



International Voice of The Church of God of North Carolina

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October, November, December, 2017

*Merry Christmas
All Around the
World!*



Keep Christ in Christmas

The birthday of our Lord draws near;
The "Day of Days" of all the year;
A day of hope and joy and cheer.
Keep Christ in Christmas.

Let not old Santa crowd Him out,
With whiskers gray and body stout.
He helps the world forget about
The loving Christ in Christmas.

The day is Christ's by right divine,
A day no myth should undermine,
A day when thoughts and deeds sublime
Should keep the Christ in Christmas.

When every message, every gift,
Should in some joyous way uplift
One's every thought, and make them drift
To Bethlehem at Christmas.

Beyond all else this all should be
A Day of holiest memory,
When all the world should joyfully
See Christ, its Lord, in Christmas.

Give other thins a minor place,
But tell to man in every race
The story, on this "Day of Grace,"
Of Christ, his Lord, on Christmas.

—Harriet Clarke



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Editorial:

Christmas Is A Time For Rejoicing And Celebration

International Overseer
~John A. Wilkins, Jr.~



Christmas is a time to think of God's gift to us in the form of a baby whose name is Jesus. Let us rejoice and be glad as we visit with our families and share the joy of His birth. If we have come to know Him as our friend and Savior then we have experienced the greatest gift known upon the earth. If you don't know Jesus Christ, YOU haven't found Christmas!

I think it is so beautiful at this time of the year with all the different colors and squirrels running everywhere. It helps me remember that in just a few days the trees will be bare and look as though someone has removed their life from them. We can however, keep the faith, because we have seen this before and come Spring they will shoot forth their buds and leaves and look as fresh as new fallen snow. We start looking forward to the snow and hoping it will come this year, because here at headquarters it doesn't snow every year, but when it does there is lots of joy and excitement.

The holidays just seem to inspire everyone at this special time of the year. October brings to us the pumpkins and excitement of the kids in their costumes and happy faces as they interact with their friends. Then comes Thanksgiving when everyone

wants to go to grandma's house for pumpkin pie and turkey with all the trimmings and then comes the grunts from eating too much. At this time I always reflect, on "what I should be thankful for", and then I remember the wonderful things God has done for us as a family, healings, safety on the highways, keeping us from the dreaded diseases and harm that could have come to each of us. The world is in such a mess that if we listen to the news we will have no joy left. This year let us remember the goodness of God and celebrate what He has done for each of us during the past year and then our joy can be full and overflowing that others may be blessed.

***Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD.
Praise ye the LORD. Ps.150:6***

May we all get caught up in praise to our God this year during this special Holiday Season as we reflect on His goodness and protection. The world has stolen the greatness of Christmas for many and it is just another day, but for the Christians it is the most special day of all. The United States this year will be saying, "MERRY CHRISTMAS" again as authorized by our government leaders, even our President, Donald Trump.

***MERRY CHRISTMAS and
HAPPY NEW YEAR!***

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

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ASSEMBLY ADDRESS TO THE 106th INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY DUNN, NC 28334 July 27 – 29, 2017

*International Overseer
John A. Wilkins, Jr.*

Greetings to the 106th International Assembly of The Church of God. You have made it to this time in your life by God's grace and love and I feel it would be good for all of us to rise to our feet and offer some praise to our God for all the good things He has wrought in our lives since the last assembly. Let us welcome the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, this is His Church!

Since our last meeting back in 2015 lots of water has gone under the bridge and many lives have been changed, some for the better and some not so good. Many have tried to overthrow God's Government and cause much harm, but God has not permitted that to happen. Time continues to march on as we look into the mirror things don't look the same anymore, but one thing we know, God does not change. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. I am depending on the Lord to see me safely through, how about you? The Church cannot fail because Christ is the Head and He is in total control. Here is something He said about it.

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.. Matthew 16:18

*And he said unto them, **It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;*** Acts 1:7-10

Many today have forgotten the paths through the briars and hardships through which men like Bishop A. J. Tomlinson and others like him traveled. They have helped us to be here today. I recently heard someone say, "We are about finished, look at our numbers!" Let me remind you that Christ only had 12 to ordain and one of them became a devil. He even asked them one day, "Will ye also go away?" Will you stay with the Lord?

Some are looking for an easy ride, but instead we should be looking for the will of God in our lives and then we will be successful and complete our mission on this earth. The end will be worth our time and effort as we walk with the Lord and suffer the trials and persecution

along the way. He is more than enough! I don't want you to ever fall and neither does the Lord. He will help you to make it, but we must depend on Him and fully trust the Lord.

Since our last assembly we have had some difficulties, but we have never had a time that the Lord left us alone and without His help.

SECTION ONE:

"WORKING WHERE WE ARE PLANTED"

It seems some are not content to work where they are planted and they want to work some other place instead. If you were appointed to work a particular job then why not devote as much time as possible to that job until it is developed and things are in good order? If you have been asked to serve as the National Overseer of Hawaii and you go to Jordan instead then you are out of the place the Lord chose for you. If your overseer sends you to Michigan please don't go to Florida instead because there was a reason you were asked to go to Michigan in the first place. We are not free to just work all over the world, it is not the way the government of the Church is set up and God will not bless such confusion. If your overseer hasn't approved of your

going to a particular country then you should not go there. What if you were arrested and the embassy calls our headquarters, then they would be told we did not send you or have anything to do with you being there. We need to coordinate all trips through our headquarters regardless of where the money comes from for us to go and this way if something occurs we are all in good standing and the outcome will be better. You should have headquarters' approval before you go.

SECTION TWO:

“REPORTING BY OUR BISHOPS, DEACONS, EVANGELISTS AND TEACHERS”

Now if you are licensed by the Church then you have agreed to report every 30 days (monthly) to our headquarters. We are under obligation to do this and we do not need a directive from Heaven. You have signed an obligation for it before you could receive a license and if you feel that it is your right to stop reporting then there are procedures for dealing with you regarding this matter. It is required of all of us by our assembly. The Executive Committee requested us to examine ourselves to see if we are in compliance with the Word of God regarding our tithes. Here is an excerpt from those minutes When we go to Bible we find that it tells us to pay **“Tithes of All”** whenever it mentions tithes. Some have learned over the years to claim enormous amounts as expenses in the ministry. “When we go to the Bible, it does not authorize the breakfast, coffee and other incidental expenses to be deducted

as expense thus rendering them free of paying any tithes on their reports. The purpose of this section is to help us be more aware of Satan’s tricks to cause us to justify more than we should and pay less tithes than we should. I have found that I must eat whether I am at the assembly, national convention or at home. My clothing is required no matter where I am at church, on a trip or just relaxing at home. This is a serious matter and worthy of your consideration so I am requesting the Executive Committee to recommend some actions to adjust this to this assembly in their report prior to the “Business Session” on Saturday.” The assembly advised us to tithe our income in the biblical manner, but it has not been heeded. We still get reports in that deduct so much expense that tithes are never paid and while this is a matter judged by God it is still a problem that needs your attention.

SECTION THREE:

“ANNUAL ASSEMBLY”

The assembly has been following the biblical plan of an assembly every year until a few years ago when it was changed to every two years due to the financial load on our people. I am requesting that we go back to the biblical plan because something is wrong and we are seeing virtually no growth in our churches within the United States. I am asking you to consider carefully a change back to the assembly every year.

SECTION FOUR:

“LACK OF CHURCH GROWTH IN USA”

We are just not growing in the

United States as we should and our churches are fading quickly without reaching souls. Some of our churches have not won a single soul in some 20 years and there is something keeping this problem alive. I feel we must do something to stop this from happening before it is too late. God has placed you under His call, not headquarters or some man.

SECTION FIVE:

“OUR HEADQUARTERS PROPERTY”

If our headquarters is to survive then we must make some sacrifices to help keep our mortgage and our utilities paid. We have decided that we need a headquarters and that this one is about as cheap as we can go and minister to the needs of our churches worldwide. Please understand that no one gets any money for their work and all of our offerings and tithes are going into our expenses to keep our doors open and the office functioning. I am asking all of our National Overseers to prepare us special offerings as we originally agreed to do in the beginning.

SECTION SIX:

“DIVINE HEALING”

We are getting used to calling the wrong doctors and all of us are guilty. We need to begin to call on Jesus who has promised us His healing power if we will trust Him and pray in faith believing Him. Too many of us are sick and we are not being healed like the Lord wants to heal us. Let’s start calling on the Church for prayer and believe Him for our healing.

SECTION SEVEN:

“INTERNATIONAL OVERSEER”

The office of the International Overseer is one of God's choice not ours and we need to decide if it is to be accepted or rejected. He is not a CEO, He is the Holy Ghost anointed leader of The Church of God and there is no comparison with a CEO. He is held accountable by God. In a document that was drafted by the Executive Committee, it is compared to that of a CEO and that was a mistake. That document needs to be repealed and our people taught the truth about this office.

CONCLUSION

It is incumbent upon us to find His way to operate The Church of God

rather than our own and in doing so we will find ourselves often at a crossroad, one goes the easy way and one way is the hard way. The hard way will require us to implement some new ideas in order to please God and the new ideas will require that we WORK HARD, PRAY HARD AND TRUST GOD. It is the only way we can get to where God is leading us. The Bible tells us that faith is something unseen.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report.

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was

righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:1-6

Dear saints, we have come this far by faith and we are now at a crucial turning point, we either exercise faith or we must succumb to failure because we cannot continue as we are. The old time clock is ticking away and our ability to do the same things that we used to do is no longer a workable plan because our bodies are wearing out from the work. □



BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

July 17 - 25, 2017

It was an exciting time as the students and staff greeted one another for our BTI this year just prior to the start of our 106th Assembly. The headquarters come alive with the beginning of another BTI; you should have been here to experience this for yourself. We had two 3rd term, six students for 1st term, two for 2nd term and 6 staff members. The classes were very exciting and all the instructors did a fine job teaching the doctrine and practices of The Church of God. I can't forget the good food; our food was the finest and will make you want to come back for another year. Our BTI Director, Sister Jannece Colon is to be commended for the excellent job she did with our BTI this year.



**BTI Term 3
2017 Graduating Class**



Staff

APPOINTMENTS FOR THE 106th INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY July 27-29, 2017, Dunn, NC

“The Banner of Truth” Executive Editors:	John Wilkins Cathy Jones
Executive Secretary to the International Overseer	Cathy Jones
“The Banner of Truth” Managing Editor:	Elizabeth Wilkins
Bible Training Institute	(Suspended for two years)
International Family Camp Coordinator	Jannece Colon
International Evangelism Director	Richard Colon
International Treasurer:	Cathy Jones
International Sunday School Director:	Nellie Lowe
International Victory leaders (VLB) Director:	Emily Colon
International Women’s Missionary (WMB) Director:	Elizabeth Wilkins
International Church of Prophecy Marker Association (CPMA):	To be announced
International Assembly Band Movement (ABM):	Richard Schreiber
Publishing Committee:	John A. Wilkins, Jr. Thurman Lowe
Publishing Department Manager:	Elizabeth Wilkins
Building Maintenance & Property Management	To be announced
International World Mission Secretary	Open

REGIONAL OVERSEERS

South America:	Pending Appointment
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**APPOINTMENTS FOR
THE 106th INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY
July 27-29, 2017, Dunn, NC**
Continued...

NATIONAL OVERSEERS

Argentina:	Jose M. Coronel
Bahamas:	To be announced
Bolivia:	Julio A. Cabrera
Brazil:	Jose M. Coronel
Chile:	Belarmino A. Carrianco
Dominican Republic:	Dumas J. Michel
Ecuador:	Julio A. Cabrera
Haiti:	Dumas J. Michel
Honduras	Bishop Ortiz
Mexico:	Richard Colon (Temporary)
Nicaragua	Ronald Duarte
Paraguay:	Jose M. Coronel
Peru:	Gerardo M. Nolasco
Philippines:	Darwin P. Gaba
United States of America:	Thurman J. Lowe
Uruguay	Jose M. Coronel

NOTE: Some will be added after the assembly as I am in receipt of their organizational report.

John A. Wilkins, Jr.,
International Overseer



“Play – Doh Christians” **Bible Training Institute 2017** **Message Prepared by** *Nellie Lowe, Magna, UT*



Romans 12:1-2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Did you ever play with Play-Doh?

Play-Doh sometimes comes with little molds to shape into certain kinds of shapes. You can make many of the same shapes and they're all uniform. You can take the Play-Doh in your hands and shape any way you want it to be. Think about this. In the scripture it says not to be conformed to this world. Conformed is to comply with the rules of, be similar in form or type. Another dictionary says, "it is to act in accord with the prevailing standards, attitudes, practices etc. of society or group". Paul is telling us here, "Don't let the world shape you. Don't be put into the world's mold and made to be just like the world."

Paul said in 2 Corinthians 6:17 ***"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"***

Come out from the world and be the person God intended for you to be. When a person is Born Again, he should be just that reborn.

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

"The old things that were in our lives before should be passed away, gone, done away with. Unfortunately, too many times we allow the world to shape us. And way too often it's subtle and we aren't even

His mercy and provided us with His grace unto salvation. We need to render ourselves; all we are, all we have, all we can do to the Lord.

We are to present our bodies a living sacrifice. Not a sacrifice upon an altar but a living sacrifice. A sacrifice is anything consecrated offered before God.

2 Timothy 2:21 ***If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. "Purge himself."***

When anything is purged all the bad is removed, gotten out. Offering ourselves as a living sacrifice is to surrender ourselves to the Lord. If I'm torn between wanting to do my own thing or doing the Lord's will then I'm not totally surrendered to the Lord. I'm not offering myself as a living sacrifice. I need to lay myself down before Him to be used in whatever way He chooses, where He chooses, when He chooses. But not just a sacrifice but "holy, acceptable unto God." Set apart for the Lord's use. When a Jewish sacrifice was offered it was without spot or blemish. Our living sacrifice to God is to be holy and pure in God's sight to be acceptable to Him. Not what man judges to be acceptable but what God judges as acceptable. Man can be harsh, we judge each other many times without mercy. But God never does. So it's to be acceptable to God.

So we're not to be conformed to this world but we are to be "transformed." It is to make a thorough or dramatic change in the form, appearance or character of. Think about that! When we came to that altar wherever, that may have been and we accepted Jesus Christ as our Saviour we were born again.

As I mentioned earlier, “Born”, made new, a changed heart and life. See, things are different. The Lord takes away that desire to be like the world when we’re sanctified. To be transformed, a dramatic change. People will see and know that there’s been a change made.

How does this transformation come about? By the “renewing of the mind.” How do I have a renewing of the mind? The mind is that part of me that knows and learns and makes decisions. Decisions like offering myself as a living sacrifice. Like not letting the world shape but letting Christ transform me and change me into a person that’s pleasing to Him.

Galatians 5:25 *“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

The only consistent way to overcome the sinful desires of our human nature, the flesh, is to live step by step in the power of the Spirit as He works through us. Walking by faith in God’s Word assures of absolute victory over the desires of our sinful nature.

In Galatians 5: is also found the fruit of the Spirit ***Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness and Temperance***. These are the attributes of a transformed life. What we are to become. The way we should want the world to see us. We are to be striving daily in the Word to “Renew our Minds.” To be the person God wills us to be. To walk in the Spirit according to His Word. Walk in the Spirit not in the show of the Spirit. The life that Spirit quickens needs human cooperation, an active effort on our part as a Christian. How we’re living our lives is a constant concern to the Master. He knows, He cares what we’re doing, how we’re thinking or living everyday. A mind dedicated to God’s Truth and living out His Word will stand the test of time. Then and only then can we “Prove that good, acceptable and perfect will of God.”

Good—That which is morally right; righteousness. People will see and know if we are living as we should. God will accept our sacrifice before Him because it is good.

Acceptable—Pleasing to the receiver. Am I pleasing to God? Is my daily life transformed into His will? In

the will of God we can be received with favor before Him and He will take pleasure in us because we have striven to be well-pleasing to Him.

Perfect—Having all the desirable elements, qualities, characteristics. Absolute, complete.

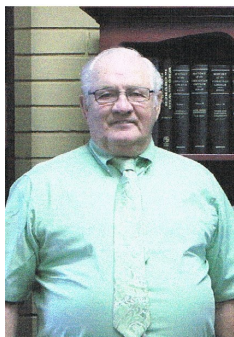
Will of God—What God wants for His children. It is God’s will that we live holly abundant lives. Lives full of love, joy, peace and as we grow in the Lord and in His Word we can live in His perfect will.

You know the thing with Play Doh, is that it’s really useless except for entertainment. It can’t be molded and made into any kind of vessel to honor. When Play-Doh dries it cracks and becomes crumbly and will usually fall apart. So then you have to start over again and again. Therefore, rendering it useless to anything that can be used by the Master.

There is a clay used by potters that can be taken and made into anything the potter desires. A useful water pitcher, a beautiful vase. The potter doesn’t usually put it into a mold but puts it on the wheel and shapes it, constantly changing it and perfecting it. Transforming the clay into a vessel of honor.

My question for us today is, “Are we Play-Doh Christians?” □





Where Is “My Undeiled”? Bible Training Institute 2017 Message Prepared by Herman Lowe



Our text comes from Song of Solomon 6:9, but I would like for us to read the whole 6th chapter

Song of Solomon 6: 1-13 *Whither is thy beloved gone, O thou fairest among women? whither is thy beloved turned aside? that we may seek him with thee. My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies. I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine: he feedeth among the lilies. Thou art beautiful, O my love, as Tirzah, comely as Jerusalem, terrible as an army with banners. Turn away thine eyes from me, for they have overcome me: thy hair is as a flock of goats that appear from Gilead. Thy teeth are as a flock of sheep which go up from the washing, whereof every one beareth twins, and there is not one barren among them. As a piece of a pomegranate are thy temples within thy locks. There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number.*

v. 9 *My dove, my undeiled 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.*

Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners? I went down into the garden of nuts to see the fruits of the valley, and to see whether the vine flourished, and the pomegranates budded. Or ever I was aware, my soul made me like the chariots of Amminadib. Return, return, O Shulamite; return, return, that we may look upon thee. What will ye see in the Shulamite? As it were the company of two armies.

You can see how much he is in love with his wife. He told what she looked like even down to her teeth and hair. He loves her so much that he couldn't get her off of his mind, both day and night. There were other women out there, The Scripture say's "*threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number.*" He could have had any of

those. I'm sure there were probably some beautiful women among those but he had his eye on that ONE. His heart was set on her and ONLY HER. Those others did nothing for him. He was looking for something in particular, his "dove" his "UNDEILED." He wanted one that had not marred, one that had not been contaminated by this world. He wanted one that was pure. Ephesians 5:27 *That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.* Without spot or wrinkle, holy and without blemish. One that has held onto the purity that was there when Christ set it in order.

2 Peter 3: 14 *Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.* We are to be diligent in remaining spot free. We are to be blameless. That means we can do nothing that will cause anyone to find fault or blame in us.

2 Corinthians 7:1 *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

Cleanse ourselves; from all filthiness of the flesh. Oh yeah, our spirt has to remain clean as well. Where is my UNDEILED? We must set about cleansing ourselves, getting ready as a bride does for the Groom. He described her many assets that made up her beauty. He's looking for the one that his heart is set on. He knows what he's looking for. There's only one who meets His mark. She is the "choice one of her mother." She has already been working to be that undeiled one.

We have labored many years to remain uncontaminated by the world. We've fought many battles, had to repent and cleanse ourselves. We could be a part of the others, the "queens and concubines." But, if we were we would miss out on all that being His beautiful Bride stands to inherit. Being His chosen one affords us so much more, the inheritance of His Kingdom.

I want to be a part of His UNDEILED, how about you? □



THE CHURCH OF VICTORY NOT DEFEA

Thurman Lowe
USA National Overseer

Isaiah 60:5 *Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart*

shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.

When something flows together it seems to be radiant or to shine. When you put a little amount of metallic particles into a color it radiates or brightens up. When we take the covenant to be a part of the Bride we are radiant and very happy. We are also very happy when we receive a member into the Church. It's a rejoicing time. Sometimes when God blesses us we may feel that our hearts would fly out of our chest. Scriptures says, ***"and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged. Because the abundance of the sea be converted unto thee"***. The sea is very large and our fields are just as large so ***we*** must be fishers of men, women, and children. God told the fishermen to cast the nets on the other side and they had so many fish it broke their nets. We must not look at substance but look to the One with who holds the power and is almighty. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Lets read on: ***The forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.*** What are the forces? "wealth" we have not seen this yet but God can and will change lives of the gentile world and turn some wealth unto his body The Church" We may not have a lot of money to help the church with the way we would like to. I wish I had enough money to finance The Church Of God so we would never have to worry about our finances ever again and we could evangelize the world anywhere we are called from but just go. God loves a cheerful giver and he will bring it back to you hundred fold. I would be very rich then with his Blessings on top of Blessings.

Isaiah 60:22 *A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in his time.*

"A little one shall become a thousand", a thousand what? From one minister or any of us could return our efforts into thousands. I think of my Grandfather that was an infidel and *he* was converted and won hundreds to Christ and then it just kept multiplying with the ministry of Harrison Price, Eddie Mounce, Ron Ham and many others that was saved under their ministries. Read on; ***I the Lord will hasten it in his time.*** God can and will make a quick work and God said they would ask their way to "Zion The Church of God".

It's going to be so wonderful when we see people asking their way to Zion. It will happen verse 22 tells us. When God is in charge and we let him have the reins He will guide us into new heights that we have not seen yet. I'm looking forward to the time we all do what the Scriptures says that "We will all speak the same thing and see eye to eye on the doctrine and the Scriptures".

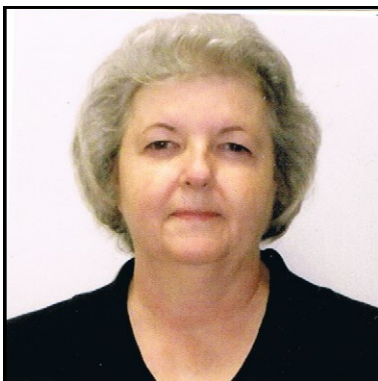
Isaiah 29:23 *But when he seeth his children, the work of mine hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel.* When we as children do the work of our father, He is in our midst and he will bless us with victory on top of victory. When we turn everything over to the " God" that is bigger than all of us together the Church will be victorious and the Church will not ***be*** defeated by the Devil or anyone. The BIBLE says in Matthew 16:18 ***And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates***

of hell shall not prevail against it.

Jeremiah 50:5 *They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD IN A PEPETUAL COVENANT THAT SHALL NOT BE FORGOTTEN.* Who are they He is talking about here in verse five? He is talking about the Jews and they have not asked their way or searched for the church yet. We must be ready when this happens that we as the church can direct these to Christ. How are we going to reach them? I can tell you as much as we don't like technology the internet and satellites that transmit the signal to almost everyone, I would like to say that probably over 70% of the Americans and most of the world has a computer called a cell phone. How is the world going to witness the two lying in the street mentioned in **Revelation 11:8-17** *And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. 11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. 13 And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. 14 The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly. 15 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. 16 And the four and twenty elders,*

which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, 7 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. The two will be lying in the street for three and one half days and God will raise them up. We could not understand why the space program and satellite were important in the sixties when it was started. God is still in control and he directs people to invent things to his glory. We haven't seen anything yet like this that we will witness in the future. God has things in store for the Church that we will be shouting about for a long time. God will lead us if we will let him but we are going to have to be able to follow His lead and open our minds to accept what He has for us as the Church of God. I can only see victory for the Church of God from here to the time He comes for his Bride. God has never been defeated and HE is not GOING TO BE DEFEATED NOW. Defeat should never be in our vocabulary, because we, The Church of God, will shine to the world and if we want to be a part of "The Church of God" we must do our part and follow His lead.

It is time for us to write our history from here on to glory. I want to write that GOD IS WINNING AND MULTIPLYING OUR LABORS. I want us to stop being negative and turn our thoughts from the past but look to the future for all the positive power we can generate. Do you know what a generator is? It produces power! So lets get our generators working and produce the positive power and watch what God will do for us and "The Church of God". It will be a glorious time when we see our brothers and sisters shout and run the aisles of the church under the Holy Ghost power of God. We don't want to see shouting without the power of God. Let us move forward in the work of God for his Church and let us make a difference in the world and to our friends about us. God Bless all of us as we strive to do His perfect will. □



A Small Remnant Will Finish the Work

Cathy J. Elder

Romans 9:27-29
Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the

sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth. And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.

What is a remnant? It is defined as a remaining, usually a small part or number; a few; another word for it is leftover. For instance, sometimes the food leftovers from a meal are not even enough to keep – they are deemed useless and may as well be thrown away or given to the dogs. But, one thing to remember from the Word is that the way man looks at things and the way God looks at things sometimes totally differ. Throughout the Bible, God has done great and mighty things with only a remnant. For example, talking about food; remember one time a great multitude had followed Jesus. To test Philip, Jesus asked him where could they buy bread to feed them all. Philip responded that they did not have enough money to buy enough bread to give them all a little. Andrew stated that there was a lad there with five barley loaves and two *small* fishes, but then asked in **John 6:9** “...but what are they among so many?” Look at us today. What are we among so many? You know how that Jesus instructed the disciples to have them sit down on the grass, then gave thanks and distributed to the disciples who then distributed to the people. It was like an “all you can eat buffet” and some of them were like some of us – their eyes were bigger than their stomachs because when they all ate until they were full, they took up 12 baskets of leftovers.

The Bible is full of examples like this one. We could talk about Gideon’s army being reduced from 32,000 down to 300 – just a remnant. Moses sent 12 spies into Canaan to bring back a report. Remember that 10 of them came back with an evil report and only 2 of them (a remnant) said “...let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.” They remembered the promise of God that the land belonged to

them and that they would surely one day possess it. They saw further than the natural eye could see and believed that what God had said, He would do! And that’s the spirit we must possess today. It doesn’t matter what the circumstances look like, we must believe God’s promises concerning the church. Those 10 men who brought the evil report and caused the people to doubt died of a plague before the Lord. There are many more examples.

Let’s turn to **Zechariah 4:10a** “*For who hath despised the day of small things?*” The second coming of Jesus Christ is close at hand. If you are looking for a large crowd of people to join up with us and help preach and teach the whole truth of God’s Word and help finish the work we have been given to do, then you are in for a disappointment. This is The Church of God that Jesus Himself set in order, with just a small number, but the whole Christian world is not going to accept the **all things** that we uphold. That is not for us to worry about. We are to keep on working and preaching and teaching the all things He commanded us to until He comes. In **Mark 9:38-40**, John told the Lord one time that they saw somebody casting out devils in His name, but he was not one of our followers, so we told him to stop because he is not one of us. Jesus said not to forbid him because he that is not against us is on our part. Some are doing a good work, not all, but we only need to be thankful that we were chosen as a part of a small number to have the vision.

We are a remnant. I hope others do come, but if they do not, we cannot be hindered by it. If we want to be a part of the remnant that will finish the work and be ready when He comes, we had better love one another just like Jesus loved us. These are not my words, but the Words of Jesus in **John 13:34-35**. Sometimes that may take a little work on our part. **Ephesians 4:1-3** says this. *I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.* The word forbearing means *to put up with*. We are all different

and have different personalities, but just like in a marriage, we must tolerate each other sometimes to keep unity and peace. We had better be very careful of our attitude toward the church. The word *despised* that we read in Zechariah 4 means to disrespect. Go back to the book of Zechariah chapter 2:8b ***“for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.”*** Jesus said that the gates of hell shall not prevail (overpower) against it! A remnant will finish the work because Jesus **is** the Head and in **His** church, the Holy Ghost will operate **IN HER, THROUGH HER and ALL AROUND HER!** We must submit ourselves totally to Him, for we know not how to do anything. **John 15:1-5. *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*** It must be His way or no way.

Romans 9:29, which we read earlier, refers to the passage in **Isaiah 1:9. *Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.*** Why did Isaiah make that statement? What happened to Sodom and Gomorrah? Look at the previous verses and think about where we came from – why a remnant came out. **Verses 4-6.** When one of the prominent Bible teachings was changed, Christ was no longer the Head and the Holy Ghost was grieved as was many of us. Man took charge and failed to follow the will of God. **II Corinthians 6:17** We had to come out to hold on to Bible doctrine. Then again when, among other things, the flag, which the Holy Ghost had approved, was changed, we find another small remnant coming out. He is God. He said, ***“I change not.”***

Now, Sodom and Gomorrah were two very wicked cities (Genesis chapters 18 and 19). God said, ***“...their sin is very grievous;”*** but he told Abraham of His plans to destroy them. Abraham asked if He would destroy the righteous with the wicked. God said if He found 50 righteous in Sodom, He would spare all the place for their sakes. Abraham asked

again – this time 45; then 40, 30, 20 and finally 10. God said He would not destroy for ten’s sake. God sent 2 angels, in the form of men, to do the work. You know how that the men of the city wanted them and they almost got hold of them, but God struck them blind. The angels asked Lot if he had any other family besides his wife and 2 daughters which were with him in the house. They warned him to bring them out of this place because destruction was coming (must tell the lost to get out of sin and run to Jesus for safety). So Lot warned his sons in law, but he seemed as one that mocked to them. They laughed and made fun of him – they disrespected him. Is it not that way today? We tell people that the day of the Lord is at hand, and even point out the signs, but they don’t want to hear it, but it did not, nor does it now negate the fact that it is true. When morning came, the angels told Lot to hurry up and get out, but he did not realize the urgency here. He kept lingering until the angels took them by the hand and brought them forth and set them outside the city (only 4 of them, a remnant) and told them to run for their life and **do not look back**. No matter what happens or what you may hear, you must not look back. Judgement came to Sodom and Gomorrah at God’s appointed time that day and they and the cities about were destroyed. Lot’s wife looked back and became a pillar of salt – like powder which is easily dissolved. What are you made of today? We are not told why she looked back. We can only speculate, but God knows what each of us are made of today. We must be obedient. Jesus said in **Luke 9:62 *“...No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”*** We are still talking about the remnant of Sodom and Gomorrah, and even a part of that remnant disobeyed and was destroyed. That reminds me of a scripture found in **I Peter 4:17-18 *For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?***

1 Peter 4:17-18 (KJV) Scarcely means with difficulty; with much work. Ungodly means not showing a reverence for God, or disrespectful. Sinner is one who misses the mark so as not to share in the prize. Notice that the sinner and ungodly are separated in this Scripture. This is very serious work we are involved in today. The hour is late! **Romans 13:11-12a** High means lofty in place. It is high time to be fully awake; to be about the Father’s business; to be sober (watchful); to be vigilant- to be awake to detect danger or trouble. It

is high time to realize that time is running out, and besides that, we read earlier where He will cut it short. It is time to pray until we have prayed and then rise and move under the direction of the Holy Ghost. No longer can we say, **“but it’s not yet time.”** John 4:34-35. Jesus said to open your spiritual eyes! The harvest is ready now!

In Haggai, we find where the people said that it is not time to build the Lord’s house, but the Lord let them know that it was time and that they needed to **consider** their ways; in other words, think about carefully. **Haggai 1: 2-8** He let them know that He was not pleased with their attitude toward the care of His house, and for that reason, they were never satisfied. He told them what to do in verse 8 and look at **verse 12**. The people obeyed the voice of the Lord and they feared Him. Oh, one thing that is needed today is for His people to fear the Lord. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge, which without, we cannot carry out the plan of God. He knows our hearts and every thought that comes into our minds. When the Lord saw how they obeyed Him and feared Him (reverence for Him), then He said this in v. 13 **“... I am with you...”**

When the Lord gave the church the great commission in **Matthew 28:18-20**, *He said the same thing. “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world. Amen.”*

In **Haggai 1:14** the Bible says that the Lord **stirred** up the remnant and they worked in the house of the Lord. That means He opened their eyes! They had a vision of the work like they had never known. Oh God, how we need a renewal of our vision.

God has a plan and the days are numbered. Go to the book of **Genesis chapter 6:3, 5-9** *And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have*

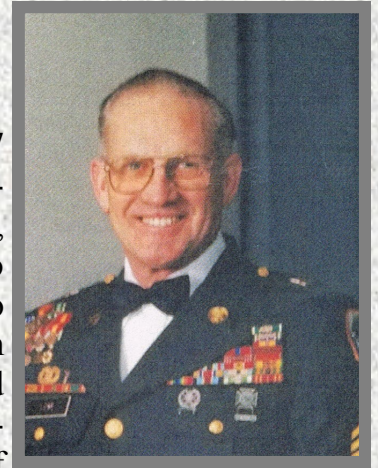
created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. Destruction was coming. God gave Noah the plan for the ark of safety. Because Noah was perfect and walked with God, God said He would establish His covenant with him and therefore he, his wife, his sons and their wives would escape destruction. Noah followed the plan of God and worked on that ark for 120 years. Don’t you know many questioned him during that time and perhaps even made fun of him, but he kept right on working, following the plan of God, and preaching righteousness until the day came that the work was finished- **v 22 “Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.”** Noah was six hundred years old when the work was completed and the floods came. Out of all the earth, only 8 souls were saved (just a small remnant).

The Bible tells us in **Matthew 24:36-39** *But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.* Destruction is coming once again. Jesus said in **Luke 23:36** *And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,* God has given the plan for His church. It has structure, government and order, but it must be run by the Spirit. Somebody will follow the plan of God just as He has given, because we find in **Revelation 19:7-8** *Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.* The question is, will you have a part?

Remember the words of our Lord Jesus in **Matthew 22:14** **“For many are called, but few are chosen.”** □

“Another Soldier Receives PCS Orders”

Herman Jefferson Lowe received his PCS Orders on September 18, 2017 from Magna, Utah to his final duty station. He was born to Theodore Jackson Lowe and Jetta Lee (Leeder) Lowe on October 29, 1948 in Clovis, New Mexico. He married the love of his life, Nellie M. Ford in 1970. To this union there were two children Jerry Lowe and Regina Enman who have given to him beautiful grandchildren whom he dearly loved. He began his ministry in August of 1974 with the Church of God of Prophecy and joined with The Church of God of North Carolina in August of 2011 becoming a Bishop in August of 2012. He has served The Church of God of North Carolina as Pastor, Regional Overseer and National Overseer to the Bahamas and was pastoring the local church in Magna, Utah at the time of his death. His new orders have taken him beyond this life to a life of eternity with Jesus. The PCS orders are known to the military as “Permanent Change of Station” and he has earned his as a faithful servant both to “God and Country” as he has helped others all along life’s way. We want our change to be like Herman’s when our time comes to go. He has spent a great deal of time preparing for this event while serving his God and doing all he could for others to make their way much easier.



He was a proud member of the U.S. Army and his funeral service certainly depicted that in every way. He was also a soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ and his final goodbye was one of honor and distinction. The United States Flag was presented to his wife at the conclusion of the service by the graveside in honor of his service to our country. The flag of The Church of God was presented to his wife at the conclusion of the Chapel Service as a memorial of his service to the Church, his Lord and Faith.

The loss of Herman to his wife and children will never be filled by anyone else. He was a husband, dad, grandpa and friend to all of these, as well as a friend to all that would accept his love and friendship. Herman was a friend to me and my wife as we worked together in the Church. We will all greatly miss him when we meet for Church functions, but let us remember what he taught us; get ready to meet again on Heaven’s Shore. If I could speak for him today, I think he would want me to say to all of you, “No one can cause you not to be saved, but yourself, let nothing stop you from making Heaven your home! Brother Herman Lowe has left us an example of showing love to all. He would help everyone he called his friends even when they did not agree. His work with them and for them speaks loud of his love. He served as Chaplain to the Salt Lake City Police Department and was recognized by them at his funeral service as a dedicated man of God rendering services where they were needed. All of these attributes depict a man full of love for others and depicts the man that he was. His life can be somewhat explained by the words of Abraham Lincoln, **“Whatever you are, be a good one.”**

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:34-35 □

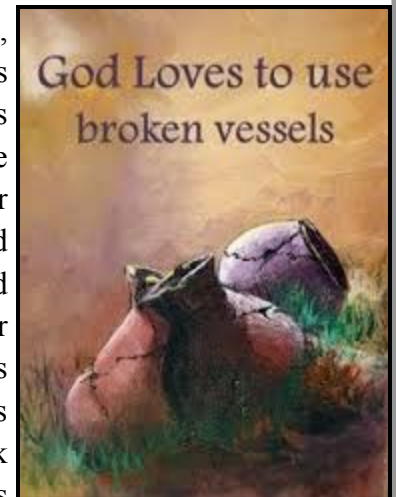
USA Family Camp 2017

Theme: Created For HIS Eternal Purpose

Ephesians 3:10-11

October 27-29, 2017

Cloudcroft, New Mexico



Family Camp was held in Cloud Croft, New Mexico with the beautiful mountains all around us and God's love in our hearts to teach us of His great love. I mention the beautiful mountains because they tower above us and their magnificence remind us of our great and magnificent God whom we serve joyfully. He is our

strength and friend in time of trouble or need. We had about 12 campers this year but the blessings of God assured us that we are exactly where He wants us

to be and we must continue. Thank God for His presence in camp this

year! Sister Jannece is a wonderful Family Camp Director and we love her for her service to the Lord in this endeavor. If you have never been, why not start your camping experience now by beginning to save for the next year today? You can do this in many ways but a good one is to set an empty coffee can in the middle of

your table and mark it with these words: FAMILY CAMPING FUND. Some of your family and friends just may help you to go.

This year Sister Jannece had us making pottery to drive a biblical truth home in our hearts. I was privileged to work with Bishop Thurman Lowe, our National Overseer in this project and I was amazed at what he did. Our project turned out nice because of his



Let No Man Despise Thy Youth

1 Timothy 4:12 *Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

When I read this Scripture I see **Childlike faith**, so I'm going to start with a story...A young boy **started to pack his backpack one Saturday afternoon, his mother asked what he was doing and he answered saying, "I'm going to look for God."** Okay, just be back for dinner. Was her response.

The young boy walked and walked till he came to a park. He decided to sit down on the only already occupied bench in the park next to a homeless woman. The homeless woman sat there studying the boy, wondering why he decided to sit down on that particular bench when there were so many in the park. Then she watched as he pulled out a package of Twinkies. She hadn't eaten and that Twinkie looked oh so good. The young boy looked at his two Twinkies, then turned to the woman offering the second to her. She smiled brightly thanking the boy for his kindness. The two of them sat there talking as they ate their Twinkies. The young boy watching his watch just to make sure he didn't miss dinner. "I have to go now." He told her with a smile.



They said their good byes and the boy went home. When he arrived his mother asked "So, did you find him?" He stood just a little taller now, **"God is a woman mom, and she has the most beautiful smile I've ever seen."**



The homeless woman left the park and met one of her friends as she walked nowhere in particular, still with that bright smile on her face. Her friend asked, "Why are you so happy?" The woman beamed once again, **"I just had Twinkies in the park with God."** She chuckled a little as her friend looked at quizzically, **He's got a lot younger than I thought."**

This story is a favorite of mine, it shows that even in old age you can have the faith of a child, you just have to believe.



Matthew 18:2-4

2) And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, 3) And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. 4) Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Let no man despise thy youth, childlike does not mean childish and sometimes people become confused. I have five points that are essential in a childlike walk with God. **1) Dependence:** as a child depends on a parent so should we depend upon the father. **2) Innocence:** We as adults see so many things that steal away innocence. We need to reclaim that which has been lost and take time to admire the little things that we forget but they see vividly. Find the wonder in everything. **3) Joy:** Joy unspeakable and full of Glory! We need to have unfaultable joy. A child can fall, cry a little, then run off laughing two seconds later as if nothing happened. We need to get up from our crying place rejoicing and joyful. **4) Anticipation:** I'm not talking about the anticipation for the coming Christmas morning. I'm talking about the overflowing anticipation of recess or going to grandma's house. It may happen a lot, sometimes everyday, but it never becomes boring. **5) Trust:** We are fully trusting that our father will pick us up when we fall and dust us off, and send us back out into the world. God does this.. We may fall, but we must trust that He will pick us up, dust us off, and send us on our way so we can fill the world with His word!

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