because it could mean their lives, as it has on several occasions.

Christ died on the cross for you and me. The disciples forgot so much of what He had taught them, and returned to their fishing boats. We, too, tend to forget the meaning of the Cross. So many do not even want to think of why He died there. In telling the story some even try to *tone down* what happened, even to saying "They took His life." They couldn't take His life. He gave it, because that was His purpose in coming to earth.

Let's forget for awhile that new Easter finery and the big dinner we have planned with families and friends. Let's quit teaching our children that Easter is a time of new shoes, colored eggs and Easter baskets. Let's read again the story of the Cross and make sure it stays in our hearts.

As Christ arose on that first Easter morning, so let us also "awake out of sleep," for our salvation, through His death on the cross, is nearer than when we first believed.—

Nellie Kifer, Girard, Ohio



# March Missions

~Tenna Tidwell~  
International Women's Mission Director  
Walnut Ridge, AR

It's hard to believe another year has come and gone. Looking back on 2015, most of us see goals we have fallen short of but the Apostle Paul encourages us not to look back on the past too much but to reach forth unto those things which are before us. If we pray about what goals to set, get God's approval and continue to seek God's will, we will see results. As the old saying goes "If you aim at nothing you are bound to hit it".

There was a story told once of a man who observed a young boy shooting arrows at targets drawn on the side of a barn. He noticed that he had hit the bull's eye every single time. In amazement he went up to him and ask him how he did that. He said "Oh that's easy I just shoot at the side of the barn and then draw a bull's eye around where my arrow hits!"

I'm afraid in real life it's not that easy. It takes planning and deliberate effort to accomplish our goals. If our goals in life glorify God and help others to see Him we can rest assured they are obtainable.

There are souls all over the world that need God. It seems like the whole world is turned upside down. The devil is hard at work but we must be harder at work. Reaching every soul for Christ is an impossible task to accomplish on our own but with God ALL things are possible. We are reminded by the scripture, ***"Not by might, nor by power but by my Spirit saith the Lord"***! If we prepare ourselves for His service and do our part, we can rest assured God will bring the increase.

## March is World Mission Month!

Ask the Lord now what He would have you to do. Set a goal and make a plan to hit it! Make this a year that you can look back on and know that the Lord is well pleased!

May God bless you in all you do this New Year! □

## Remember in Prayer

Hillard Foster

Anna Goins

Eunice Foster

Ray Bradshaw

Ed Foster

**Unspoken Request**

Joe Quintana's Friend has broken both hips.



## NM Family Camp

### October 2015

We were so blessed to have 25 in camp this year! The theme for this year's camp was "Do You Believe?" The weather was tremendous, the mountains were gorgeous, the fellowship was much needed, the food was good, the classes were blessed by God and given by Him to our teachers, and the evening services were blessed with many renewals of relationships with our Savior.

Our first evening started out with registration and a wonderful meal before going into our opening service with Bro. John Pultz as the evangelist. We were so blessed to have Bro. Pultz with us and are so thankful that he obeyed the Lord's moving in his decision to attend camp this year. After service, we got to enjoy each others company and the fellowship of all those in attendance, then popcorn and the movie "God's NOT Dead."

The second morning started with a great breakfast, followed by morning devotion. We had two classes for each group. The ladies classes were taught by Sis. Cathy Elder from Alabama and Sis. Nellie Lowe from Utah. Our men's classes were taught by Bro. Theodore Lowe from New Mexico and Bro. John Wilkins from North Carolina. Two of our classes had to be cancelled due to a great moving of the Holy Ghost. We thank those two teachers for understanding and being flexible; Sis. Elizabeth Wilkins from North Carolina and Bro. Richard Colon from New Mexico. We had a great recreation time led by Sis. Emily Colon. The evening service was amazing and followed up with an evening of Feet washing and Communion.

The third morning started with breakfast followed by morning devotion and then service with Bro. John Wilkins, International Overseer from North Carolina. Then, Bro. Richard Colon, Pastor of the Alamogordo, NM church received 2 transfers of members and received 3 new members to The Church of God of North Carolina. The morning session was a complete surprise and blessing to all those in attendance.

Camp, as always, ended way too soon! We did all receive what was needed from the Lord! There were major healings in emotions, old hurts, bodies, etc. take place during this camp. We definitely left knowing that God is NOT dead!! We figured out exactly what we believed.

Thank you Lord for an amazing camp and for your outpouring of your Spirit! This camp was far above any expectations that I as director/coordinator could have ever imagined.

Humbly submitted by: Jannece Colon

**Enjoy some pictures of our Family Camp on the following pages.....➡**

# We were Blessed with God's Rainbow



Pictures of  
Family Camp  
October  
2015  
Cloudcroft,  
New Mexico

## Fun Time



## Time of Worship



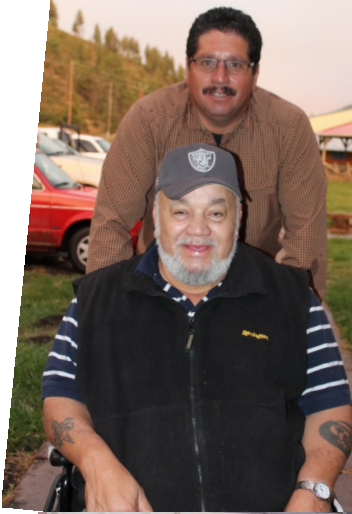
## Happy Faces



## Joining the Church



# More Family Camp Memories



# **Youth Camp in Romblon, Philippines 2015**

~Carl Tizon~  
Camp Director

A year-ender camp was held on the Island of Romblon, Philippines with a theme, “LIVE TO WORSHIP” AT Calagonsao Elementary School. This was a 3 day camp attended by 95 campers with 25 staff. Our target was just for 50 campers. This was almost double more than what we had anticipated. To God be the Glory!!

As campers arrived on the camp grounds, we saw a great move of God as youth camp pouring in happy and anticipating a refreshing touch from above. The first night service was a proof that there is a deep longing in the hearts of these young people to honor the Holy One.

The second day started with a morning devotion by the seaside, acknowledging that God has been gracious for giving us a chance to live one more day each time we wake up, for God’s steadfast love never stops and for His mercies that are new every morning. The second night service was so amazing! It caught us by surprise! With just a little preparation for our “Night of Worship,” God looks for worshippers in our midst. Not on the songs that we sing but on the heart that seeks Him. As the worship stated, a mighty move of God swept the hall. Youth began to be touched by God, danced in the Spirit, and slained youth were all over the place as they spake in tongues. We were done but campers asked for more; more of His presence. We were all in amazement!

Then came the third day. Camaraderie is in the air. You can see “all smiles” around. The youth really enjoyed all the activities from the class sessions down to the games they played. As the sun sets, our eyes are on the Campfire. Even, we as staff, were all excited on what God would do in our midst. This activity involved things that were sentimental or with great value to us but are ready to be surrendered and be burned in the fire as our symbol of Gratitude for all that God has done; for His lovingkindness. As the youth approached to fire and prepared to burn the “small things” that they treasured, God moved in our midst. The young people kneeled and cried. Youth began to be sanctified and spake in other tongues. All giving thanks to God and all surrendering their lives to God.

As Camp Director, I can’t describe in words what God has done in these three days. I am so overwhelmed! I just want to say “Amazing!” What God has done is indescribable. He alone deserved the praise due to His name! Hallelujah!!

In all, 12 were saved, 62 sanctified, and 15 received the Holy Ghost. Our records may be short to depict what really all happened and was experienced by these campers.

I also wanted to thank Sis. Jannece Colon for her relentless prayers, interceding for us, even in our time of travels. Sis. Jannece, we appreciate you and your may never know how grateful I am for lifting us up in prayers. Thanks for all your help!

On behalf of my staff, we all wish blessing upon blessing to all those who prayed and supported us in one way or another. To the National Overseer Dr. Darwin Gaba and to his wife Namnama Gaba, thanks for what you have shared with us. These are all for God’s glory! It will not go in vain! So excited for the next Summer Camp this April. Let’s celebrate “His Unfailing Love.”

Humbly submitted by The Camp Director—Bro. Carl Tizon





# Ptr. Bienvenido Fernando

January 1, 1945 - January 2, 2016

## “A GREAT MAN OF GOD HAS GONE HOME”

**Ptr. Bienvenido Fernando, District Overseer of Romblon for so many years has passed away at the age of 71. He is considered as pillar among the ministers of The Church of God and will be greatly missed by his family and people of Romblon his home province.**

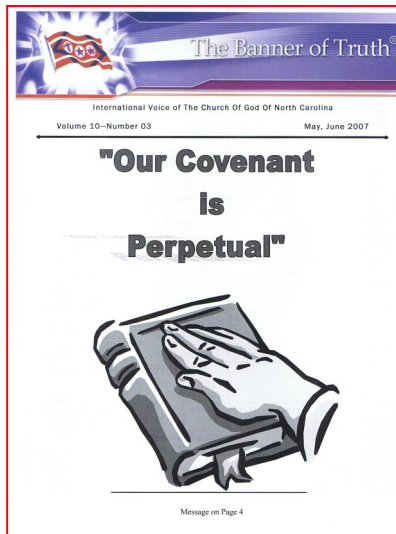
**The Church of God of North Carolina has lost one of the greatest man of God in the country of Philippines. This man serves throughout his life until God call him in his eternal home.**

**We saw the fruits of his labor because of the churches he leads in his ministry. We have 3 churches in Romblon in his leadership until he dies. We consider him as our father, mentor, friend, brother and colleague in the Lord’s vineyard.**

**Farewell Ptr. Nido Fernando but we don’t say goodbye. We will see you in heaven when God call his people for their eternal home.**

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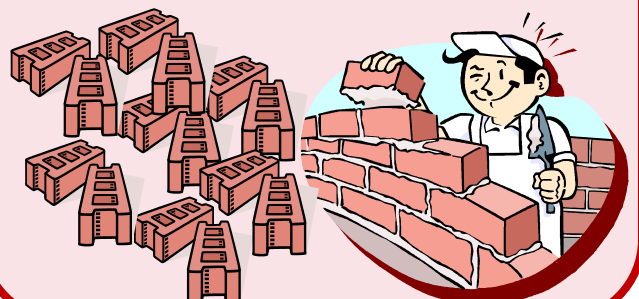
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# **Remember These Dates for 2016 in Prayer...**

**Haiti:** March 24-27 **Southern District Conference**

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

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

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

**U. S. A.:** August 11-13, 2016 **National Convention**

October 7-9 **Family Camp**

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

**Philippines:** April 15-17 **National Convention**

April 18-22 **National Youth Camp**

**WE NEED A MIGHTY MOVE OF GOD!**

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