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1st. TERM BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE











Editorial.... "Back To School"

International Overseer John A. Wilkins, Jr.

It's that time of year again and as we closed our very first USA Bible Training Institute I thought of a scripture relat-

ing to this topic.

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2 Tim 3:1-7

Our children go off to school every year about this time but they receive less and less in their education about God. When I was in school a while back, I learned about the Bible and prayer, but today if you mention these things, you will be fired. I later joined the military and served 28 years in the United States Air Force and during that time I was allowed to pray and read my Bible in the open. Today our military cannot do that. A

soldier cannot be given a Bible by a Military Chaplin unless the soldier first request one. In our war theater, he/she must not possess a Bible at all, lest they offend one of the locals. This issue of "The Banner of Truth" highlights BTI and the school which still teaches TRUTH. Let me encourage each of you to make plans now to attend next year, while we still have some religious freedom left. You are not too old to head back to school and learn more biblical truth while it is available because it might not be much longer.

Our BTI Theme: *PROUD OF THE PAST --- FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE*



STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

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"A LITTLE DAB'LL DO YOU"

International Overseer John A. Wilkins, Jr.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Heb 11:1

When I was a young man there was a commercial that said, "Brylcreem, a little dab'll do you, Brylcreem, a little dab'll do you..." Faith is like Brylcreem, a little dab'll do you. The Word of God says if we have a little faith then it will work when we apply it to our lives at the time it is needed. If we have faith as a mustard seed we can get things done when it is exercised and put into practice. but it will never work for us until we try it and make it ours for real. Others may talk of their faith, but until we have our own, it will not work for us. It is easy to stand on the sidelines and observe others but then it is time for the test when it is every man for himself. It reminds me of the story I heard of the man walking the tight rope high over the crowd. He walked it over to the other side and the crowd cheered and jumped with excitement. He then asked if they believed he could walk it pushing a wheelbarrow and they yelled, "Sure you can, we know you will be able to do it without difficulty; you are the best tight rope walker in the country." Then the tight rope walker walked it to the other side pushing the wheelbarrow and the crowd roared with excitement over his success. He then asked, "Do you believe that I can push it back to the other side with a man in the wheelbarrow?" Sure you can yelled the crowd! The tight rope walker stopped on the platform

and asked, "Do I have a volunteer?" Isn't that typical of our faith sometimes? As long as it is someone else we can believe and have utmost confidence, but when it comes down to us, we hesitate to trust God and His Word as we should. It is here that we let fear of failure creep in and snuff out our blessing.

Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Matt 17:19-20

A mustard seed is a mighty small thing but it becomes a big plant when planted. The song says, "Little is much if God is in it" and one finds that truth very real while operating in faith. A little dab of faith will work for you and without it you cannot please God.

But without faith it is impossible to please him: Heb 11:6a

And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook;

and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. I Kings 17:1-5

God spoke to Elijah and told him to go to the water brook Cherith that is by Jordan and I will take care of you. I will give you water and have the ravens to feed you while you wait on me. Now just imagine yourself at that spot drinking from a stream that is getting lower every day. What a dilemma as you watch the water going down. It seems that God never shows us the complete picture but only gives us a few instructions at a time to test our faith. He sees those who will trust and obey and He knows who He can count on to finish the project one phase at a time

When God tells us something, He is serious about it and expects us to act on faith alone and get up and take care of the thing He has required of us. God will not require that which is impossible but tells us all things are possible if we will only believe according to Jesus' own words.

Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. Mark 9:23

Oh, what victory; Oh, what peace once we learn to trust Him and act according to faith and not sight! We would be a lot further along in our walk if we could stay focused and keep walking in the spirit and full surrender to the Lord

as Elijah had to do in order to please God. We used to sing a song around The Church of God entitled, "God give us more Elijahs To Feed The Church of God" and oh, how true the words are today. Now, the next part is really a test of faith. Please pay particular attention to these words as you read this.

And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook. And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. And the word of the LORD came unto him, ing, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee. So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand. And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die. I Kings 17:6-

Now God tells him to take the next steps but look at the provider and how she was to sustain him after he had just left a dried up river bed. His provisions were now to come by the hand of a widow woman who did not have enough for herself and her son. Elijah now has the nerve to ask that she fix him something first.

And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. I Kings 17:13

Put yourself in that setting and imagine asking someone that you are visiting to fix your plate before they do their own and begin to picture the next move by the host as you wait patiently for your food. You see, God had worked on both ends because in verse nine God had commanded the widow woman to sustain Elijah even though she did not know where her next meal would come from. I have thought about this a lot and I believe she must have been a tithe payer because she too expected God to provide by faith. This was a two way arrangement and both Elijah and the widow knew something had to happen in order for this to work. There used to be a saying, "God said it, I believe it and that settles it" but really that is in error because if God says it, that settles it. God had already said that she would have enough when she obeyed Him.

For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.1 Kings 17:14-16

The Bible teaches us that

obedience is better than sacrifice. We can make all kinds of sacrifice and still be lost but when we obey God and walk in His truth we will not be lost for His love and blood covering will save us.

Many Expect Results without commitment, but results come to those who first commit and do the things which bring about the miracles of healing and provision.

And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for ofttimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Matt 17.14-20

God had spoken to Elijah and he had committed to follow the words of God and trust Him at every turn in the path to provision and miracles. When the time was right, he knew that God was able and would do the work needed to raise the woman's son.

And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the

woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaving her son? And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth. And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth. 1 Kings 17:17-24

Why was it necessary for Elijah, a man of God full of faith, to stretch himself over the child three times in order for life to come back into him? Why was it necessary for David to collect five smooth stones to slay the giant when it only took one? It would only be speculation if we tried to answer these questions but we do know from these Bible truths that when God stepped in, the results were good both times. FAITH is a must if we are to please God! God's work doesn't operate on our understanding

or rational thinking but rather on our ability to rely solely on Him for the answers to our needs.

Our Faith Is Essential To Our Obedience (*For we walk by faith, not by sight*:) 2 Cor 5:7

We simply cannot trust and obey God without faith and neither can we please Him without walking in faith. The widow would never have known the provision of faith without first giving all she had to the prophet of God. When she gave him all she had her barrel never gave out and the oil was never depleted again. Please notice that it was never running over either which leaves me to believe it was a walk of faith each day thereafter.

For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. I Kings 17:14

Two men were in the desert and had gone about as far as they could go without water, when suddenly there appeared out of nowhere an old fashioned pump with a long handle to pump water. At first they thought they were just seeing things but then they looked closer as they crawled over to it, their mouths dry and their lips split from the heat and thirst, and there was a note which had been carefully placed in the mouth of the old pump. One of them pulled the note from the dry and rusty old pump's mouth and began to read, "When you find this note carefully read it and do exactly what it says and then when you are finished and have drank all the water you want carefully put the note back in the cover and put it back in the mouth of the old pump." The note told them that over behind the big rock was a jug full of water but they

must not drink any of the water from the jug but they must pour all of it into the old pump as they pumped on the long handle until the fresh water poured from its mouth. When finished they were to fill the jug and replace it full of water and secured behind the big rock. They then started to pour the water into the pump but the other man said, "No, you can't do that and let us both die here in this desert, but the other man insisted that they put it all into the pump. They then pumped harder and harder until the pump's mouth was running full of crystal clear, fresh water from under the desert floor and both men were able to drink all the water they could hold.

They had to sacrifice all they had in order to get the bountiful supply to sustain their lives and prepare for others to do likewise. That is how it was with the widow woman and that is how it is with us in the work of the Lord, we must hold back nothing if we expect the miracle of provision. If we are to truly be the servant of the Lord, we must not hold back on paying God our tithes and giving Him the best of our service because if we do, we will die spiritually. We must put ALL that we have in if we expect His blessings to flow like the water. When we hold back, we are messing up the plan God has for our life. The men with the water pump in the desert had to have FAITH in order to pour every drop into the pump and we will have to have faith to put everything into our service to God. What will you be willing to put into the work of the Lord?

We must put ALL in to get the most out as we follow the Lord. The Church of God will operate on obedience in these "Last Days"

A LITTLE DAB'LL DO YOU, IF IT IS FAITH!

A Voice in the Wilderness



~ Rodger Tidwell ~ Walnut Ridge, AR

When we think of a wilderness, we think of words like seclusion, isolation and perhaps sparsity. I believe these words would be appropriate in describing not only a wilderness

in the natural sense but also one in the spiritual sense. In a spiritual sense the devil would like to back God's people into a dark secluded place, separate them from one another and then limit the truth that they are exposed to. If that constitutes a spiritual wilderness then I believe the world today qualifies as one.

Without a doubt, we are definitely living in a time when Christian values are under attack and not only in this nation but all over the world. Christian values themselves are not the only thing though that is under attack, Christians themselves are too. Many followers of the Lord all over the world are now experiencing the onslaught of the enemy. Today there seems to be an increasing animosity against Christianity.

There have been other times throughout history where the enemy of mankind has launched attacks on righteousness. Come to think of it, I don't think there has ever been a time when the devil has said to his following demons, "boys let's sit down and take a break." The devil has continuously fought against God's people during every age, at least to some degree. What is inspiring though is to read about courageous people of God, who during those historical times of spiritual battle would step up to the battle front, to hold the line for righteousness. God also needs those kinds of people in this present age who will rise to the occasion and do the same – people who will have the commitment and boldness to step out front and lead the way. There is a word for one who is willing to fill such a position. The word is vanguard. A vanguard is one who is willing to take the lead. He or she becomes the forerunner. They often establish the path for others to follow.

John the Baptist was one such character in history. It was said of him, "For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee." Matt. 11:10

Also Jesus said of John, "...Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist..." Matt. 11:11

What a courageous individual and voice for righteousness he was in his day but that was in his day. God is looking for men and women today who will serve in similar ways. I believe that there are some similarities about John's mission and the Church's mission today that would be beneficial for us to consider. This message looks at three of those things. They are John's **timing**, his **message** and his **purpose**.

JOHN'S TIMING

John's coming was announced by the prophet Malachi a few hundred years before John himself appeared on the scene. He wasn't called by his own name in the prophet's writing but rather was described using Elijah's name. It would later be understood what Malachi meant by the use of Elijah's name. He was inferring that the one who was to come would come in the spirit and power of Elijah. [Luke 1:17] Jesus was making reference to John in His day when he said, "And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come." Matt. 11:14 The prophecy that Jesus was referring to is the following, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:" Malachi. 4:5

What a birth date! What a time in history for John to arrive! The world was in dire need of a deliverer - a restorer - a savior. Jesus would be that person that would bring hope to many but John would be His precursor, pointing that generation of people to the messiah. John came in a time when there was much division, even among those who claimed to know Jehovah God. Many of them were separated into various religious sects such as the Pharisees, Sadducees and the Essenes. Also there were many who were separated by bloodlines (for instance the Jews and Samaritans had their religious differences). Much of the Gentile world in that day was saturated with their own religions and gods. There was just an overwhelming force of false religion and ideology that those who were searching for the truth in that day had to contend with.

Prior to John's day, there had already began a deterioration of the Word of God in the hearts and lives of the people. They had drifted so far from TRUTH that when the people heard it, they hardly recognized it. No doubt both John's and Jesus's listeners considered

some of the things they were saying as strange stuff.

That day reminds me of our day. There are so many doctrines and religions around that many of those who are sincerely searching for the TRUTH are wondering "What is truth?" I am afraid that the majority, as in Jesus' day, when they see the truth will not recognize it because they are so far from it. Recently an individual told me how the Lord had led him to open up the bible and start reading in the book of St John. He said, "you know preachers aren't preaching this." He was referring to the power of God and all that God can do. Evidently where he had gone they talked about the Lord dying on the cross to pay the sin debt but according to him stopped there. As was the case with John, I believe those of us today are living in a time just before the next coming of the Lord. I believe God also has a people prepared for this time to help turn the hearts and minds of people back to God, His Word and His righteousness.

JOHN'S MESSAGE

The first nine verses in Luke chapter three give great insight about this messenger of God called John and his message for that day. John's message was one of repentance and holiness. Luke chapter three records a time when the crowds had gathered around to be baptized of John in water. He refused to baptize some of them because there was no evidence of real repentance in their life. Genuine repentance includes the admittance of sin, the confession of it to God and also the decision and willingness to turn from it. There was no sign that indicated to John that these folks had made a change in their life. [Lk 3:7-9] There evidently were signs in their life that spoke to the contrary. John was able to see they were still headed down the same old road of unrighteousness that they had already been on.

With true repentance comes the end of the old life-style and the beginning of a new. [II Cor. 5:17] To take the thought a step farther, crucifixion and the cross has always indicated the death of something. One cannot experience the cross of Christ without dying out to something. Repentance is not just a prayer that we pray. It includes a change of heart. With it comes the willingness to abandon the old path and the willingness to walk the new. Our day is like John's in the sense that men are still trying to figure out a way to hold on to the old life and yet have the promises that come with the new. God WILL have a voice today that will preach the message of true repentance and holiness "without which no man shall see the Lord." [Heb. 12:14]

JOHN'S PURPOSE

And he shall go before him in the spirit and

power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. Luke 1:17

The time which John was born into was a day of animosity, criticism and division. It was a day when nations were at odds. Also religions were at odds and even families were at odds too. You can see the kind of hatred that existed in that day when you read the Bible and other historical records of that time. **Malachi 4:6** along with the verse we just used in Luke tells us that God's purpose for John would include mending relationships between people. Division is not the will of God, to say the least. It creates hurt and robs people of the greatest treasures of life LOVE, JOY and PEACE. John's call was to deliver to the people the message of repentance, which if taken to heart would cause people to turn back to loving God and in doing so also turn back to loving one another.

Luke also points to John's purpose as, turning the disobedient to the wisdom of the just." Again when true repentance is preached and men turn from sin, God in turn places a new understanding of things in their hearts. This message of true repentance when accepted has with it the possibility of mending many things. Even the walls of separation between the Jew and the Samaritan – the Pharisee and the Sadducee were removed when true repentance took place in people's lives. The things that had kept them apart (their religious views and beliefs) all melted away when the light of God's wisdom and understanding entered in.

The divisions of John's day are repeated in ours. Families have lost their love for one another. Churches are divided by doctrinal and various other issues. To many there seems to be no solution for reconciliation but I believe the answer is right before our eyes. The answer lies in the message of true repentance. The scripture teaches us that if we will turn from sin and walk in the understanding God gives to us we will not only have fellowship with Him but also with one another. [I John 1:4-7]

Many churches no longer believe in the kind of repentance that John, Jesus and the early church preached – a repentance that requires the forsaking of the old life. Just as God had a voice some two thousand years ago that prepared people for the coming of Jesus in that day, so today God will have a voice that preaches his message to prepare people for the Lord's next coming. How refreshing it is to hear a voice these days that rings to the same tone as John the Baptist' and sends out the message of true repentance. It's the only message that can truly bring about the change that is needed in this wilderness of today.

The Voice of One

∼Cathy Jones∼ Dunn, North Carolina

Mark 1: 1-8, 14-15 "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ve the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey; And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost. Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Here we find that it was time on God's timetable for the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the son of God. He had already come into this world by virgin birth, just like the scriptures said He would and had been revealed to some by the Holy Ghost as the Messiah, but the prophet Isaiah had been moved upon by the Holy Ghost many years before to record these words found in Isaiah 40:3 "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." John the Baptist was the one chosen by God from the foundation of the world to be "the voice of one" crying in the wilderness. It was the angel Gabriel who was sent straight from the presence of God with a message for Zacharias, the father of John, declaring to him that he would have a son in answer to his prayer, and also told him some things concerning this son. Luke 1:15-17 "For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord

their God. And he shall go before him in the spiritand power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of



the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Let's take a closer look at some of the things Gabriel declared:

- 1) He shall be great in the sight of the Lord- Now, the world's way of
 - seeing people and God's way are not usually the same: "... for the lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart," but John would not be seeking the approval of man, but rather the approval of God. He would boldly and loudly lift up his voice in the wilderness and proclaim the message that burned within his heart and soul.
- 2) He would not drink wine nor strong drink- this meant that he would be set apart for service to God from everything that is polluting. He would be totally different from the world, even those of the religious world. He would not look like everybody else; not just his outside clothing, for he spoke with authority. Something about him drew all those people out to the wilderness to confess their sins and be baptized. He would not act like everybody else to be accepted by them. He did not even eat the same things. His heart, soul, mind and strength would be set on one thing -God's purpose for his life – that would consume him totally. His body would be presented to God as a living sacrifice - holy and acceptable in God's sight. He would practice a life of selfdenial and eventually lose his head for the cause.
- 3) He would be filled with the Holy Ghost from birth. His job was so important and he would be equipped for the service of the Lord by the indwelling of the Holy Ghost. He would not otherwise know which way to go or what to do, but the Holy Ghost led him into the wilderness where he communed with God, studied His word, gained

understanding of who he was and what his purpose was and then, just at the right time as led by the Holy Ghost, began to preach repentance for the remission of sins and baptize with water. He had not met Jesus, but John 1:31-34 gives the account of how he would know him. "And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. It came by divine revelation.

4) He would go in the *spirit* and *power* of Elijah. What kind of spirit did Elijah possess? He possessed the spirit of obedience! Because he was obedient, God worked through him and did many miracles by his hands. When things got rough in the famine, God miraculously took care of him and provided for him because Elijah trusted God. He moved when God said move, even if he did not understand why. John would be bold to preach repentance to an adulterous generation and be hated and persecuted for it by Herod and Herodias just like Elijah was by Ahab and Jezebel, but he would be carried on in his work as Elijah was by a divine spirit and power which did not come from man, neither could be taken away by man, but came from God almighty until one day, without tasting death, was taken up by a whirlwind into heaven! What a way to go!

John understood what his place was in relation to Christ. John 1:19-23, 27 "And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias." Also, in John 3:30, he said, "He must increase, but I must decrease." He was "the voice of

one" who pointed them to the Christ.

This world is a wilderness today. It is a wide open field where there is no protection from the elements or wild beasts. It is a desert – a dry, barren region, but John was to make a highway in the desert for God. What is a highway? It is a main, public road, especially one connecting towns and cities. John connected people or pointed them to Christ, the only one who can forgive sins; the only one by whose blood the heart of man can be sanctified by slaying the adamic nature so that heart is ready for the indwelling of the Holy Ghost, which is power for service!

Look back again to the book of Isaiah, chapter 40 and verse 9 this time. "O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!" Do you know who Zion is? Of course, none other than The Church of God of the Bible! "Song of Solomon says it like this, "My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; vea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her." Who is "the voice of one" crying in the wilderness today? It is The Church of God. She is in the wilderness, but she is not wandering around – She is marching onward to the promise land with full assurance that she is guided by the power of the Holy Ghost. Amen! Nobody else can do the work she has been called to do. Like John the Baptist, she is to lift up her voice with strength and declare the whole truth to the whole world! This must burn within her heart and soul and she must be totally consumed with God's purpose for her. Notice the scripture says, "thy voice", "the voice of one" – not voices. There are many voices out there today, but this same prophet wrote these words in Isaiah 52:8 "Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion." She is not much today in the sight of the world, especially in the religious realms. She is mocked because of her size and what she has or has not according to the world's standards, but I declare unto you that She is great in the sight of the Lord! His eyes are upon her and as she rises to the occasion just like John the Baptist, Elijah and the early church, God will supply her every need! She is set apart from this world. She is hated because of her message of _____

holiness today. Her stand against the sin and ungodliness of this adulterous generation does not set well, but she must be filled with the Holy Ghost and fire from heaven. Before Jesus left this earth, He told them to go back to Jerusalem and wait until they be endued with power from on high. Her affections must not be set on things of this world, but on things above where Christ sits on the right hand of the Father. I am not saying that nobody else is going to heaven - no, but The Church of God of these last days must be in tune with God at all times and listen to "the voice of one" - the voice of the head of the church as He gives the directions by the Holy Ghost. We do not know how to do or what to do except it be told us by "the voice of one" from on high and then each one of us must be willing to obey that voice as He speaks to us and be used by Him at His will. Jesus said the works that He did, we shall also, and even greater works than these.

Solomon's Song has something else for us too. Chapter 6:10 asks a question "Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?" Psalms 60:4 answers that question "Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah." The Church of God must lift her banner high because it stands for the truth. It was given to us by the Holy Ghost 79 years ago. What it stood for then, it stands for now. The truth that it stands for will never change!

Oh, let us walk on in truth. Let us each one do his bidding. Then one day, as we are carrying on the work, we shall hear "the voice of one" – the voice of the archangel with the trump of God sound and we shall be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and without tasting death, rise up to meet him in the clouds and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Amen! \square

October World Missions

International WMB Director ~Shirley Michael~

Matthew 16:18-19 "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. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

What is that <u>rock</u>? It is an understanding of all that Jesus is; His doctrines and His sayings. What does a <u>key</u> do? It locks up or it unlocks. We as the church have the <u>keys</u>. <u>Prayer and fasting</u> is the key.

and the Mission Drive

(Raise Funds)

Dear Sweet Ladies, we are on a mission to reach out to people who are in need of a Savior, that saves, heals and restores. We can give hope when it seems all hope is lost. We serve a God who can do all things. When God parted the waters of the Red Sea and the children of Israel walked across on dry ground, that tells me that He loves me too and He will part (my Red Sea) and I can walk across on dry ground. He can fix my problem or supply my need whether physical, mental or spiritual.

Let us pray, pray that our Outreach Ministry will be led by God to do His work, to reach His people, to build His church. He (Jesus) said He would build His church. Prayer is the Key. Then the Holy Ghost prompts us and gives us the zeal to know what to do, and how to do it.

Dear Sisters, let us gather at least once a month in someone's home to pray and seek God for the needs of our families, friends and neighbors. I know that the Lord will be pleased when we love Him and cry out to Him because He is everything to us. The world is in turmoil, but thank the Lord for His wonderful peace.

Please seek the Lord for the best way to raise <u>October World Mission</u> funds in your area. It takes finances to run a business. This is God's business. Let us work or should I say let us pray and work for God's business. God Bless You.

The 2012 U.S.A. **National Convention Report**

National Overseer ~Rodger Tidwell~

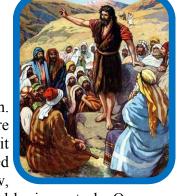
The 2012 National Convention was held this vear in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. Not only were there 11 different states represented, but God was there in a special way in each session. The Convention began on Thursday night and time was given for churches in different states to share the good news of what was going on across the country. There were several that shared testimonies of what God was doing in their respective areas. We heard from the church in Festus, Missouri about their move into a nice building on one of the main streets in that town. The church in Tremont Mississippi shared with us about the land they are in the process of purchasing and where they have plans to put their new church. The land will be right on a highway in the edge of a good size town. It sounds like a great location. Our church in Dunn, North Carolina has purchased another lot and house to add to the size of their property. Churches from other states were also present, including Oregon, Washington, Arkansas, Kentucky, Virginia and Utah of which testimonies were given by at least some or perhaps all of them of the great things which God is doing in their area.

On that first evening a message by Sister Cathy Jones was preached. The message was entitled "The Voice of One." She shared with us how that the Church "will see eye to eye." She also stressed that "we must be concerned for souls and listen to the Holy Ghost." Brother Charles Clark from Kentucky preached a messaged entitled "What Went Ye Out To See". He posed the question, "Does God see something in you that will cause Him to choose you as a messenger." sages were outstanding and a blessing.

On Friday morning, Bro. Harry Elder from West Virginia was in charge of the ABM/ CPMA program. He talked briefly on tithing and giving. He preached some on the Holy Ghost and that it would take Him to iron out the wrinkles and spots.

Bro. John Pultz from Virginia, who is our Eastern Regional Overseer preached a message after 12

the ABM/CPMA program. He spoke about being sure we are in the right spirit when we speak. We need to stand on what we know,



listen to God, and let God be in control. Once vou have received light you must walk in it. Let's be the Church, don't just say it but be IT! These morning messages were very inspiring and the Lord blessed.

After a time of fellowship at lunch we returned to feast on some more heavenly food. Sister Shirley Miller from Tremont, Mississippi had the Sunday School Program. She encouraged each one to go to Sunday School and invite others to do the same. Brother Lebert Lucas, a Sunday School teacher from Mississippi, read some scriptures and talked some on "where to turn when there is nowhere to turn". Brother Wayne Miller, pastor in Mississippi, had an illustration using items that contained different percentages of materials, such as a shirt, a coin and other things. He went on to say we need to be 100% pure and unmixed for God. He encouraged everyone to strive for 100% perfection. Sis. Glenda Lucas read a poem, "The Old Paths". This was a wonderful program.

Sister Elizabeth Wilkins from North Carolina boosted the publishing department. They stay busy publishing Sunday School literature, report books, The Banner of Truth, BTI books etc. She also told of the plans for publishing more tracts, A Minister's Policy Manuel, Body of Christ and BTI 2nd Term books in 2013. More workers are always needed. Help us pray for more workers in our headquarters and in the Publishing department. Sister Wilkins and those that help her in this department are doing a wonderful work and only God knows the extent of their labor and all that they do.

Bishop John Wilkins, our International Overseer, boosted giving a donation for some publications the Church of God Evangel 1919/White Wing Messenger/1923, and an article posted on "In The News" website. This money will go to help in the

publishing department. Bishop Wilkins also shared with us some about the work that is going on outside of the country, including word of a new contact in the country of Russia.

A Message by Brother Herman Lowe from Utah was preached on church growth and what it takes to be The Church of God. He spoke of how "we must love the people, love God and love what He says." We must do all His commandments and stand on the Word of God. Bro. Lowe inspired us to Be The Church of God!

Friday night Brother Keith Murphy from Oregon was in charge of the BTI program. He gave a report on the school that was held just prior to the convention. There were 17 registered. God blessed in a great way. One was saved, sanctified, and filled with the Holy Ghost. He was also baptized during BTI. What a wonderful school the Lord blessed us with. Testimonies were given by some of those who attended, Brother Tim Clark of Kentucky, Sister Ruth Evans of Washington, and Bro. Keith Murphy of Oregon. God is still in the saving, healing and blessing business! Praise the Lord!

We were thankful and blessed to have with us two pastors and their wives from The Church of God which is based in Charleston, Tennessee. They were Brother Raymond Hill and Sister Karen Hill and Brother John Honeycutt and Sister Shirley Honeycutt. Brother Hill testified and Sister Hill sang. What a blessing they were. Brother Honeycutt from Harrisburg, Arkansas preached on divine healing. He said, "If you want to have something you've never had before, then you may have to do something you've never done before!" He also let us know that, "there is a healer in the house and His name is Jesus." Sister Honeycutt also blessed the crowd with her singing. After the message we had the healing line. God blessed mightily in the prayer service.

Saturday morning Sister Shirley Michael from Alabama was in charge of the WMB program. This sister preached a powerful message and shared with us the following thoughts, "with prayer we can rescue our families. We must pray every day. One with God is an Army! If I take care of my earthly house, God will take care of my heavenly house. When we don't know what to pray the

Spirit will make intercession for us. Pray! Pray! Pray!"

Bishop John Wilkins, International Overseer preached a message titled, "A Little Dab Will Do You!" Following are some of the points he shared. "Without faith it is impossible to please God. He doesn't want 9% but 10% tithes. You can't out give God. Give until it feels good! We walk by faith and not by sight. We must have faith in the God we serve." This was an inspiring message and planted the thought that, "there was no place to turn around." Praise the Lord!

Sis. Susan Cox from Missouri preached a message Saturday afternoon. She stressed the following thoughts. "We must share what we have with others. He did not give us the knowledge we have to keep to ourselves. We will never loose our way if we remain in the light. He is the way, the truth, and the life." After this message an altar call was given and one was blessed with the baptism of the Holy Ghost! Praise God!!

Bro. Rodger Tidwell, National Overseer shared ideas on outreach and evangelism. He also had others to share ideas which they had prepared. It was a very informative time and gave us all ideas to take back with us to our churches.

We had an ordination service to ordain Bro. Herman Lowe as a Bishop. Bro. and Sis. Lowe were anointed and prayed for by Bro. Wilkins, Bro. Tidwell, and Bro. Elder. We welcome Bro. Herman Lowe as a Bishop for The Church of God.

The 2012 National Convention came to a close, but reluctantly. There is such a closeness among the membership and each one has taken something from the Convention that will bless them for some time. There seems to be an eagerness and excitement to go to work for the Lord and just see what He has planned for us. We are looking forward to the next time we meet and hearing the reports of what God has been doing. Amen!

Brother Tidwell wants to thank each one for coming to the convention and for the part they had in it. He wants them to know - What a great job each one did! What great singing! The preaching and sermons were with an anointing and wisdom. I was so proud of each one. \Box

FIRST TERM 2012 BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE REPORT

Class Reporter: ~Nellie Lowe, Utah~



First-Term Bible Training Institute was such a great blessing for the seventeen who were able to attend. From beginning to end the Holy Ghost manifested Himself. On the following pages meet our instructors and excerpts of each class taught.

BIBLE DOCTRINE—Brother Keith Murphy taught us that the Bible is our starting point and it is essential that we accept it as the infallible Word of God. 2 Timothy 3:16, 17. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." The Church believes in the whole Bible, not just part of it. When a person accepts the Bible as the Word of God, he accepts all its laws, its doctrines and its infallibility. The Church accepts the New Testament as its rule of faith and practice, government and discipline. We are to "shun the very appearance of evil." When we promise "to walk in the light," we pledge ourselves to accept the light of the Church. The membership covenant is a complete surrender of our own will and

desires to those of God.

HELPS AND GOVERNMENT (AUXILIARIES)—Brother Keith Murphy provided us with brief instructions to acquaint us with the fundamental organization of each auxiliary. Auxiliaries are to serve in promoting the interests of the Church. Ephesians 4:11, 12 "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:" God has always had a plan by which His work should be done in every dispensation. When this plan was used, it brought success, and if not used, failure came. Jesus came to earth and worked on the plan God had set out for Him. He organized the Church, shed His blood for many, purchased the Church, and according to His own statement, He finished the work the Father gave Him to do. We learned that a boy brought up in Sunday School is seldom brought up in court. Successful means a favorable end or result of any undertaking. So to be successful you must know how to organize or put the auxiliaries in operation.

CHURCH HISTORY—Brother John Wilkins so ably taught on Church History. Jesus purchased the Church with His blood and it belongs to no man. How glorious that although the Early Church was hidden by darkness, she was able to Arise, Shine in the last days. The opposite of darkness is light, so in order for the Church to arise out of darkness, light had to be revealed. Man is powerless to stop the Church from rising to meet her Groom when Christ calls her away. We learned that it takes the Covenant, not blood-line that makes The Church of God. Christ is the head of the church. Theocratic government was the rule of the church in the wilderness and must be the rule of the Church today. For theocracy to work in any age man must be willing to bow to the direction of God.





BIBLE (OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY)—Brother Charles Clark so aptly took us from The Creation and Fall to the Exile and Return in Malachi. There is great value to the Christian worker in a study of God's dealing with the world before the coming of Christ. We will be better equipped to tell others of the plan of salvation and God's divine Church. We learned that the earth has a beginning and it will have an end. The danger in not believing Genesis is that it is impossible to believe in Jesus. In our study about Joseph the crux of our lesson was that man would have to give up his special relationship with the Father and his birthright to be accepted by the world. In our study of Eli we understood that the Lord requires for a stand to be taken against sin.

CHURCH BUSINESS—Sister Brenda Fowler gave us great insight on Church Business as being that part of the church's function dealing with organization and methods which are necessary in the fulfillment of its spiritual commission. The Church is God's government in operation. In the study of Acts 15 we find that the Jerusalem Council is a glaring example of New Testament Church business. The Apostle Paul insisted on good business practices in the churches under his jurisdiction. Romans 12:11 "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;" The Church is visible – physical as well as spiritual – and it must carry on in good business practices. We have the many materials provided so that we may all operate with uniformity throughout the Church. It is good to "see eye to eye and speak the same thing" in business as well as in doctrine. Everything pertaining to our membership in The Church of God is spir-



itual business. The Church is God's government, and government is business. The Church is a commissioned body, and the commission is business. It involves every member in one way or another. We are commissioned to GO or to SEND; and it is important business either way.

CHURCH FINANCIAL SYSTEM—Sister Brenda Fowler taught us that in Malachi chapter 3 we do not "give" our tithes, we "pay" our tithes. This is our responsibility as much as our monthly bills are. Our tithes are to provide for our pastors and overseers. This Biblical plan will work and the blessings of God will flow as it is practiced. Good stewardship must be practiced at all levels and all must be accountable to God and to one another. We meet our church budget by free-will offerings given by the membership out of love for our facility and the love of God who makes it all possible. The Bible references indicate that God's people be cheerful givers. If we listen to the Bible and Holy Spirit and give as directed, we WILL be blessed beyond measure.

HOMILETICS—Brother Roger Tidwell taught us that Homiletics is another term for preparation of preacher and sermon and the delivery of that sermon. We learned that the sermon is meant to get people on the right path. The minister's preparation must begin with the call of God. Preachers are not in professions; they are in God's calling. We found that whether preacher or layman, no matter what we say, if our life doesn't measure up, the message will come to naught. Bro. Tidwell stressed the importance of study, prayer and fasting for the minister or teacher to be effective.

Luke 4:18, 19 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. "

Without this anointing our message will be lifeless and without purpose. A word spoken can reach the ears but a word spoken after study and prayer and fasting

will reach the heart. After the lost have been converted, they are to be nurtured to spiritual health with a steady diet of the meat of God's Word, seasoned with understanding and ministered with large doses of LOVE. We must have a balanced message.

We had 17 in attendance from all over the United States. Many of which were attendees for the very first time. Our oldest attendee was 92 years. Sis. Evans proved to us that one is never too old to learn. We experienced healings and help from the Lord almost everyday. Bro. Murphy stated that it seemed that Satan was on the war-path to keep this training from happening but because we were determined and of a made-up mind to receive from God, He blessed us each and every day.



OUR CHEF—Sister Murphy so graciously saw to it they we were all fed our lunch everyday and they were always delicious and a time of fellowship for us all. If we all gained weight, it is Sis. Murphy's fault. Thank you so much Sis. Murphy.

Every morning began with a devotion in which God blessed every day. On one particular day the Holy Ghost spoke with a message "Ye are my people I will not leave you forsaken. Trust in me. I will pour out my blessings upon you. There are many churches and organizations but ye are my own, my people I will be in the coming meetings. You have come many miles, I will be with you. I will not leave you. I

will bless you." And bless us, HE DID!!!

On one particular day, one young man in attendance came in at the beginning

of Bro. Murphy's class on Auxiliaries and said he needed prayer. Everyone gathered around him in the sanctuary and he was Saved, Sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost. He was then baptized in water at the end of our Bible Training Institute. We were so blessed to take part in Communion and Feet Washing on the last day of our

studies; one of the blessed highlights of the week for this reporter. There is nothing so precious as to be able to commune with Jesus Christ in such a sacred way.

On Saturday afternoon of the convention, Bro. Clark was privileged to administer the Covenant and receive his son into the great Church of God. What a climax to two glorious weeks of God's blessings. As Bro. Murphy was heard to comment, "That's what it's all about." Praise the Lord and AMEN!!!!!

PLAN NOW TO JOIN US NEXT YEAR FOR FIRST AND SECOND TERM OF BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE!



Class Reporter: Nellie Lowe, Utah

SUNDAY SCHOOL?



The purpose of Sunday School is to teach God's Word. The Sunday School is a great out reach for the Church to teach the Bible to

people who don't attend other services. It helps us introduce them to the power and grace found in the blood of our Lord Jesus. Sunday Schools show love and fellowship found nowhere else in the world. The people certainly need this today. They are crying out for acceptance to be a part of something they haven't found in their search for a more fulfilled and satisfying life. God's help in Sunday Schools will help them find this life.

Sunday School teachers of all ages should be counselors, prayer warriors, encouragers, able to keep confidences, able to pray with those who need and ask for prayer. In other words, blood bought teachers are servants, eager and able to serve. We should never need to be begged to work for our Lord.

We have Sunday School to help reveal God through His Word to those who don't know him or who don't understand the power of the Word. Sunday School helps to show his love, acceptance and willingness to help us what ever the need.

Many churches have been started by first having Sunday School. Every church needs an oper-

ating Sunday School. Only by teaching and living God's word can we be effective in the work of the Lord.

May God bless and keep you faithful in His work.

International Sunday School Director, Eunice Foster



Invitation

~Jannece Colon ~

I would like to invite all of you to come for our Ladies' Refreshing weekend October 12-14 in Ruidoso, NM. Please see attached application/info sheet. Let me know if you have any questions!

We are planning a wonderful weekend in the tall pines of Ruidoso, New Mexico and would love to have you join us! We are all so hungry for the fellowship with God and our sisters in Christ!

On Sunday afternoon, we will be having a baptism and open it up for anyone that would like to join the church. It is going to be a wonderful time of refreshing in the Lord!

We will start on Friday evening and end with Lunch on Sunday. Then, those that are not interested in staying may leave while we continue on in the Lord. After lunch, men are allowed! We are having Bro. Herman Lowe and Nellie Lowe from Utah with us and Bro. and Sis. Tidwell. We hope you can all come and join us! We are ready for a massive moving of the Lord out here in New Mexico.

If you gentlemen need to come with your wives, that would be great! Beware!! You will be having your own fellowship at a different location and coming in to cook for us at mealtime! Hope to see you there!

God Bless Each One! It is a time for Revival and Resolution to Live Refreshed!



Ladies' Refreshing



October 12—14, 2012 Ruidoso, New Mexico



Frazzled. Frustrated. Fatigued. Overwhelmed. Overworked. Overloaded. These words describe how most women feel as a result of stress being an epidemic in our society. This refreshing weekend will help women understand that they can live a life of peace, despite their circumstances, by learning to walk more intimately with our Lord. Women will be reminded of how we must empty ourselves out and lift our cup up for the Lord to replenish, "Fill My Cup Lord". This is a great opportunity to pamper yourself, physically and spiritually, and go back home refreshed and re-energized to live a life with less stress. Come experience a refreshing with us in the mountains of Ruidoso, NM. We are expecting a great time in the Lord! The cost is \$75.00 which covers your lodging, food, crafts, and all materials. All you need to bring with you is your clothes, Bible, pen and paper, and personal belongings. Come join us as you are, cup in hand, and hold it up to receive His blessings!

Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Phone #	Email address	
Do you have any spec	ial needs/dietary needs?	
	* * *	×.7
When was the last tin	ne you were at a camp/retreat	:?
Why do you want to a	attend? What do you hope to	get out of the weekend?

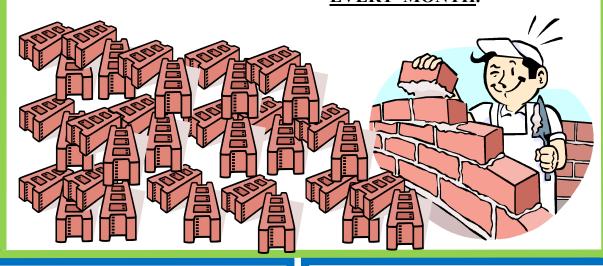
(When your application is received, we will send you out directions and everything else to prepare you to receive the most from our refreshing week-end!)

We are affiliated with The Church of God of North Carolina, however, we are open to any woman that is ready for a refreshing from our Lord and a wonderful time of fellowship in His word! Let's all come together and worship Him!

If you have any questions, please contact Jannece Colon at 575-631-3412 or by email at jannececolon@hotmail.com.

You can mail applications to Jannece Colon at 5026 N. Florida, Alamogordo, NM 88310/fax to 575-415-3807/or email to jannececolon@hotmail.com. Please notify and make your reservation by September 25, to ensure your spot!

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