



International Voice of The Church of God of North Carolina

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**International Director
Keith Murphy**

**Extends to ALL a
"HEARTY WELCOME"**

**Welcoming you to
Bible Training Institute**

August 25 - 01 September, 2015

**LOCATION: The Church of God
310 W. Edgerton St.
Dunn, NC 28335**



Editorial....



“There is But One”

International Overseer
~John A. Wilkins, Jr.~



People across the United States just celebrated Flag Day on June 14. Each year we honor the United States flag and commemorate the flag's adoption. Many honor this day by displaying the American flag at homes, and public buildings. There is always much pride and this thrills me so much as we remember our men and women who keep us free. It is nothing but normal to feel pride in our country. 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 all live.

It seems that every year about this time I'll get behind a vehicle with a bumper sticker on it that reads, “**There is But One**” and the American Flag above it., a few days ago I saw one again.

All of this reminds me of our “All Nations Flag” of The Church of God. In the Fifty-ninth Assembly in 1964 June 13, was designated to be Church of God Flag Day. This distinctive ensign flies in many nations around the world, and wherever it flies it stands for one thing which we esteem highly—the TRUTH. In a time of comprise for popular acclaim within many religious circles, there is a Nation which Paul described as the pillar and ground of the truth.

As a testimony of our determination to remain faithful to our charge of upholding the TRUTH, we continue as one, to raise this special banner which was given by God at the Assembly in 1933. More important than flying the Church flag is our allegiance to the Word of God. And this Word is not just something to be proclaimed verbally; it is proclaimed most effectively through lives under its control.

Within our churches let us be careful to lift up the truth through consecrated living as we continue to raise this special banner.

As we celebrate “The All Nations 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

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

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The Church Flag is a registered trademark of the Church of God of Prophecy, however we believe it was given to the church by the Holy Ghost to be displayed because of the truth.

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BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE 2015

International Director
~Keith Murphy~

B.T.I. in the United States is scheduled for August 25 – Sept 1, 2015 in Dunn, NC. **The deadline to get your application in is July 9, 2015.** It’s not far away. You get your book and lunch each day for only \$60.00 Now that’s a deal. Teachers pay \$30.00. We must have a minimal number of students to apply by the deadline or else we will have to cancel classes this year. So hurry and get yours in. (Application on page 19)

Why is **B.T.I.** so important to us as members? There is only ONE Church in the world today that accepts and lives by theocratic government. That is what makes the Church unique from all others, but we as members must be taught in the Word just as they were in the Bible. Jethro, Moses father-in-law, saw that Moses was worn out from judging the people from morning till evening, so he gave him Godly advice found in Exodus 18: 24-27 *So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said. And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves. And Moses let his father in law depart; and he went his way into his own land.*

Please read Acts chapter 15. There you will find that there were matters of great concern in the Church, but theocratic government was at work.

Why is **B.T.I.** important? We must learn through the Word of God to be of one mind, of one accord, and see eye to eye in ALL SCRIPTURE all around





“Self-Analysis – The Key To Spiritual Success”

International Overseer
John A. Wilkins, Jr.

Text: “**But let a man examine himself...**” I Cor. 11:28a

In the real world man is always examining ways in which he can place blame for his mistakes on the backs of others for the wrong decisions, wrong turns and other problems in life. Many people never accept blame for what they do, even though they know it was their fault and they are totally responsible for the mistake. One of the best examples of this is when they get a tax preparer like H & R Block to prepare their taxes and expects them to assume all responsibility for the tax information on the forms. The IRS office checks the forms and finds questionable figures on it, so they call H & R Block to discuss these problems – no they don't they call the person whose name is at the bottom of the form who signed that it was a true and accurate form. This is the person who is responsible for the accuracy of the tax papers and this person now must give account to them for the errors found on the taxes. Just read the fine print!

“Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return and accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief they are true, correct and complete.”

You are then asked to sign, date and give your contact information.

NOTE: Information taken from a 1040 Department of the Treasury – Internal Revenue Service (99) U. S. Individual Income Tax Return 2014 OMB No. 1545-0074.

Do you have any doubt about who is responsible for the accuracy of this form? In God's business there is no doubt either, no man can examine you before God – You must do it yourself and come clean with God. Hidden sins of the heart will not work because He has made the way clear as to how to rid one's self of them. His blood covers our sins, never to be remembered against us again when we allow Him to cover them and turn from them ourselves. Repentance is turning to Christ from sin! We must be sorry that we are a sinner and want His help to rid us of SIN and allow us to stand justified before Him. Some tell God, “I'll serve You as long as I live; I'm giving up the sin way.” But the words are empty and void in the ears of God because He knows they are meaningless when they are spoken. These people have not repented and their life will reflect on the outside what is truly in their heart. Self-analysis is the only way that one can align with the will of God for themselves. I have spoken to people who tell me, “God sent me to do this thing and until He releases me I'm here to stay with it.” Then within hours that statement is forgotten and they are doing something different. Please don't lie to the Holy Ghost – It will cost you and you might end up like Ananias and Sapphire, dead. What a mistake they made to promise the Lord a certain amount and then decide to take it back. It is like

making a pledge and then something happens and you decide not to pay your pledge; maybe because someone else fails to pay theirs or some other reason. It is high time to honor our word to the Lord and fulfil our obligations to Him. He expects us to honor our words to Him! The blessings are waiting for us to honor our word and perform our vows to Him. The text of this message is about a man receiving communion and how he is to examine himself, not some other person, but himself. It is also a stern warning, please read it carefully.

But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world. 1 Cor 11:28-32 (KJV)

Many sleep today and are sick because this scripture has become meaningless to them. God is going to send Jesus back after a people (size unimportant) who have measured up and kept the faith. We must measure ourselves by the Word of God, not what the overseer says about things or the pastor has taught us about things. These men could have taught us wrong

but our accountability is inexcusable and it is personal with us and God. Our measurement standard is the Bible, God's Word, and all are accountable to it for themselves.

For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ: Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly, To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand. But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth. 2 Cor 10:12-18

Our commendation must come from the Lord, not ourselves. He will commend those who walk with Him and do that which is right regardless of who is looking. I remember a time when Christians would serve the Lord in places far removed from home where no one saw them. They would mail their tithes, give in offerings and keep their relationship with the Lord. We need this today, where self-analysis is done and the Lord is pleased.

He is depending on us to walk with Him regardless of the circumstances and give Him the best of our service. There is not a place we can hide from the presence of the Lord.

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates. Now I pray to God that ye do no evil; not that we should appear approved, but that ye should do that which is honest, though we be as eprobates. For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth. For we are glad, when we are weak, and ye are strong: and this also we wish, even your perfection. Therefore I write these things being absent, lest being present I should use sharpness, according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction. Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you. 2 Cor 13:5-11

When we examine ourselves we may come up short, but when we call on God and place our trust in Him, He will lift us up to the secret place. The psalmist found this secret place in God and we can find it too. It is available to all His children whom He loves and has called to serve Him. Listen to David's own words.

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and

from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noon-day. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Psalms 91:1-8

We can't be shielded unless we get the relationship right between us and God. He then becomes our shield and protector and nothing that Satan has can touch or harm us. This comes to those who have taken inventory and been accountable to God. No one can do this for you – it must be done by YOU. I am afraid that over the years many have tried to live a life pleasing to the kin folks, pastor, band leader, and in some cases the overseer, but it won't work. You can't hide from God the things you can hide from these people. He knows the very thoughts that go through our mind. None of us will be judged by any of these people, but all of us will be judged by God, He doesn't miss any of us. We must not think too highly of ourselves less we fall into the secure mode and neglect to take care of some important things.

For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden. Let him that is taught in the word communicate

unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. Gal 6:3-8

We need to sow in the spirit and not the flesh. I see a lot of flesh today and hear an awful lot of correction of the other fellow while the spirit is calling to each individual to check themselves. We must prove our own work and bear our own burden in order to please the Lord. Let us see ourselves as the Word of God is preached and move upward in our experience. Too many want to excuse Brother Otis and let him get by so he can go to the altar when it is them the Lord is calling. When God called The Church to repent back in the late 70's and early 80's people said, "Who me, what is there to repent of?" No one would move and we went from the fastest growing holiness church in those days to a scattered flock of the 90's that hardly knows what the Church teaches. Just ask a couple of people from that Church today; what does the Church teach regarding sanctification and you will hear the most confused explanation of that doctrine ever heard before. No one seems to know about this or many other things because there is no accountability. Everyone believes whatever pleases them and they call it Church of God, but it isn't and a house divided against itself cannot stand.

Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD. Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the

heavens. We have transgressed and have rebelled: thou hast not pardoned. Thou hast covered with anger, and persecuted us: thou hast slain, thou hast not pitied. Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that our prayer should not pass through. Thou hast made us as the offscouring and refuse in the midst of the people. All our enemies have opened their mouths against us. Fear and a snare is come upon us, desolation and destruction. Mine eye runneth down with rivers of water for the destruction of the daughter of my people. Mine eye trickleth down, and ceaseth not, without any intermission, Till the LORD look down, and behold from heaven. Mine eye affecteth mine heart because of all the daughters of my city. Mine enemies chased me sore, like a bird, without cause. They have cut off my life in the dungeon, and cast a stone upon me. Waters flowed over mine head; then I said, I am cut off. Lam 3:40-54

This is us today. All the people who love God are not in the same group of us as The Church of God, and many have been confused by bad leaders and those who are unfit to lead The Church of God, because they have been exalted by men. God is about to thresh the wheat to grain; the real grain from among them and leaders will fall at the hand of our God as He prepares His people to receive this "Last Days Message". We don't need political leaders in The Church of God, we need godly leaders who are submitted to His will and direction and will not cave in to the demands of men who possess the wrong motives. In these last days, leaders will fall and be

replaced when they do not submit to God's direction and we all must keep this in mind while we administer His work. This is not our Church, it belongs to Jesus, He purchased It with His blood. The scripture passage above tells us what to do and is clearly our road map to success if we will only follow it instead of our own understanding and desires. Never fear what our enemies say about us; just drink from the spiritual fountain of God and allow Him to direct us as we keep a "Sweet Spirit" toward all of them. The true ones are coming to unite again with a common purpose to promote His Church to a lost and dying world that is soon going to be accountable to His Word. Turn again unto the Lord as an individual and allow Him to guide you into all truth! We must submit to Him and to each other in harmony with the Word of God and not our personal feelings. He will not force us to follow Him; this is a volunteer army. Our Commander In Chief is the Lord and He is the only one who knows how to do the job, so we must listen to Him. Let us examine ourselves and make up our minds to truly serve the Lord and adapt His ways. If we do, we'll shout the praises a thousand years in glory which He has promised or in Hell we will wring our hands forever. It is time to rise up from where we are to serve the Living God and be responsible for ourselves. We cannot blame others for our failure to act; we are responsible and our answer must be given to God, not man. □

**"God is speaking,
who will hear Him?"**

KNOWING WHAT TO DO AND DOING WHAT WE KNOW

We Must Be Established in Sound Doctrine

Bible Training Institute Is Dedicated to This Purpose

It is not unusual, when people are seeking the Lord, to hear them say something like this: "O Lord, if You will just show me what You would have me to do, I will do it." Of course, the Lord knows whether the seeker is truly sincere, or whether he is ready to stand by his vow. Sometimes, in their eagerness to be blessed, people will make promises which they know they should make, and at the time, they think they are sincere; but actually they may not have reached the point of consecration necessary to fulfill their promise. Later it is found that they are not living up to all they know they should do.

It was not that way with the Apostle Paul. When the Lord apprehended him on the road to Damascus, as soon as he learned who was dealing with him he asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Jesus told him where to go to find out; and right there on the spot Paul began to do his Lord's will. Many years later he was still able to say, "... I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision ... Having obtained help from God, I continue unto this day" (Acts 26:19, 22)

Along the way through the years, Paul met with great disappointment in others upon whom he depended for faithfulness, but his own testimony near the end of his life was:

"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 Tim. 4:7, 8)

Once Paul **knew** what he was to do, he did it. Then, when the time came to depart this life, he **knew** he had a crown awaiting. And he made it clear that the same would be true of all who would do likewise. But between **knowing what to do** and having the assurance of a **crown of life** lay a lifetime of obedience to the heavenly vision. And this, too, is required of all who expect a righteous reward.

The Church of God was restored in these last days on the premise that we

would accept and practice the Bible as the Word of God. By this we do not mean merely a broad and general acceptance of the book, but rather, what the book says. It becomes our responsibility, then, to **know** what the book says, and to lean on the Holy Ghost and the multitude of counsellors to rightly divide the Word of truth. Any Bible doctrine or practice which calls for the interpretation of the General Assembly is studied and prayed over (sometimes for a period of years), then brought before the Assembly in session for an official explanation and ruling. After this, it is every member's obligation to **observe and do** according to the recommendation.

In order for the membership to obey the teachings and practices of the Church, they must be helped to **know** and understand them. Of course, this is largely up to the ministry; but the ministry also must **know** those things which are to be preached and taught to the members. Although every minister is expected to have a good general knowledge of the Bible and the Church before he is licensed or ordained, there is much more to be learned if he is to fulfill an effective ministry.

Since 1941, the Church has had Bible Training Institute (formerly known as Bible Training Camp) to serve as the official institution of Bible training for the ministers, workers, and any others who want to avail themselves of its benefits. It is dedicated to the task of setting forth the doctrine and practices of the Bible and the Church as recommended by the General Assembly. For several years its motto has been:

"Bible Training Institute strives **not to establish a doctrine**, but strives rather **to establish in the doctrine.**"

We can see from this that every instructor is under two obligations: (1) To teach everything just as the Assembly has recommended; and (2) to refrain from teaching private interpretations or personal opinions. When these obligations are fulfilled, every student is expected to abide by the Word and instructions as given. It is the hope and prayer of the Church as a whole that those who attend the school will become so thoroughly established in

sound doctrine and practice that they will, in turn, be qualified to establish those to whom they minister on the field.

Great confidence is placed in the students of Bible Training Institute to learn **what** to do and teach, and **how** to do it and teach it; then to go forth doing what they have been taught in the way they have been taught. If all will do this, we can readily see how they can contribute to the unity of the faith. However, we notice from time to time that a student fails to honor the instruction given in the school. This could be because he has not learned the subject matter well, or because he has not been impressed with the importance of sticking to established doctrine.

In this message I want to stress the importance of **KNOWING** the doctrine, then being faithful to what we **KNOW**. The Church is likened to a sheepfold by our Lord. A sheepfold is for sheep. And there is a mutual understanding between the sheep and the Shepherd: the Shepherd **knows** the sheep and the sheep **know** the Shepherd. Jesus set this forth in the following words:

"I am the good shepherd, and **know** my sheep, and **am known** of mine." (John 10:14)

In the earlier verses of this same chapter, the true Shepherd is identified by the reaction of the true sheep. There is no doubt about the true Shepherd. He proves Himself by the love and care He gives His sheep. By the same token, the true sheep are identified by the way they react to the Shepherd. They will not follow a strange voice; which is to say that the true sheep **will follow** the voice of truth.

Is it too much to say that those who will not follow the teachings and practices of the Church do not recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd? When we consider Jesus' words, "My sheep hear my voice" (verse 2), what does it mean when a member continues to disobey that which he has been taught? And how could one be a dependable "under-shepherd" (pastor or leader) if he does not honor and respect the Good Shepherd who is the Head of the one fold, the Church? It is evidently more

serious than some realize.

Some seem to have difficulty being satisfied with what has been **made known** to the Church. They seem to have doubts as to whether the Church is right about some things. The person who feels this way nearly always finds occasion to express his own interpretation of things instead of defending the established doctrine. According to the Bible, he limits the possibility of his ever understanding the truth. Jesus said: "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will DO his will, he shall KNOW of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." (John 7:16, 17)

Every member knows the will of God to a great extent. And every member, at one time or another, has been confronted with doctrinal matters he did not understand. It seems that the route to greater knowledge of the Father's will is by doing that which we already know. Even a new member will soon learn that he can put his confidence in the theocratic processes of the Church, and by **doing** what is recommended he will soon **know** that it is right.

On the occasion where Jesus instituted footwashing, He left us a principle which can prove valuable in other areas. When Peter objected to having his feet washed by the Master, Jesus said, "What I do thou **knowest not** now; but thou **shalt know** hereafter." Then, when He had finished washing their feet, He said, "If ye **know** these things, happy are ye if ye **do** them."

Sometimes we have to submit ourselves to things we don't quite understand before we can come to enjoy the knowledge of the truth. It is doubtful that Peter would ever have been happy again if he had refused to submit on that one occasion. And it is possible that some are going about in the Church today unhappy and of doubtful mind because they have not fully submitted their own wills to the wise counsel of the Church and those over them in the Lord. In this attitude, they are apt to teach and practice things contrary to sound doctrine, thereby giving the enemy his opportunity to draw them away.

It is only fair to warn people of the danger of going against that which they **know** is right, or which they **know** to do. Writing about those who disobeyed the gospel, Paul made a comparison with Israel's disobedience. (Romans 10:16-21) He shows that others with less reason to know the truth were blessed ahead of Israel, because the others believed and obeyed, while of Israel it was said, "All day long have I stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people."

In Romans 2:17-29, again using the Jews as an example, he shows the inconsistency of boasting in **knowledge** that is not put into practice. He says, "For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you . . ." In like manner, the Lord is dishonored in the eyes of others when we speak so boldly about our knowledge of the Church if we are walking contrary to what we say and know.

To Titus, Paul wrote about some who were evidently in the Church, since Titus seems to have been responsible to reprove them: "They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work **reprobate**." (Titus 1:16) I am sure we understand that it is not so much what we **know**, or what we **profess to know**, but what we **do** about what we know that counts. It may be thought that only a slight deviation from the Church's teachings and advice can do no harm, but such as this tends toward division instead of unity and perfection.

While we realize that every member must be taught, and must be given time to grow and become established, it seems only reasonable that those being taught should respond in an acceptable manner, and join wholeheartedly with those who are giving their lives to see the Body of Christ "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." (Eph. 4:13) □

March 30, 1974 White Wing MESSENGER

My Testimony

~Shirley Evans~

New Ellenton, SC

Sunday morning, March 8th 2015 of this year, I received a miraculous touch from God, my heavenly Father. I was in attendance at Church in New Ellenton, South Carolina. It was a Sunday morning service set aside for what was called "My Greatest Need" Sunday.

An altar call was given and a number of people responded, I was one of them. We were asked to bring our greatest need to the Lord. Instead of asking for a specific need, in my heart I asked the Lord to supply my greatest need. He knew better than I did what my greatest need was. God answered my prayer.

I felt the power of God as the Holy Ghost ministered to me in a powerful way that I shall never forget. God knew exactly what I needed. I know I have not felt the same since. Not only do I feel renewed physically, but spiritually as well.

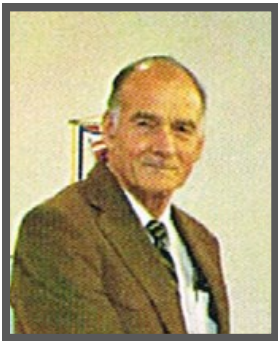
Prior to the miraculous touch I received from the Lord that morning, I had been experiencing some medical problems and had undergone various medical tests. Nevertheless, since then results from several medical doctors have been contrary to what I believe in my heart God took care of that morning, I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE I'M NOT ONLY HEALED BUT SPIRITUALLY RENEWED.

PRAISE THE LORD!

I thank God today because I'm saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost and I'm a member in the great CHURCH OF GOD! □

Remember...

**BTI 2015 Registration Deadline is
July 9, 2015**



SOME HISTORY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

~Keith Murphy~
Dallas, OR

God has had a plan for His people from the foundation of the world. It has taken thousands of years to come to fruition. We cannot cover the complete history in one message, but we can look at parts of it.

Let's begin with the last plague to fall upon Egypt before Pharaoh let the Israelites depart from Egypt; that being the death of the firstborn. EXODUS 11:1-7 *And the LORD said unto Moses, Yet will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh, and upon Egypt; afterwards he will let you go hence: when he shall let you go, he shall surely thrust you out hence altogether. Speak now in the ears of the people, and let every man borrow of his neighbour, and every woman of her neighbour, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold. And the LORD gave the people favour in the sight of the Egyptians. Moreover the man Moses was very great in the land of Egypt, in the sight of Pharaoh's servants, and in the sight of the people. And Moses said, Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts. And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more. But against any of the children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue, against man or beast: that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel.* In verse 2, God commanded that every man and woman was to borrow jewels of silver and jewels of gold. Why would they need to borrow all that jewelry? Was it so they would look good out there in that hot desert? No, God had a special reason for it. He protected Israel through their travels in the desert, even though they were not yet His covenanted people.

EXODUS 19:4-8 *Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be*

unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him. And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD. In these passages, we find the preparation for what was to come in three days – a time of sanctification and making themselves ready for the covenant; much like ministers of today preparing potential members to take the covenant.

EXODUS 24:3-8 *And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do. And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and builded an altar under the hill, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood, and put it in basons; and half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient. And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.* This was the beginning of the church in the wilderness. Why was this the Covenant? Simply put, the blood of the oxen (peace offering) between God and man was just as the blood of the lambs on the door posts had a special meaning in Egypt. It was the blood that made them a peculiar treasure unto him above all people, a kingdom of priests and a holy nation! Look closely at verse 8 where Moses said "... behold the blood of the covenant, which the Lord hath made with you concerning all these words." That meant that they knew and understood ALL the commandments that were given to them, had agreed to obey them all and understood the consequences of disobedience.

Now we know that God had chosen only one

people, the Israelites, out of all the people of the world, and He also knew that they were a forgetful people. Their leader, Moses, had ascended to the top of Mount Sinai by commandment of God, and was there for forty days and nights. The Bible tells us that he was praying and fasting all that time. When he came down from the mount, Moses had the plan from God to build a tabernacle in which all the Israelites could come worship the one true God. It is important for us to remember that God's blueprint, the Bible, is our blueprint today. It is exact and unchanging forever. **Revelation 22: 18-19** tells us what happens to anyone who changes the Word of God. ***For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.***

When the time came for the building of the sanctuary, it was God's will that the people bring their offerings of silver and gold (which was not really theirs to start with) and give it with a willing heart. But they gave so much that Moses had to stop them from giving! Oh Saints, how much more in our time, when the financial needs come about, that we, as The Church of God, arise to the challenge with such a willing heart! **EXODUS 25:1-2** ***And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering.***

Now, let's turn our thoughts for a moment to the church flag. The colors are blue, purple, red and white. The scripture describes the vail for the Holy of Holies. Also in the vail was the color scarlet, a very deep red. **EXODUS 26:14,31** ***And thou shalt make a covering for the tent of rams' skins dyed red, and a covering above of badgers' skins. And thou shalt make a vail of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made:*** **ISAIAH 1:18** describes that color as likened to sin. ***Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*** Any priest who went into the Holy of Holies had to make sure that he was without sin. Aaron's two sons were proof

of that in that they both died. So what about the red? It represented the blood of the spotless lambs which was over the door posts in Egypt and also present in the vail.

For the next few moments, let's turn our focus to the items placed Inside the ark of the covenant. **Deuteronomy 31:23-27** ***And he gave Joshua the son of Nun a charge, and said, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou shalt bring the children of Israel into the land which I swear unto them: and I will be with thee. And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying, Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee. For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the LORD; and how much more after my death?*** Joshua was about to take the mantle before they crossed over the Jordan river. In verse 26, Moses commanded the Levites to put the book of the law inside the ark of the covenant. Inside the ark was also the tables of stone written by the finger of God (the ten commandments) as well as Aaron's rod that budded and a golden pot that had manna according to **Hebrews 9:3-4**. ***And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;*** There were also two pure gold cherubims facing each other over the altar. Those things in the ark of the covenant were to serve as a reminder of who they were, why they were chosen and who their one true God is. An important thing to remember is that it was God who gave the plans in detail; man had no input at all on any matter! They just followed the direction of Moses whose instructions came from God.

LEVITICUS 16:1-2 ***And the LORD spake unto Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they offered before the LORD, and died; And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.*** A cloud covered the whole tabernacle after it was finished and blessed. In

verse 2, God told Moses that He would appear in a cloud upon the mercy seat. I'm reminded of an assembly in the 1950s where Bro Tomlinson turned the podium to Bro. D. H. Queener. As he began preaching under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, a blue haze filled the building. The Holy Ghost began to move through the people like a mighty wave. That haze was God's approval on His people at that time.

Saints, let us never forget the covenant we took and all the promises given to us. Who knows just what may happen at our upcoming assembly. I am excited to think what will happen because I stand on the Word of God which says this in **II Chronicles 7:14** *If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.* The ark of the covenant was a visible reminder of how serious God was with their covenant. But, as the years passed, so did their love and fear of God.

Eli was a weak and lazy judge of the Hebrew children. His two sons, Hophni and Phinehes were evil men who had no regard for God, so they took the ark into battle because to them, it was just a symbol or a god in a box. Well, they died in battle and the Philistines took the ark. When Eli was told these things, he fell over backward and broke his neck. The Philistines were more eager now to give it back because God's wrath was upon them. **1 SAMUEL 4:6-9** *And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that the ark of the LORD was come into the camp. And the Philistines were afraid, for they said, God is come into the camp. And they said, Woe unto us! for there hath not been such a thing heretofore. Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness. Be strong, and quit yourselves like men, O ye Philistines, that ye be not servants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight.*

Not far from Ephratah, or what we know as Bethlehem, there is a large hill. On that hill was a crop of trees and somewhere around the hill is a field where Abinadab and his family cared for the ark of the covenant. It was also a field of the woods. **1 SAMUEL 7:1-4** *And the men of Kirjathjearim came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and*

sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD. And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kirjathjearim, that the time was long; for it was twenty years: and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD. And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines. Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only.

PSALM 132:6 *Lo, we heard of it at Ephratah: we found it in the fields of the wood.* Thus scripture was fulfilled for that time and today. It is important to note the difference between FIELD OF THE WOODS and FIELDS OF THE WOOD. Why did king David say, we heard of it at Ephratah, while in his day it was Bethlehem? King David knew all along where the ark was; he goes on to say – We found it in the fields of the wood; more than one field. He had a glimpse into the future.

As we skip through time, the Israelites, because of their continual backsliding, God had had enough. When Hezekiah died, his son was very wicked in the sight of God.

II CHRONICLES 33:5-10 *And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. And he set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, In this house, and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen before all the tribes of Israel, will I put my name for ever: Neither will I any more remove the foot of Israel from out of the land which I have appointed for your fathers; so that they will take heed to do all that I have commanded them, according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses. So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. And the LORD spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken.* Because of Manasseh's wickedness, God allowed the Assyrians to pillage Jerusalem of all its wealth and take the people

away to Babylon. They took everything from the temple, even the metal from the wood floors. Well, they did not take everything!

Josiah became king and restored the temple as best he could. The artificers hewed out of rock and image of the ark of the covenant, and as they were restoring the house of God, they found money and the book of the law in the house of the Lord! It seems that God had blinded their eyes in this matter.

The Fields of the Wood is as much a part of scripture as the ark of the covenant and field of the woods was in the old testament. II CHRONICLES 34:11-17 *Even to the artificers and builders gave they it, to buy hewn stone, and timber for couplings, and to floor the houses which the kings of Judah had destroyed. And the men did the work faithfully: and the overseers of them were Jahath and Obadiah, the Levites, of the sons of Merari; and Zechariah and Meshullam, of the sons of the Kohathites, to set it forward; and other of the Levites, all that could skill of instruments of musick. Also they were over the bearers of burdens, and were overseers of all that wrought the work in any manner of service: and of the Levites there were scribes, and officers, and porters. And when they brought out the money that was brought into the house of the LORD, Hilkiah the priest found a book of the law of the LORD given by Moses. And Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiah delivered the book to Shaphan. And Shaphan carried the book to the king, and brought the king word back again, saying, All that was committed to thy servants, they do it. And they have gathered together the money that was found in the house of the LORD, and have delivered it into the hand of the overseers, and to the hand of the workmen.*

HABAKKUK 2:1-3 *I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reprov'd. And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.* These scriptures alone give evidence of God's hand upon fields of the wood. In the thirty third Assembly of 1943, I think it was Bro Stubbs who said this – while they were in the beginning stages of building fields

of the wood: On Columbus Day, October 12, 1942, the reason we wanted to have a celebration on this special occasion was in memory of the day of the discovery of America. This discovery was the making of the way for The Church of God to be transported from the Old world, and since it was destined to be found in the New world, it is evident that God used Columbus to make the necessary discovery so that the same Church could be found as it was in North Carolina in The Fields of the Wood. It happened in the last days for all to see. On one hill is the 29 teachings. On top of that hill is where Bro. A. J. Tomlinson prayed and received the revelation of The Church of God on June 13, 1903. On another hill, the ten commandments written out in stone (five feet tall letters). Yet on another is the all Nation's Cross(150' long and 120' wide showing everywhere the Church was established around the world.

Fields of the Wood, like Field of the Woods has fallen to the wayside, both for the same reason; man got in the way of God's program. This was God's blueprint, but man thought he was wiser, and as a result, Fields of the Wood is in complete shambles.

When God's blessings were on it, the funds poured in to build it. People gave of their time from all over the land. Why? The Lord spoke to them just as He did in the Old Testament when the tabernacle was being built. God also put His approval on the church flag again as the lightening that struck the tree skipped over the flag and went to the bottom. God controlled that lightening.

In the Old Testament, when the high priest would go in to make sacrifice and God was pleased, a haze would appear from the altar and fill the room – the altar being the top of the ark. My Pastor, Bro. Clarence LaRue, was eyewitness to the event of the blue haze while Bro Queener preached (mentioned earlier). I get so excited every time I hear or see His glory manifested. God is the same yesterday, today and forever!

Was God talking about the Temple of Solomon in II Chronicles 7: 14-16? No!!! We are called by His name (John 17:11). Jesus was from the beginning.

Saints, The Church of God is predestinated; we are not. Let's stay true and faithful to the Word of God and be ever vigilant to please our creator.

MAY WE ALL BE HUMBLE HEARTED THIS ASSEMBLY. □



WE ARE IN THE ARMY OF GOD

The Energizer Bunny!

International Sunday School Director
~Polly Murphy~



You may be thinking, “What does an Energizer Bunny have to do with anything?” Well, the logo of the Energizer Bunny is that it keeps right on going and going.

God’s Church is like that. No matter how much Satan comes against her, she keeps right on going.

Who is She?

My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.



Song of Solomon 6:9,10

she is The Church of God

When Jesus called His disciples together for their mission, He said this in Matthew 9:37-38. *Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.* Truly today, the laborers are very few in number. As Christ instructed them to pray then, He is surely instructing us to pray now for laborers in these last days. We all have a job to do, and we need to do our part for Christ and His church. Sometimes we blame age, sickness and other things that hinder our work, but God has an answer for that in Matthew 7:7-8. *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.* All we have to do is ask (ask, seek, and knock)! If we keep right on going like the Energizer Bunny, we will be blessed beyond measure.

Sometimes when I think about my health problems, my mind goes to Ezekiel 37: 1-10. *The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.* God raised up those dry bones and they came alive. Praise God! What a miracle that was performed that day! I get so excited when I read these scriptures of how the dry bones came alive, stood on their feet, an exceeding great army. We really have no excuse today. God can energize us at any age. He is still a prayer answering God! Can you imagine what God will do in our lives if



we will just turn ourselves over to Him completely?

So let's all get excited about the Church, join the Army of God, and get energized like the Energizer Bunny and keep going and going and working and working for The Church of God. □

Praise God
See you at the Assembly
Polly Murphy

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The Church of God of North Carolina

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June 15, 2015

Dear Pastor / CPMA Leader:

Here we are almost to the half-way point of the year. Have you checked, is your local church 100% in CPMA membership?

I know it seems like we always getting notices on every corner. But our CPMA membership should not be considered another bill or obligation. It should be considered a privilege that we get to have a part in promoting God's Word and His Church to the world. Matthew 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" We can't always "GO" but God's Word can always be there. We have our marker in Dunn, N.C. that we get to maintain and we are looking forward to being able to place other markers. For this we need your help. \$10.00 per member per year is really a bargain if we get it in at the first of the year.

Let me remind everyone-----CPMA membership goes from January 1 to December 31 of every year.

If you have not joined yet this year, ask yourself, "What's stopping me?" \$10.00 is like one fast food meal. I'm sure we can all find a way to come up with that \$10.00.

If you've already paid your membership, look around, is someone in need of help to pay theirs? Perhaps you can give them a helping hand. God always blesses a cheerful giver.

Let's make this the year that we attain 100% in CPMA membership.

Yours always in Christ Jesus

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Nellie Lowe, CPMA International Director

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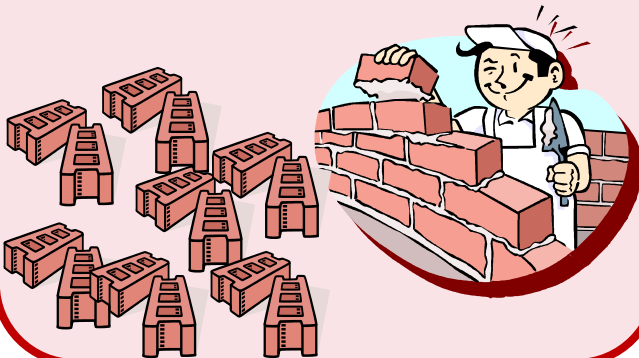


Have you ever asked yourself—What do I believe anymore? Do I really believe that there is One Church that He will coming back after? Do I really believe all the things that I have heard preached through the years? Do I really believe that Christ is coming back? Do I really believe in Him? Do I believe in Divine Healings? Do I believe in Abundant Living? What Do I Believe anymore? **Come to Family Camp and let's get those questions answered and figure out exactly what we do believe and what we are willing to do about it!!**

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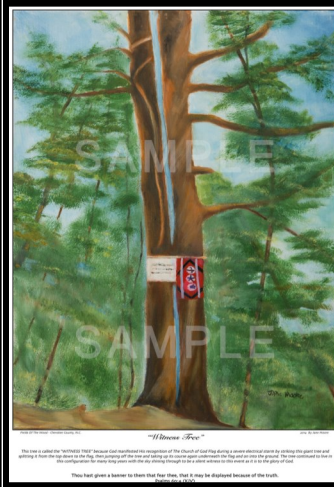
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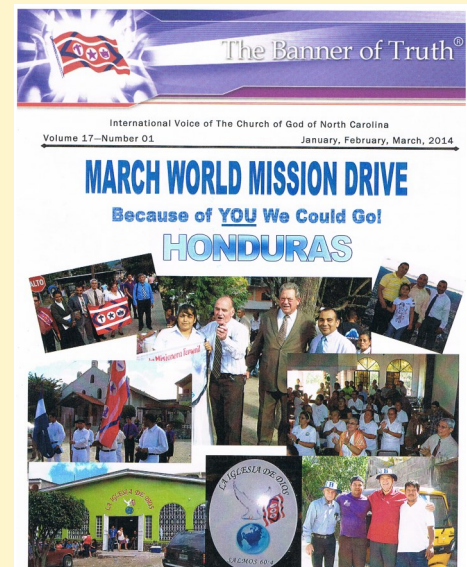


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