



International Voice of The Church of God of North Carolina

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*For unto us a child is born,*

**UNTO US  
A SON IS GIVEN.**

*Isaiah 9:6*



*Merry Christmas Around the World!*

*International Overseer  
John A. Wilkins, Jr.*



***For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*** Isaiah 9:6

Have you ever really given this verse much thought or has it been just read and brushed off out of your mind? This verse actually tells the whole truth about who Christ is, the government shall be upon his shoulder—His name shall be Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. God has given to all of humanity in the baby Jesus all of the revelation of Himself that He intends man to know. It is in Him we find all hope for the world and the names we are to learn to call Him by as we interact with Him. Many are worried and wondering about His government today and deep within they ask, “Will we survive or just be trodden down and forgotten?” I can assure you by the authority of God’s Word we will not be trodden down or washed out but will remain until His work is finished. In verse seven (7) we learn that of the increase of His government and peace

there will come no end and that the zeal of Lord of Hosts will perform it.

Just read it here for yourself; ***Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*** Isaiah 9:7



It was God that sent Jesus to all of mankind. The Jews refused to accept Him, they pushed Him aside and walked in their own ways. They would not listen to Him although He was the ultimate gift from God to them. Jesus today is being pushed away while most accept Him as having come from God, but would rather not be involved with Him influencing their lives as He has come to do. They want knowledge of Him, but not a relationship with Him. He came that we ALL might have life, will you receive Christ from God to you this Christmas, as the greatest gift of all gifts?

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## MY CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO YOU.

Sent in By: *Jetta Lowe Hobbs, NM*



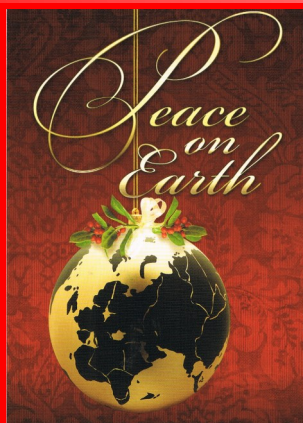
I have a list of folks, all written in a book.  
And every year at Christmas time, I go  
and take a look,  
And that is when I realize that these  
names are a part  
Not of the book they're written in, but of my very heart.

And while it sounds fantastic for me to make this claim,  
I really feel I am composed of each remembered name,  
For while we may not be aware of any special link,  
Just meeting you has shaped my life, far more than you  
think.

For once you've met somebody, the years cannot erase,  
The memory of a pleasant word or of a friendly face.

So never think my Christmas card is just a mere routine  
Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between.  
For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you,  
It's because you're on the list of folks that I'm indebted to.

And whether I have known you for many years or a few,  
In some way you have had a part in shaping things I do.  
So every year when Christmas comes, I realize anew,  
That the biggest gift that life can give, is meeting  
FOLKS LIKE YOU!



*Author Unknown*



# "An Unspeakable Gift"

*International Overseer  
John A. Wilkins, Jr.*



***Thanks  
be unto  
God for his  
unspeakable  
gift.***

2 Corinthians

9:15

George was a bright young boy and very much loved by his grandmother who was ever watching over him as his mother and father both worked. So one day as he was coming into the house Grandmother Louise was busy thinking of what she could do for the young man to help him in life. Her doctor had recently told her that time on earth would not be very long due to her illness, so she was thinking of ways to help others as she had always done. Just what could she give George that would be unique and treasured by him all the days of his life? Then like a light it came to her, he liked it when she sat and read from her Bible out on the porch in the warm weather, so she would give him her old Bible which he could keep and read just as she had done. So that is exactly what she would do, so she prepared to give it to him as a special gift at Christmas. George was excited on Christmas Morning as he tore the paper away from the special gift that his grandmother had given him. When he got the wrapping paper all removed he could see that it was the old Bible and disappointment could be seen on his face as he held the precious old Bible. He knew how much it meant to his grandma, but he

could not imagine such joy for himself. He took it and placed it in his room and thanked her for it. Many years went by after his grandmother left them a few weeks after Christmas that year. He continued to keep the Bible close by him no matter where he went. The Bible became very meaningful to him now that she was gone. Then one day in his retirement years George went to the Doctor and found out that he had cancer with only a short time to live. He was getting very sick and so he thought that he would take the old Bible down from the shelf and read a few verses from it. It might have some good words to encourage him at this point in his life, so as he opened it, the center of it was missing and there a place the size of a dollar bill had been cut from the pages and in their place was thousands of dollars, many thousands. If only he had taken the old gift that did not seem to be very important and opened it up many years earlier things would have been much better, but he had wasted his years and had very little and now death was imminent. This was an unspeakable gift, but it could have been opened and the plan of salvation revealed from its pages which would have been the real gift that God had for George. Grandma had it and she tried to share it with others in the family,

but they were just too busy with the affairs of life to receive it. God reveals Himself in many small and insignificant ways, but we must receive Him in order to experience Him for ourselves. The greatest gift of all may not look like much, it might not have the brightest colored paper, it might seem to be a big disappointment but over the years it might just be what we really needed to sustain us and make us who we are supposed to be.

When Christ came to the world, the Jews were looking for a king, a leader that would help them defeat the Romans. They surely were not looking a baby of poor means, born in a cattle stall and wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. He was such a disappointment to them and not much good could be seen from this birth. He was however the Christ-Child promised by God to save the world from their sins. How do you see Jesus now? Is He just for the old folks that sit on their porch and read His Word or is He the most precious gift you have ever received? Many times gifts are not well received because they just don't look like much to the eye while they are sometimes the very thing that is needed. The unspeakable gift that God gave us on Christmas is so real and words are so hard to come to us in our explanation of Him to others. He wants to be our friend, He wants to be our help and redemption if only

we will let Him into our lives, but much like the old Bible many just like to keep Him around for emergencies and things that they don't know how to handle. Jesus is a friend that sticks close to us even closer than a brother and once we really know Him, we never want to be without Him. He is abundant life for those who come to Him and hold back nothing, giving of themselves into His work 100%. He is come that we might have life and experience the real life that God wants us to have. Jesus is the gift of God to all of humanity and is truly the unspeakable gift to each of us individually, the ultimate revelation of God to you and me.

*Jesus answered and said unto her, **If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.*** John 4:10

You see it is all about knowing the gift of God, we can stumble around for years and even carry our Bible under our arm and still not know Him. Many teach the Bible in the seminaries of our land and don't know Jesus. We must open the lids and read the Bible and learn of Him in order to receive the gift God has for us. I think about Christmas a lot and realize that the very reason for the season is Jesus yet for many He is virtually forgotten in the exchange of gifts and the beautiful colors and glitter. Why not ask your friends, "What are you giving Jesus this year?" While it is His birth we celebrate He most likely will receive nothing from most families.

*But not as the offence, so*

*also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification. For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.* Romans 5:15-21

In Adam the entire human race fell into sin by one man, Adam but by one man, Jesus came that all might have life through Him. The whole world stands today in a deprived state because they will not accept God's gift to them. If I could ask for one more gift from God it would be the gift to explain and persuade others to receive Christ into their lives. It is like telling someone of the greatest gift only to have them reject it entirely because they love the world and its sins more than they love God. They are rejecting an

eternity of love and peace with God in Heaven because they simply do not believe and receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord. One moment in Hell and they would give everything they have ever had to undo the eternity they have begun. As the world gets further and further away from God, it becomes harder and harder to deal with this problem. Now the governments are attacking anything that reminds them of Christ and it is becoming less and less popular to mention Him in public venues. Yet, we must continue to keep the world alert to Christmas and other days which call our attention to Him. While this happens, Christians sleep and do not become alarmed by the actions of government officials who push and support the idea of having a HOLIDAY SEASON without Christ.

Many today believe that they can save themselves when the time comes that they want to turn their lives around, but they fail to understand the plan of God.

***That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 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. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light,***



*because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. John 3:15-21*

The Gift of God is real and available to all who will come unto Him. Neglect not the gift of God, but dig into His Word, believe with your heart and learn of Him while there is time to do so. Many believe that this world will not stand for very long with the problems that we face today. America has been the source of most of the mission work throughout the world until now and we have seen during the last few years that our nation is in serious trouble. The national affection toward the Church is in a grave state of want as we see that our government is now leaning heavily toward other religions of the world. Anyone who preaches Christ is being left on the side of the road with little to help them. The churches have turned to align themselves with the world church which will be the great whore of Revelation and she is making herself ready to play her part. When you visit them it is not hard to see the difference because the world shines through them and reflects the image of the world.

*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23*

Those who have turned from sin to Christ reflect His glory and their faces are filled with hope and the smile on their face gives them away. They are not looking for the things of the

world, but they are looking for the things of God!

*But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love where-with he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Ephesians 2:4-8*

In summing this all up it becomes very clear to those who believe that God has planned to give us ALL THINGS that we need through His Son Jesus. I am attempting one more time to show the greatest gift ever given to any man, Jesus Christ. While we were yet in our sins Christ loved us and He came for us to follow Him.

The Bible tells us, *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.* John 15:16

He wants us to have the best life here on earth that is possible and in the end, eternal life. Why will you not accept the greatest gift of all today and prepare for eternity with God? This is the unspeakable gift of God and must be received willingly while we have the opportunity as He stands patiently waiting for us to receive the gift. God stands with outstretched arms waiting for

everyone to come and drink.

*He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Romans 8:32*

Don't do like George and carry around the Bible under your arm while never reading it for your own benefit, but break into it today and read it while you search for your own gift. He waited until death was coming and it was too late for him to make much of it. Many are waiting for God to give them their gift while it is so near to them but they just can't believe how simple it is and how easy. He is that unspeakable gift, there are no words to describe Him, the only way is for one to experience Him in their own lives. Then He becomes their everything and they will want to share the gift with all they meet. □

Well it is that time of year again where the weather gets colder, days are shorter, and Christmas is here! So let each of us "let our light shine" and warm everyone around us by spreading the news of our Savior's birth. This time more than ever with the end of another year and the start of a new year let us strive to share God's love to this lost and dying world.

Young people I am praying for you. I know it is not always easy in this world, but if you stand firm for Jesus Christ the world will see Christ in you. The people who truly want to follow Christ will know that you are a Child of God. Let us strive to make 2015 a year for our Lord. I pray God will bless you and your congregation.

**David Cox**



# SUNDAY SCHOOL

International Sunday Director

~Polly Murphy~



David said in Psalms 122:1 *I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.*

Are you glad when you go into the house of the Lord?

## DON'T STAY AWAY FROM CHURCH

- because you are poor. There is no admission charge.
- because you are rich. We can help you cure that.
- because it rains. You go to work in the rain.
- because it is hot. It's hot at your house, too.
- because it is cold. It's warm and friendly inside.
- because no one invited you. People go to the movies without being begged.
- because you have little children. We have a cry room.
- because you don't like the preacher. He's human like you.
- because your job makes you tired. You may lose your job.
- because there are hypocrites. You associate with them daily.
- because you have company. They will admire your loyalty if you bring them along, or tell them to wait until you get back.
- because you need a little week-end vacation occasionally. If your soul takes a vacation from God, it's not good.
- because your clothes are not expensive. Church isn't supposed to be a fashion show.
- because our church standard is too high. Take a look at the Bible standard!
- because the church always wants money. So does your grocer.

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*This was reprinted from the  
White Wing Messenger June 1962.*

Wow, have you ever heard anyone use these excuses. We should be like David in Psalms 21:1 *The king shall joy in thy strength, O LORD; and in thy salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!*

When I miss Sunday School I have a hunger for God's house. Have you invited anyone to Sunday school this week?

"A great songwriter once wrote, "it only takes a spark to get a fire going" and pretty soon all those around it warm-up to its glowing".

Let's get a fire in us to win souls for Christ. Be excited! Let the Holy Ghost fire consume you that wherever you go, people will want what you have. This is how the early church grew. Let's work hard for Christ in his church this year.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Verse I.

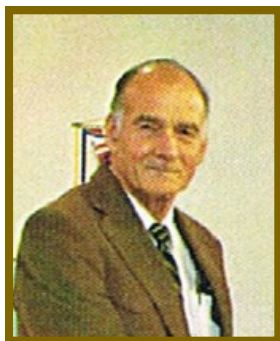
Sunday school's the place to go every Sunday don't you know. Just remember God each loyal person sees so make plans on next Lord's day to attend in saying and pray come to Sunday school next Sunday won't you please.

Chorus

Come to Sunday school next Sunday won't you please don't stay home and read the paper at your ease bring someone in, long join with us and happy song come to Sunday school next Sunday won't you please.

Verse II.

Many people will not come they would rather stay at home than to come to Sunday school at 10 o'clock for these people we must pray that they'll see the better way and will all come out next Sunday feeling fine.



# Bible Training Institute

## B.T.I. 2014

International Director

~Keith Murphy~

Romans 15:4-5

*For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:*

The prophets of old declared not only His coming, but the miracles that would take place, and most important His Government that would be ruled from the heart by love. Jesus put within each one of us a hunger and a burning desire to learn His Word and draw strength from it. One example is found in

Acts 8:26-40.

*And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart,*

*thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.*

This passage is for you to read, how Philip met with an Ethiopian eunuch of great authority, they were in the desert of Gasa, and when Philip baptized him, the spirit of the Lord called away Philip! Yes, he was transported almost 40 miles in the blink of an eye; I might add he was only a deacon. Title is just a name, unless you act upon it. Philip knew Jesus and was in union with his spirit and was ready to answer the call.

Romans 16:25-26

*Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:*

The devil has been hard at work trying to hide the truth about The Church of God, but the Word says it was a secret since the world began, but is now made manifest, by the Scriptures! Too many people listen to their pastor or whomever, rather than search out the Scriptures for themselves! Where did that hunger for God's Word go?

2 Corinthians 11:13-15

*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as*



*the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

Be not deceived saints, we are in the last days. Just go to the Bible Bookstore, there are very few King James Bible's, but there are many false books which they refer to as Bibles. Many people are falling asleep because they are being fed junk food. They are told when they get saved they are in the Church, but the Scripture says otherwise.

Luke 17:20-21

*And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, **The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.***

Now, I just want to mention St. John 17, because it gets real churchy! There is a whole lot of complete unity depicted in it also.

John 17:11-23

*And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one;*

*and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

Sounds to me like He called it The Church of God, and what makes it The Church of God is the truth of the Word and the spirit.

Ephesians 4:15-16

*But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.*

If we have the same love as the Father and the Son, the whole Body fitly joined together and compacted, and as verse 13 says in part, till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God. Know what the Word of God says is His Body!!

Saints, Bible Training Institute (BTI) is so very important, especially now. We have never been in such a time as this, it is so very important that we come together like never before because we are The Church of God, and I for one want to hear when He beckons his church for the work at hand. Remember what Ephesians 4:16 "From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted..." That means joined together so tight you couldn't squeeze in any place. God has great things ahead for The Church of God; let's get ready to meet the challenge. □

## Contact us...

**Phone Us:** (910) 891-5017

(910) 891-5010

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

**E-mail Us:**

[jw@thechurchofgodofnc.com](mailto:jw@thechurchofgodofnc.com)

[ew@thechurchofgodofnc.com](mailto:ew@thechurchofgodofnc.com)

[johnpultz@thechurchofgodofnc.com](mailto:johnpultz@thechurchofgodofnc.com)

[rodgertidwell@thechurchofgodofnc.com](mailto:rodgertidwell@thechurchofgodofnc.com)

[keithmurphy@thechurchofgodofnc.com](mailto:keithmurphy@thechurchofgodofnc.com)

[cathyelder@thechurchofgodofnc.com](mailto:cathyelder@thechurchofgodofnc.com)

[jc@thechurchofgodofnc.com](mailto:jc@thechurchofgodofnc.com)



# LIVING THE ABUNDANT LIFE

Family Camp Report  
~Nellie Lowe~



John 10:10 ***"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."***

What a glorious weekend the Lord provided for us. The weather was absolutely wonderful when we gathered in the beautiful Sacramento mountains of Cloudcroft, New Mexico. Twenty people were ready to fellowship with each other in the Lord. God was ready to pour His blessings upon us and we were more than ready to receive. Again, we were fed wonderful natural food in this great campground. God was so good to provide us with great camp hosts.

Then back to the chapel. We were blessed to have our International Overseer, John Wilkins, and his wife, Elizabeth, our U.S. National Overseer, Roger Tidwell, his wife, Tina and the Western U.S. Overseer, Herman Lowe, and his wife, Nellie. Of course, when you attend these retreats you will most likely be put to work and have to use your talents. And these ladies and gentlemen did exactly that. God blessed us through them.

The first service began with a welcome from Sis. Jannece Colón and we went into our worship service with songs led by Emily Colón with music by Sis. Elizabeth Wilkins and Bro. Herman Lowe. Then our evangelist for the weekend, Richard Colón, brought us a wonderful message. He stated that we must learn to live the abundant life and to bless others. Philippians 4:19 ***"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*** If we can believe in God's ability, then why can't we believe He will meet our needs. We need to be aware of what being blessed is. It's not always about money in the bank or in our pockets. Our joy doesn't always show through, we have gotten complacent and comfortable that we can sit in the middle of our blessings and not even realize what they are. It's been so long since we tarried before our Lord, we can't even receive our blessings. Our cup runs over, we need to turn it over and let it run all down over us and cover us and flow onto others. Lives need to be touched and needs have to be met. God called us to minister, to witness, to touch lives and let God take care of our material needs. We need to go about

doing what we are called to do. God says, "I have riches in glory to meet your needs and you won't pick it up." We can have so much more available to us from God. God blesses us so that we can touch others and souls can be saved.

Saturday morning after devotion Sis. Jannece Colón brought our first lesson "Abundant Living" She stated that to have an abundant life, we must live in the here and now. The past is over and the future has not yet arrived. She stated that we need to expect God to do great things. We think small and restrict God. We want the small when God wants to give us so much more. Focus on the better things of the Lord. God usually meets us at our level of expectancy. Ask God for the impossible and believe and trust that God is going to supply the impossible. Expect an increase, whatever that may be – financially, membership, our family's salvation, etc. God will bless His people. He is a mighty God and able to do all things. We receive blessings and need to bless others with that same blessing.

We then separated into the men and women. Sis. Wilkins spoke to the ladies, "Finding and Loving God's Abundant Life. We are blessed MORE abundantly. Anything keeping us from having and living the abundant life needs to be eradicated. Never has man seemed to have so much and been so miserable. General discontentment seems to abound everywhere. Satan comes to us with Discouragement, Unbelief and Loneliness. Has our vision become cloudy or blurred? Hindsight is 20/20. We don't want to keep looking back. We can have happiness if we never have anything materially. There were consequences when Adam and Eve failed God in the Garden. God is the answer to this world's problems and we need to let them know it. Our first and foremost desire should be to please the Lord. Our life must be totally submitted to God because we love Him.

Bishop John A. Wilkins, Jr., our International Overseer, was a teacher of the men and he spoke on

the subject "Finding & Loving God's Abundant Life". He used for this subject John 10:10 which states the purpose of the thief and the love of the savior in coming that life will come in an abundant fashion. *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.* John 10:10

He went on to say, "When one begins to think of Abundant Life, the word abundant begins to cause the person to conjure up thoughts of big barns full of goods, money, fine cars, big homes and lots of material things. The truth is that these things do not cause one to have an abundant life at all. Some of the poor people would not have a chance at abundant life if this were the case but abundant life is for everyone, the poor, the rich, sick people, well people and people of all backgrounds and means. It is God who has called us into the "Abundant Life Status" and it has nothing to do with this world and its goods." The teacher told us this is for now and all who surrender their lives 100% to the Lord can have it. He said that Satan wants to steal your joy entirely and that He takes it one teaspoon at a time until it is gone. The illustration used was of the Prodigal Son and how that when he discovered the problem, he went back home and received a royal welcome. Brother Wilkins concluded his class by letting us know that when people learn to live the Abundant Life they can make others smile and share themselves with people all around them. Their life is to give to others that they too may have abundant life as they serve the Lord. This life does not consist in money, material things or status in the physical life but the joy of it is in the Lord and doing His good pleasure in our physical life.

Sis. Lowe spoke to the ladies on Saturday afternoon. "Abundant Life" Ephesians 3:16-20 Christians, today, are seemingly going through the motions and not experiencing the true abundant life through Christ. People are more dissatisfied, searching for various things, jumping from church to church for more programs, more for me, more for my children, teens. Our society has gotten so fast paced with technology everywhere – computers, smart phones, ipads, etc. Not counting our tv's stereos, ipods, etc. We have gotten desensitized to the voice of God. We are doing all the right things, saying all the right things, thinking all the right things, etc. yet feeling more and more like we are on a spiritual treadmill. We go from seminar to seminar, website to website, book to book, church to church trying desperately to find the missing connection.

When we first came to the Lord, we gained a new relationship with God, new motivations, even a new relationship with mankind. We built on that and we learned to live abundantly. We learned to fight spiritual battles with the Lord beside us. Today, we have to constantly remember Who is in us, Who is living through us. We need to go back to where we were and align our goals with God's goals. He wants so much more for us. In Luke 15:11-32 the story of the Prodigal Son, the Father chose to continue to love his wayward son. So much so that he must have waited to see him coming home everyday in order to see him coming down the lane. He ran to greet him and hugged him and welcomed him home. Even so, God is waiting for us to return to him. Like the Prodigal Son, we have it all available to us, yet we choose to look elsewhere for a more abundant life when it's right under our noses. God is watching for us to quit playing around at being His children and go back to living the true abundant life in Him. Stop straddling the fence, dabbling in the gray areas and go back to the Father, to our First Love.

Bro. Colón spoke to the men on the subject of Wife Training. He read Proverbs 31 about this biblical woman's traits and compared it to the Church. He told us to take what we had been doing as a church and apply, what we've learned about what makes a good wife and use it in the Church. There are a lot of things that we can be doing better. There are 10 aspects of the Proverbs 31 that can be used to make the church better.

Saturday Evening message by Bro. Colón. He stated that he was convinced if we ever truly understood how God really wants to bless us, we'd be different people. James 1:5-8. God's desire is for us to have understanding and wisdom. God wants to bless us and He wants us to obey Him. God's way is not for us to live our lives like the waves of the sea – in and out- deluded. We will not receive anything because of wavering. God wants 100% commitment to Him. We need to get into the frame of mind that we aren't going to leave anyone behind. Luke 10:18-20, Romans 8:35-37 Nothing can separate me from the love of our Lord. We need to get into the flow of God's blessing and claim the Word. God prepares us to go everywhere He wants us to go. He knows the ability of each one of us. And it's the willingness of that person to claim His Word and go. We need a vision of ourselves as conquerors and get a vision of what God sees that we can do.

The service was ended with Bro. Tidwell



speaking to us from 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 on the Communion and Bro. Lowe spoke to us on Feet Washing. We then observed these beautiful ordinances. God truly blessed us as we partook of fellowship with Him and with each other.

Sunday morning dawned in beautiful sunshine and God was ready to pour out His blessing upon us. After a short devotion with Sis. Colón, Bro. Wilkins brought to us a wonderful message. His message was "TIME TO AWAKE". We need to be talking about today, be aware of what is going on around us and realize it is time to awake now. Be sensitive to His Spirit and His Power. Isaiah 51:9. We need to put on strength that comes from God. When we humble ourselves before God He will give us strength. Isaiah 51:4-16. We've got to come to the place that when we pray, we expect to hear from God. Our job is to stay awake and alert and not become complacent. Be alert and open our ears and hearts to hear the Lord speak to us. We must get rid of the pain of the past and let God fill us and expect to receive from God. God wants to bless His Church, don't we want to be a part of it?

Matthew 25:1-13 We've got to be wise and alert to the Lord. Tune in and get this abundant life working in us. God wants us to learn from yesterday's experiences how to walk close to the Lord today. Our oil comes from the Lord. God hasn't quit working with His people. To live the abundant life we must trust Him and obey Him. When people sell out to God, it doesn't matter what happens, God is first in their lives. Be faithful to God so as not to be caught out of oil. If people don't see Christ in us, we will have missed a chance to be a blessing to others. It is time to awake, be alert and ready for the Bridegroom.

God spoke to us so completely during this fall refreshing. If you missed this, you truly missed a chance to hear from the Lord. He spoke to our hearts and alerted us that it was time to awaken and enjoy abundant living in Him. Let Him rain down his blessings on us and let others know just how much God is blessing His people. Learn to live abundantly in Him. Make plans now to attend the next retreat. Sis. Colón is working on another one to be held soon. See the announcement in this issue of "The Banner of Truth" □

## Church Dedication Hamlington, AL

~Judy Taylor~  
Church Reporter



The Hamilton Alabama church is enjoying their new church building and the blessings of the Lord. We are having several visitors from time to time.

We had a church dedication on September 7, 2014 with attendance of about 30 people.

Bishop Wilkins preached a good message. He then recognized our pastor Brother James Miller and his lovely wife for all of their hard work, building the Church. The Church gave them a special offering.

Then on Monday night, revival started with Brother John Pultz and went through Friday night, with anointed messages each night. We had one saved, Praise the Lord!

Pray for us here in Hamilton.



**Why Not  
Share with Headquarters  
and send a Special  
"CHRISTMAS OFFERING"  
\$50.00 Brick Gift?**



# "The Witness Tree"



The Oil Painting of "The Witness Tree" that hangs in our lobby painted by Mrs. Jane Moore is now available in an 11X14 print. They are available to you with a minimum donation of \$25.00 each plus postage.

If you desire one or several, Call: (910) 891-5017 or send a check or money order made out to:

**The Church of God of NC**  
P. O. Box 2109  
Dunn, NC 28335-2109

An explanation of "The Witness Tree" is at the bottom of the beautiful picture. The Bible tells us in Joshua 4: 1-9

*And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying, Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man, And command ye them, saying,*

*Take you hence out of the midst of Jordan, out of the place where the priests' feet stood firm, twelve stones, and ye shall carry them over with you, and leave them in the lodging place, where ye shall lodge this night. Then Joshua called the twelve men, whom he had prepared of the children of Israel, out of every tribe a man: And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of Jordan, and take ye up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel: That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever. And the children of Israel did so as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones out of the midst of Jordan, as the LORD spake unto Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them unto the place where they lodged, and laid them down there. And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day.*

When our Children ask, let us tell them of this great event!

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# U.S.A. National Convention Review...

Theme: **"CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH"**





# Philippines District 1 Convention Report

National Overseer Darwin Gaba

The Church of God of North Carolina Philippines held its Annual District 1 Convention in Alcala Cagayan last October 24-25, 2014. This area includes 4 local churches namely San Antonio Local Church of Ilagan City Isabela, Sta. Catalina Ilagan City Isabela, San Francisco Ilagan City Isabela and Alcala Cagayan the host church.

We had a church attendance of more than 70 people. We glorify God for the success of this convention. The Holy Ghost moves in our midst as we worship, listen to songs and messages from our dear beloved pastors.

We thank our brethren all around the world for the victory we had in this convention.



Sta Catalina Local Church



San Francisco Local Church



Philippines Delegates



Alcala Cagayan Local Church



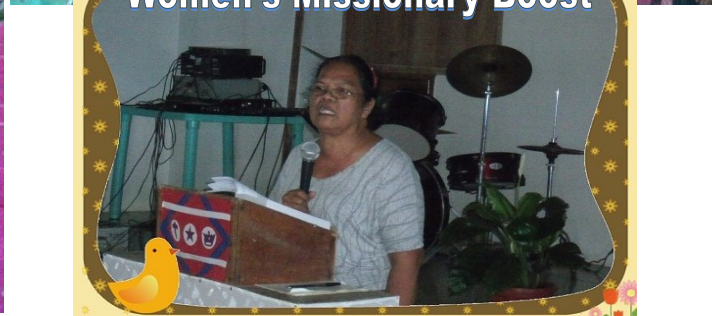


# Philippines District 2 Convention Report

National Overseer Darwin Gaba

The District Convention of Romblon area compose of two local churches and 1 mission. The Calagonsao local church and Bonlao Local church of Alcantara Romblon, and Recto Ferrol Mission.

This is a great convention because the Lord touches so many lives. We had water baptism of 14 people and all of them accepted the covenant. Praise the Lord Hallelujah! We had a great time also of doing the Lord's supper and feet washing officiated by our District Overseer Ptr. Carl Laurence Tizon. We had an attendance of more than 70 including children. To God be the glory!





**Plug Into The Power  
of  
God's Abundant Life!**

**Feb. 20–22, 2015**  
**IPHC Camp & Conf. Center**  
**I-95 Between Dunn and**  
**Fayetteville, NC**

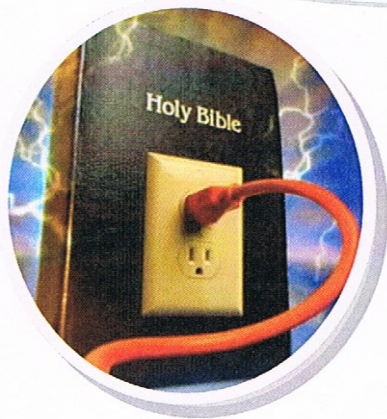
# Spring

Early Bird Registration—\$100/person by Jan. 16th  
(Includes Lodging, Food, Programming)

After Feb. 15—\$125/person

\*Please register early so we have accurate head count for program supplies and food!

For more info contact: Jannece Colon at 575-631-3412.



**The Church of God  
of North Carolina**  
**Family Camp**

**The Church of God of North Carolina  
Family Camp Registration Card 2015**

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Church that you attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Rooming Preference: \_\_\_\_\_ Female lodging (\$125.00/person) - Dorm Accommodations  
\_\_\_\_\_ Male lodging (\$125.00/person) - Dorm Accommodations  
\_\_\_\_\_ Couple lodging (\$125.00/person) - Semi Private Room

Do you have young children, under 12, with you?? \_\_\_\_\_

(We will be having Male, Female, and Children's classes!)

**\*\*Prior to February 15, 2015—Cost is only \$100/person\*\***

Please make all checks to The Church of God of North Carolina and mail all Camping Ministry documents and payments to Jannece Colon at 5026 N. Florida, Alamogordo, NM 88310. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call 575-631-3412.

**The Church of God of North Carolina  
Family Camp Registration Card 2015**

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

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THE DUNN, NC LOCAL CHURCH

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during this contest.



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