

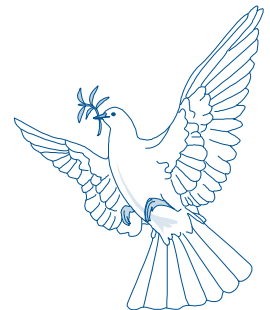


International Voice of The Church Of God Of North Carolina

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# 2012



# To ALL Nations

# “2012, A New Year – Same You”

John A. Wilkins, Jr.  
International Overseer



## Editorial....

The New Year is upon us and many are making plans for big things and setting new goals which in many cases have already been abandoned by now. Maybe our focus should be on the work of the Lord in this New Year just in case we don't make it to our new goals. There is nothing at all wrong with setting goals so long as they are reasonable and attainable by making slight adjustments here and there. The world is in a terrible mess economically because of sin and greed and we certainly cannot change the world but we can change our future by accepting what God has for us today. He has promised us His help and that He will never leave us nor forsake us.



*Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Hebrews 13:5-6*

Our prayer is, that our nation returns to God in Repentance for the national sins of supporting the abortion of innocent life and the tearing down of the family. The strength of a nation lies in it's families and the moral integrity of the same. Same-sex marriages now are being accepted in many states while God's Word is clear that marriage is between one man and one woman. The Bible tells us to obey God rather than man, so we must cling to Hebrews 6: 6 that says, *“... I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”* We must live in confidence that if we hold to His truth, He will take care of us and we must not fear as we proclaim His Word to this lost world. Let us focus on working for Him and He shall direct our pathway from earth to Heaven. *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.”*

Those who abide in this promise will have a happier, more prosperous year ahead in 2012 and taking the Lord as our helper is not a bad idea and in the end it will have heavenly benefits. Have a good year as you walk with Jesus day by day and remember, **“Do not ask Him for anything until you thank Him for what you already have”.** □

### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

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# CONTENTS

<b>2</b>	<b>From the Editor...</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Contents Page</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Message:</b> “THE LITTLE FLOCK THAT COULD”
<b>8</b>	<b>“BANNER OF TRUTH”</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Message:</b> “Trusting—God’s Guidance” HAPPY NEW YEAR!
<b>11</b>	<b>Testimony,</b> News From the Field!, Thanks To ALL
<b>12</b>	<b>Message:</b> “DOES ANGER DECEIVE YOU?”
<b>14</b>	<b>Contact Us...</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>WMB</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>“WELCOME!” , “Victory Leaders”</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>BTI</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Application... Plan NOW to Come</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Up-Coming Events!</b>



***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!***  
Isaiah 40:9

Zion, The Church of God reminds me of the children's story, "The Little Engine That Could" by Watty Piper. In this story there is a sickly, small engine which was given a big load of good things for all the children but there was a slight problem, the children were on the other side of the BIG Mountain. The little train started up and oh, how happy the little train was because of all the toys and nice gifts which were on board for the children. She huffed and puffed along with much gladness with all these nice gifts in tow, but then there was a sudden jerk and she could not go one bit further no matter how hard she tried. The wheels of the little train would not turn anymore and there she sat with all the gifts and no way to deliver them to the children on the other side of the mountain. What a predicament to be in, loaded to the hilt with wonderful gifts that would bring smiles to the faces of so many, but no way to move them. Then along comes another train

## "THE LITTLE FLOCK THAT COULD"

~John A. Wilkins, Jr.~  
International Overseer

with its glistening engine and everyone jumps out and they just know they have their answer, but "NO" says the shiny train, "I'll have nothing to do with you" and he goes on his own way. Here comes another bigger, stronger train and everyone is excited about it because it was well able to carry them on over the mountain. His reply was, "I am a Freight Engine. I have just pulled a big train loaded with big machines over the mountain." It seemed that all was lost as they stopped train after train but to no avail and then, as the story goes, a Little blue train comes up and she says, "I am not very big. They only use me for switching trains in the yard. I have never been over the mountain". Then she hitched herself to the little train and started the slow, slow pull and because she diligently pulled and kept saying, "I think I can, I think I can, I think I can", she did and at last she reached the top of the mountain and to the other side.

While this is a bit elementary, it is a quick overview of our history as The Church of God which He chose to organize on the top of the mountain. Jesus organized His Church with just 12 men on the Horns of Hittin, in the Holy Land, near the sea of Galilee because Isaiah had already set the stage in prophecy.

***There shall be an handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon: and***

***they of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth.*** Psalms 72:16

***And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*** Isaiah 2:2-3

Now the schedule calls for only one train to climb over the mountain. There are many trains in the yard and some on the rails, but just ONE of them will make the climb successful, and that one will be His chosen, the remnant of the faithful to the standard of holiness set forth in the precious Word of God. The Big Ones, the Shiny Ones, the Powerful Ones and the Beautiful Ones will not work for this climb. Only the "Covenant People" of God who are walking by His commandments and obeying Him instead of man are fit for this train.

***And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:*** Mark 3:13-15



Now when He set His House in order, it wasn't in a room filled with seekers tarrying for the Holy Ghost, but it was rather a humble beginning on the Horns of Hittin where He called unto Him whom He would, not all of His disciples but one dozen men who were called out of His followers. He then led them out to Bethany where He lifted His hands and blessed them and instructed them to then go and tarry in Jerusalem until they be endued with power from on high. Their preaching did not begin until after they had received the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost because they were not equipped with the power He had promised until that time. Too many are trying to preach without this blessing of sanctification that they received prior to the Holy Ghost experience when He lifted His hands and blessed them and prepared them to receive the new experience of the infilling with the Holy Ghost. Many are running around speaking in tongues without SANCTIFICATION, and this has caused many problems today because they are unfit for the Holy Ghost to dwell in them. They have an unclean temple not fit for the Holy Ghost to come and take up His abode and dwell there. How can you have the Holy Ghost when the "Old Man" has never been put to death? The world needs to see and the Church needs to have Holy Men of God, full of the Holy Ghost, leading them in the paths of righteousness, and we will see signs following these believers and the world taking notice due to the power of God being manifested through them. We cannot climb

the mountain with a weak powerless engine that breaks down every time there is a bit of a load put on Her. His Church must be a well-oiled machine and that oil must be fresh Holy Ghost anointing oil by the administration of the Holy Ghost. God's leaders must be Holy men above reproach who will embrace the help of others who have the power of God working through them. One good test of leadership is to ask, "How do you feel about UNITY? Could you embrace others who are like minded and want to walk the walk with you in order to be The Church of God, the Church of Bible prophecy?" Many have no desire to walk in unity with anyone other than their little crowd and will quickly tell you that they have all that are worth saving working with them. When we read the 17th chapter of John we quickly find out that such a one cannot be walking with God. They simply are unfit to climb the mountain with the blessings that our text verse is talking about.

***O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain:***

This is why there is so much division among God's "Covenant People" today. We simply can't climb the mountain to deliver the goods of a Church full of power and glory because we are divided and scattered as the "Covenant People of God". While some of us give our sweat, blood and tears to Christ and His Church, we hear that we are lost because we will not embrace the will of men. It is time to call the "Little Flock That Could" and get back on the train together as ONE. Many have too much glitter

and in their opinion their engine is too shinny, but there is something about to happen to reveal their true spirit as they have turned their back again and again on TRUTH. In truth, the only engine that can climb this mountain runs on the Holy Ghost, not man's opinion and self-made doctrines. The only fuel for this engine is TRUTH in order to climb into this MOUNTAIN. Jesus left just 12 men with the "Great Commission".

***And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*** Mark 16:15-18

***That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:*** Ephesians 1:10

***And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*** John 10:16 ONE (1) in any language means ONE, singular and no more. He will have but ONE no matter what man may say and our job is to make sure we have not boarded the wrong train. It is the sanctified ONE, that has been washed and made clean by the

preaching of the Word of Truth.

***That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 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.*** Ephesians 5:26-27

Now the world church does not want to talk about sanctification anymore because that message will mess with their offering plates, but His Church must preach it in order to have the power for the climb up the mountain lest we stall and turn into the world church. He has called us out of darkness to be the light of the world, a city set on a hill, which cannot be hid or covered over by the world.

***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.*** Romans 9:27-28

In the story, the little "Blue Engine" had never done anything spectacular, only moved trains around the yard, but it was now time to shine, so she hooked on to the train and started for the top of the mountain. It was a struggle to move all the gifts and things that would bring so much joy to those on the other side, but she did not let up; she huffed and puffed and slowly the train started to move and the gifts were on board still. The "Little Flock That Could" has had a very hard time moving the gifts up the tracks due to the weight and hindrances along the tracks, but She is

beginning to move ever so slowly along the same tracks of holiness toward the goal of the top. She has been mocked by the big and powerful, the shiny and glittering, the other engines who have ignored Her, but she is now beginning to move and She still has the gifts on board; salvation, deliverance from sin, sanctification and the gift of the Holy Ghost, divine healing as well as many others too numerous to mention. She has been derailed a few times such as 325 AD, 1923, 1991, 1993, 1996 and others, but the engine was never destroyed. While She lay on Her side from 325 AD until June 13, 1903, the engine was still running, and once back on her rails, she steamed ahead for a while uninterrupted, then derailed again by men who were determined to stop Her in 1923 and again in 1991 and so on, but She has never been defeated. She has again and again risen to the challenge and steamed on because of the fuel of TRUTH wrought in the hearts of men led by the Holy Ghost. God has sustained Her and this time She will make the final climb to the top of the mountain no matter how small the world thinks She is because She doesn't run on opinion. His Church is Holy Ghost led and fed and will make this run successful all the way. ARE YOU ON BOARD or do you doubt Her size and ability? Do you measure Her by the bright shiny engine or the big powerful one? Have you confidence in the engineer, the owner or the power of Her, is there any doubt in your mind? Have no doubt, or fear; She is going to make it no matter how small She may look to the rest of the world.

The song says: "With all oth-er church-es a-against her, They en-vy her glo-ry and fame; They hate her be-cause she is chos-en, And has nev-er de-nied His dear name, De-sir-ing to low-er her stand-ard, They watch ev-ry move that she makes; They love to find fault with her teach-ing, But real-ly they find no mis-take. **"The Great Speckled Bird"** by Sarah E. McDaniel

***...lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid;***

We have no need to fear because the Lord Himself is our strength on this train. It is not a man made train with all the problems of such a train. It is a train bought by the Lord, powered by the Holy Ghost and only when man thinks he is in control does She ever run under a load and climb ever so slow. When She is under the power there is very little resistance and the hill is taken in stride without much trouble. When there has been jerking and stopping, it is due to the trouble caused by men, and examples of this can be found throughout our history. There has been derailment by men just as in 325 AD when the Roman Emperor, Constantine took over the controls and derailed Her for a while. After the Lord had established His Church somewhere around 27 AD, She began to pick up momentum rather quickly and was able to reach the entire known world in short order until man got a hold of the controls. The adoption of the Nicene Council of 325 AD officially placed the rule of the Church under the Roman State. This plunged the world into the period known as the "Dark Ages" and it would be some 1578

years before the dark veil would be removed by the "Arise Shine" of June 13, 1903. During this time the Roman Catholic Church replaced the engine which was set on the rails by Jesus Christ and suddenly Peter became a Pope in the minds of the people instead of the humble servant that he really was. When man begins assigning titles and positions, theocracy takes a back seat and the error becomes bigger and bigger. Satan has a field day with deception and the train is derailed again, and again. From a humble beginning of 12 men She has climbed up the mountain successfully until man took the controls and Her climb was over for 1578 long years while She lay on Her side unable to move up the mountain. She will not be completely derailed again, but Her wheels will turn ever so slowly that movement is hardly possible at times such as now when once again man has attempted to derail Her. **Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish. Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought. For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.** Isaiah 41:10-13

Until then She had continued to climb, until theocracy was

replaced by men. When She climbed back out of the "Dark Ages" on June 13, 1903, She ran well until men derailed Her again and decided they needed educated men more than the Holy Ghost and theocracy was once again pushed to the side. There is nothing wrong with having a PhD unless the education gets in the way of the Holy Ghost and then there is derailment. We need education in the Church but we need the Holy Ghost of God more! God's Church has been derailed by men over and over with more than 35 major splits since the "Arise Shine" in 1903 until the present time. How many more splits will we have to have before He says it is enough? There is nothing wrong with the "Little Flock", but we must allow the right engine to pull us up the mountain. She may not look like the best one for the job, but She has the right owner, Jesus Christ, the right conductor, the Holy Ghost and the right message of TRUTH which is the fuel that will power Her safely over the top. Nothing else will work. Powerful men that have all the influence over the people, money, fame and experience will fall short on this train. Since Constantine, men have lowered the standard in attempts to gain the masses and they have talked about the millions who will come in and help us to be Church of God, but the precious old book, the Bible doesn't bear this out. His Word tells us that Hell is awaiting those who turn from His commandments to swell their congregations with those who have not been redeemed by the blood.

***Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they***

***have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst. Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure; and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it. And the mean man shall be brought down, and the mighty man shall be humbled, and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled: But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness.*** Isaiah 5:13-16

This train will only have the redeemed of the Lord on board and we have nothing to fear. Here He is speaking to His Church and giving us His assurance for the days ahead.

***But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not***

*back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.* Isaiah 43:1-7 (KJV)

***Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*** Luke 12:32 (KJV)

Jesus here gives us His assurance that we have no need to fear and the Holy Ghost has called us, "My little flock" and told us not to "fear what man may do" over, and over again. He has also said, "Gather around me" over and over but nowhere has He said to gather around man. This train doesn't run by man's way or control, so we must turn to the Lord for the help we need to stay on board this "Little Train" to the other side of the mountain. People are being tempted to try man's way, and many are doing so, but in the end they will come up short but it is still not too late to jump trains and switch to the "Little Train" with the gifts and goods to bring happiness and peace full of joy unspeakable and full of glory

as we climb the mountain together. The hour is late and the day is far spent, but all are welcome on this train, those under the covenant and those who want to be saved and come under the "Banner of Love" and the conductor (Holy Ghost) is calling now, "All Aboard, All Aboard". You still have time to climb aboard even though the wheels are beginning to turn much like the wheels of a clock; it is hard to see the movement, so jump on while there is time and your ticket has been issued by Jesus who has bought you with His blood.

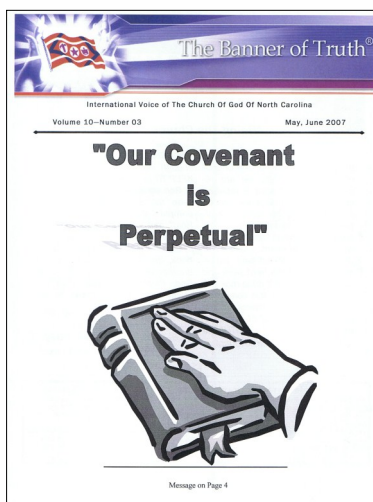
***What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*** 1 Cor 6:19-20 (KJV)

***Your ticket is in your hand, what will you do with it?***

She cannot be measured by size or numbers or anything else in man's tool box of equipment, but a complete reliance upon God is necessary. The Holy

Ghost must run this engine in order to make the climb to the top! Man's way simply will not get it to the top, in fact it will not move Her at all. The gifts are all still on board and souls are waiting to jump on board, but once again men have caused doubt and confusion, and many will lose out on the trip over the mountain. Some say that the Church has failed but they are measuring Her by man's measurements and that is unwise. She must be measured by the Word of God and She has not failed! She is still climbing and though Her movement may be slow, hardly noticeable at times, She is steadily creeping up the mountain and will make the top where it will be too late to come aboard then. Her run will be over and She will not come back! The conductor is checking the tickets and those without the seal of His blood will be put off this train.

**"The Little Flock That Could"** trust God will safely pull into the station in victory because of the "TRUTH" and Her reliance on the Holy Ghost to lead. □



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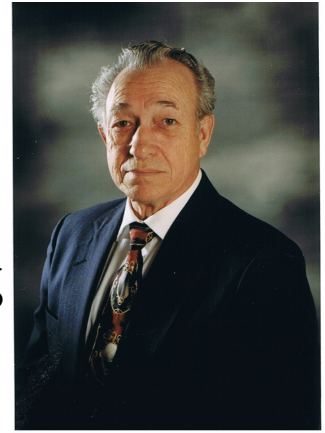
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# TRUSTING — God's Guidance Happy New Year!

~ Hillard Foster, Sr. ~  
Crab Orchard, KY



Proverbs 3:1-8 *My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.*

**Text Verse** Proverbs 3: 5, 6 *Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

**Introduction:** We stand today at the gate of a New Year and see the road ahead. We cannot see far, and without God's wisdom we will not see with understanding. At best we expect to experience beyond our present limited horizon, some complex and confusing turns in the road that will test our highest knowledge and deepest commitment. How will we fare? There will be hills to climb and bumpy sections to cross. How shall we get along? In fact, we ask ourselves at the start of the year, is there any assurance we can safely and successfully make it?

Our text says we can make it and VICTORIOUSLY, if we will trust GOD's guidance. "TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL THINE HEART; AND LEAN NOT UNTO THINE OWN UNDERSTANDING. IN ALL THY WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM, AND HE SHALL DIRECT THY PATHS".

Here we find some great words for this New Year, a battle cry for the testing times, and a comfort and strength for our uncertainty. It is a sufficient substitute for a road map even though our eyes cannot discern the turns, the stops, the difficulties,

or the pleasures ahead. What does this text say to you?

## I. GOD CAN GUIDE US IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVING.

In every decision, every action, in every development of our lives, "HE SHALL DIRECT THY PATHS".

A. The analogy of a road builder and maintenance chief are suggested in the word "DIRECT". These assure that we travel to a desired destination as the road is built and maintained. The Hebrew language contains several words for road or path. They talk about a highway, a way, a narrow path, a broad path, a raised up way, customary path or road. The word in Proverbs 3:6, is the customary way or usual path or road. GOD relates to us as road builders and as maintenance chiefs in the customary or day-to-day travels of our lives.

God cuts the road straight and keeps it useful. That is what is meant by this promise, He shall direct thy paths. We can get where we ought to be because God is available to prepare the way. He is active in all our affairs. We may not see the road builder and the maintenance chief during every mile traveled, but we do not move an inch without their help. But this analogy does not say enough.

## B. GOD GOES WITH US.

The God who guides us does, in fact, become personally involved with us on every inch of our journey. He promises: "*I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye*". Psalms 32:8

Isaiah 58:11a, *And the LORD shall guide thee continually,...*

John 16:13 *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

Psalms 48:14 *For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.*

## II. GOD CAN GUIDE US, BUT THREE CONDITIONS DETERMINE HIS GUIDANCE.

### A. ACKNOWLEDGE HIM. First, "IN ALL THY WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM", that is, in all thy steps of your journey, see that you acknowledge Him as your guide.

Recognize GOD. Take notice of Him. We likely have had the experience of meeting a person on the street whom we knew well, but who was preoccupied in thought or conversation and did not respond to our greeting. We either smilingly passed on by that person, or spoke again or touched the person on the shoulder. No slight was intended, but acknowledgement was missed. Again, as close family members, we have experienced the times when a preoccupied member of our family did not hear what was said, though it was spoken directly to the person. If this can happen in our relationships with friends, it surely can happen in God's relationship with us. By our preoccupation we may miss His guidance. So if we have His guidance, we must pay attention to God with the sensitivity of a faith that is alive and expectant, and not just in special moments of devotion and set-apart prayer. We are to acknowledge Him in all our ways, in the days and nights, at work and play, in rest or worship, in relationships and when we are alone.

### B. TRUST HIM.

This brings us to the second condition of His guidance. "***Trust in the Lord with all thine heart***" We trust Him in the hours of special need when there is no one else to trust, or we trust Him when we are called upon to do some unique assignment with which we feel insecure. But how about our trust level when we are unaware of needs, or when the ordinary experiences of

life are in process? Trusting God, like loving Him, must be total in degree. We must desire Him totally in the ordinary experiences of everyday.

If you will think of Two Professing Christians; both affirm their faith in Jesus Christ. One is stable and copes with changes so smoothly that to the casual observer it seems easy. The other Christian is insecure. Any threatened difficulty creates a panic. If the currents of trouble are navigated at all, it is by the barest margin. What's the difference? The one with unwavering faith has sought and found the guidance of God. The other "double-minded" person is unstable because he does not acknowledge God in all his ways.

### C. DON'T DEPEND ON YOURSELF.

These first two conditions may be labeled positive conditions. However, there is a third that can be labeled a negative condition. "***Lean not to thine own understanding***". One Revised Version says, "DO NOT RELY ON YOUR OWN INSIGHT". Another says, "DON'T TRUST YOURSELF". This condition suggests the absolute inadequacy of life without His guidance. We really can't make it on our journey without Him.

Some people pay an unnecessarily high price to learn that self management leads to endless defeat.

A family of faith decided not to trust God one day and leaned on their own understanding. God promised to Abraham and Sarah a child, but no child was born. After years of waiting, Sarah decided to help God out of His dilemma of not being able to provide a child. She utilized the surrogate custom of that time. Sarah's servant, Hagar, was given to Abraham. From that union Ishmael was born. In due time, the child of promise, Isaac, was born to Sarah and Abraham. Eventually hostility and jealousy between the two women and the two boys came to such a crisis that Hagar and Ishmael were sent away. However, this personal hostility fruited into national hatred and religious persecution between Arabs and Jews, and Muslims and Christians. That still exists today. We can only defeat ourselves and God's purpose when we lean on our own



understanding.

**Conclusion.** God wants to give us His guidance. He knows our need for it; He knows our failure without it. But He likewise knows our capacity to follow His direction. He has a unique plan for each of us.

He waits for us to pay attention to Him, to trust Him with the whole heart, and to reject our own abilities to guide ourselves. He can guide us and will, when we trust His guidance. □

## Being Lead By The Lord

~James Miller, Pastor at Tremont MS~

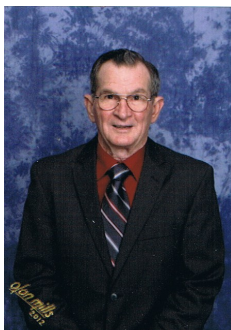
The Lord has been so good to us. He has blessed us in so many ways. We give Him the praise and glory.

Most of our congregation at church felt for several years that we needed to move on to be in the Lord's will, but we had no preacher or leader. So we did not make a move. Some of us visited other local congregations, but we did not feel that was where God wanted us to be.

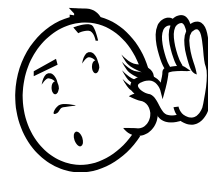
On September 17, 2006 we had Sunday School for the first time in the local Community Center. The first Sunday we had twelve in attendance. The next Sunday twenty-four, and then we started running in the thirty's. The Lord was really blessing us, then the Devil stepped in and divided us just about in half. But Praise the Lord the Lord God knows who is His. Several of our people from the church we left said, "you will not have enough finance to make it on your own". But Praise the Lord He has met every need.

In the beginning we did not know what to call ourselves, but we felt like we were called out, so we called ourselves The Church of God-Called Out. We went by this name for about two years. Then God showed us His Church, The Church of God of NC.

We came into the Church with twelve members. God has blessed us in so many ways. We are in the process of looking for a lot to build a church. Just Pray for us because God will make a way when there seems to be no way. Just Pray for us here at Tremont that we will always be in God's will. □



## News From the Field...



On Sunday Evening Dec. 4, the Tremont church had dinner at O'Bryan's Steak house in Hamilton, AL. We had a great time of fellowship. Shirley Miller the pastor's wife, had games and prizes with everyone receiving a small gift.

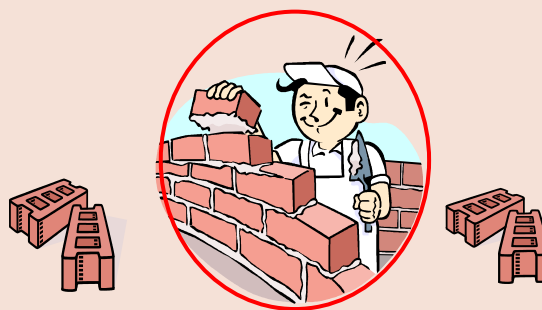
Brother & Sister Swindle from Adamsville, AL was with us. We had several visitors. There were twenty three in attendance.

What a beautiful way to begin the season of the celebration of Jesus. We were gathered together in His name so He was in the midst. What a wonderful promise. We here at Tremont church hope you have a blessed New Year.

Shirley Michael, Reporter

# Thanks to ALL !

For being a part of the **Brick Plan** by  
**PLEDGING \$50.00 Monthly** to help **International Headquarters** over the top.



## "The 50's Plan"

**Send to: The Church of God of NC**  
**310 W. Edgerton St.**  
**Dunn, NC 28334-4106**



## “DOES ANGER DECEIVE YOU?”

~John A. Pultz~  
World Mission Secretary

*For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.* Matthew 5:20-22

The Jews of Jesus' day had a hard time accepting His teaching that the fulfilling of the law had to come from the heart, not just the outward appearance. That is what hypocrites do, an outward appearance of holiness, while their hearts' desire is to do the opposite.

Every man has a measure of control over his spirit. But, only those who are born again, having received a new heart and a new Spirit of God, have the ability to govern and temper their heart and actions in accordance to God's will. Jesus, in the preceding verses, is saying that the intent, the "spirit" of the law is what

needs fulfilling, not the "letter". You can go through the motions and rituals of being a Christian, but everything with God is a matter of the heart.

*Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*

Through the various cap-  
tivities that God had allowed to come to Israel, due to their disobedience, they not only had many among them that spoke a language other than Hebrew, but many of the scribes and Pharisees had also incorporated ideas, opinions and traditions into the law, which God had never intended nor instructed. They taught these as though they were the commandments of God. Jesus rebuked them in Matthew 15:3,6 *But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?*

Now we are quick to recognize this sort of thing in our day, in other groups (Roman Catholics, etc...), but we are not as quick to recognize it in our own midst, at times. Whenever any of us, as ministers of God's Word, insert our ideas or opinions into our messages, we are doing the same thing, to one degree or another. Jesus gave the commandment, *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:...* Matthew 28:20a

He has given us the Holy

Ghost to lead us into all truth, as He continues to instruct us: *For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.* Romans 8:14

In Martin Luther's day, the Catholic priesthood kept the Bible translated only in Latin, making it a crime for anyone else to have the Word of God or another translation. This allowed them to interpret and teach only what they wanted, not what the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Ghost, revealed. We have to be careful that we fulfill the spirit of the law of God's Word and not the letter.

You are probably asking yourself, what does this have to do with anger? When we let anger have any place in our heart, it will eventually manifest itself by us forming ideas and opinions that we will unwittingly allow to creep into our preaching, teaching and witnessing.

*Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.* Matthew 5:23-24

Jesus makes it clear, that if there is anything amiss in our relations one to another, as His children, we are to do our part to straighten it out immediately, even if we have to interrupt our prayer to do it. He knows that we have to address these matters of



anger and contention or they will fester and lead us down a path that He has not prepared for us.

***For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: ...Matthew 15:19-20a.***

Even to be angry with our fellow Christians, "without a cause" is compared with murder. The anger He is talking about, is the anger that festers in the heart, imagining evil that could come to those with whom we are angry or disagree with, whether fellow Christians or lost souls. It would be impossible not to get upset or angry, at times. But, when we let it have a place in our heart, we are in trouble with God. Keep in mind, that we can be angry at what one does, especially a fellow Christian, without directing hatred or hostility towards that person. ***Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.*** Galatians 6:1

The Holy Ghost helps us to use our faith to take the sting out of offences: Ephesians 6: 16 ***Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.*** Then He filters the offence and our response with the love of God: ***... because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*** Romans 5:5b.

Sometimes we wonder why God doesn't seem to bless us as we have seen Him bless others. It may seem that He isn't answering our prayers, even though we

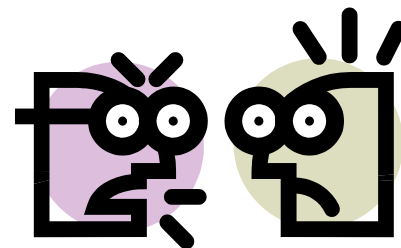
continue to praise and worship Him and seek His face. Let us make sure that we are not harboring any ill thoughts against others or unforgiveness, that would hinder our prayers. Peter even warns husbands and wives not to let ill feelings come between each other ***...that your prayers be not hindered.*** I Peter 3:7b

There are times when we go to one who we feel has done us wrong or that we have done them wrong and with honest humility we are able to get and receive forgiveness. At other times, all of our attempts to reconcile with someone, whether the offence is real or imagined, come to naught. The Apostle Paul gives us instructions in these matters: ***Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*** Romans 12:17-18

Most of us have heard it preached, "He casts our sins into the sea of forgetfulness". You will not find that quote in scripture. What you will find is: ***...and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.*** Micah 7:19b.

We may not always forget what a brother or sister or anyone else has done to us or to others, but we can keep the hurt out of our hearts by loving them and using the experience to gain wisdom for any future dealings, with those individuals. We can also use the experience to help others cope with troublesome individuals. The Holy Ghost makes us resilient. He helps us to bounce back into shape, not only undamaged, but more mature, spiritually.

We must keep in mind



that it is not what happens to us that matters. Rather, it is how we respond that shows whether or not we are the children of God that we claim to be. While it is often difficult to love the unlovely, if we: ***Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*** II Timothy 2:15, it becomes easier, because ***...we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*** Romans 8: 28b.

So, if all things work together for good for us, according to God's purpose, then there must be a reason that He allows certain offences to come our way. And Jesus said: ***But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*** Matthew 6:15.

***Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*** Ephesians 4: 26-27, 31-32

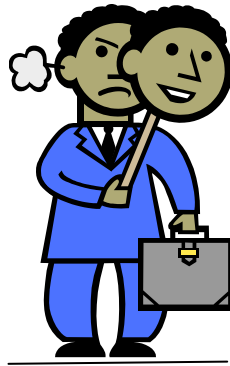
Anger is a God given emotion. But, just like all God given emotions and drives that are



inherit in these bodies, we must bring it into subjection. ***But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a cast-away.*** I Corinthians 9: 27

There is only one Greek word (hypopiazoi) that is translated "But I keep under". This Greek word means "to beat black and blue, to bruise". Paul is saying that he has to actively do his part to remain sanctified. He has to bring his emotions into subjection to the Word of God, as the Holy Ghost leads and empowers him. He has to use the power that the Holy Ghost makes available to him. He has been bought with a great price, paid by the Lord Jesus Christ at Calvary. The Lord paid for our salvation and sanctification with His own blood, so that we could receive the power of the Holy Ghost, ***Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*** Titus 2:12

Sometimes we perceive things in the wrong way. Our receivers get out of whack. We think that someone meant to hurt us or put us down by something they said or did, when in reality, that thought never crossed their mind. The enemy tries to make us think this way to cause disunity and confusion. We must keep our minds and spirits under subjection to God's Spirit, lest these things get a foothold in us: ***For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.*** James 3:16 Remember the words of Paul, about Satan's deceitful ways: ***Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not***



***ignorant of his devices.*** II Corinthians 2:11

The only way we can prove that we are not ignorant of Satan's devices and prove our love

for God is to let God's love motivate all that we do and think. We don't have any time to waste being angry one with another or with the lost. Let us follow the command of Jesus: ***By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*** John 13: 35

When the enemy of our souls tries to make your blood boil, remind yourself of the words of Jesus as He hung upon the cross, wounded, beaten and dying: ***...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.*** Luke 23: 34b and the words of Stephen, as he was being stoned to death: ***...Lord Jesus, ...lay not this sin to their charge...*** Acts 7: 59b, 60b

The conclusion of the matter is this: ***Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even***

***as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.*** Colossians 3: 12-14

***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*** Galatians 5: 22-23

If we allow the Holy Ghost to continually wash us with the water of the Word, then the love of God will fill our hearts,



***To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.*** I Thessalonians 3:13 □

## E-MAIL ADDRESSES @ HEADQUARTERS



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## Letter from our International Women's Missionary Leader.

310 W. Edgerton Street  
Dunn, NC 28334



Phone: (910) 891-5017  
Fax: (910) 891-5693

### The Church of God of NC

*International Women's Missionary*

[www.thechurchofgodofnc.org](http://www.thechurchofgodofnc.org)

February 16, 2012

Greetings to our dear ladies all over the world. I'm Shirley Michael and I've been appointed as your International Women's Missionary Leader.

I want to encourage each local church to have an active Women's Missionary Band and I want to encourage the leader of the band to report to your National WMB leader each quarter.

March is World Mission Month. Let's do something special to raise funds like have a yard sale, bake sale or maybe you know another way to raise money for missions.

Luke 10:38-42 *Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, **Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.***

Martha was cumbered about much serving. Cumbered means (to distract with care). We ladies are born care givers. Let us be like Mary, sit at the feet of Jesus, hear His word and then minister His care to others. As we do this, He will build His church, The Church of God.

In Christ,

Shirley Michael

## Letter from our International Sunday School Director

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5297 Hwy. 39 South  
Crab Orchard, KY 40419



Phone: (606) 355-2932  
Office: (910) 891-5017

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### Sunday School Department

January 31, 2012

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

To all Sunday School workers, superintendents, teacher's cradle roll workers, children church workers and those on visitation committees.

I want to say, thank you for your continued efforts in the Sunday School work and to encourage you to keep on working.

The Holy Ghost has told us many times to stay in the Word. Our Sunday Schools are a very effective way of doing this. After the teacher has prepared for the class through prayer and study, the Word (bread) is cast upon the waters. Seeds are planted and watered, and then God gives the increase.

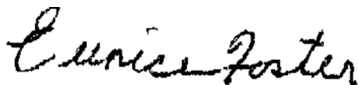
What a privilege it is to be a Sunday School Worker! What a privilege to have a part in a lost soul coming to know the Lord. Whatever our hands find to do, let's do it with all our might for Christ and His Church. Great will be the reward.

Superintendents, ask the Lord for direction to organize your Sunday School for effectiveness and growth. Please do not be discouraged if you are small and need workers. Work with what you have and watch what the Lord will do.

Also, please be faithful and timely to fill out and submit your reports, regardless of your size. These reports are very important. If you need report books, please contact me at the above address or you may reach me by phone at (606) 355-2932.

You are in my prayers and I will be glad to assist you any way that I can.

Yours for the Master,



Eunice Foster,



# Welcome

## WELCOME To Our New Staff Member



The Church of God of North Carolina welcomes to the headquarters staff, Ms. Cathy Jones. She will be serving as the Executive Secretary to the International Overseer and assisting with other work as needed here at headquarters. Sister Cathy comes to us from Alabama where she worked with Camp ASCCA of Jackson's Gap, Alabama. She has been with them for the past 20 years as an accountant prior to her retirement, January 14, 2012. Sister Jones is a graduate of Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting.

She is not new to The Church of God, but she is new to our staff and to the City of Dunn where she is making her new home. Her home is not far from the office where she lives there with her two little dogs that are very dear to her heart.

Sister Jones is an ordained minister and teacher with The Church of God and has previously pastored for a number of years with another organization. She is the first one you will normally see when visiting our headquarters offices and in most cases the one you will first reach when calling into our office. We are proud to have her on our staff and ask each of you to help her feel welcome.

John A. Wilkins, Jr.,  
International Overseer

## Bearing Fruit

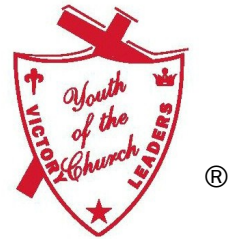
For some of us, this year was mild and wet. This caused some of the trees to begin to bloom early. If the weather stays mild, the tender delicate blooms will survive. If it turns colder, the tender, delicate blooms will freeze and fall from the branches that hold them up. The tree and its branches can withstand the cold temperatures and stand strong if they are not weighted down by ice during the cold. The damage to the early blooms cannot be recovered. As the spring returns at its normal time, the damaged blooms will be lost until the next spring. The fruit that the tree would have born is lost for the year, which means the harvest may not be abundant. Life can mirror this when you go through lukewarm religion or trying times. Our faith in God provides for us in times of need, as long as we remember the fruit of the Spirit. Love, joy and peace sound so wonderful, yet we must not forget longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. The last six take work and by that I mean Prayer.

God shed his blood so that we, as his children, would have the benefits of the fruit of the Spirit. Unlike the blooms, we **can** recover before the next spring as long as we look toward him for grace and mercy. God provides in the toughest times, even when we try to do it ourselves. I have been through trying times. I have felt like the bloom that has fallen to the ground. God loves us so, that He will give us the loving little nudge to bear all things. There is a saying that is going around lately. It states "What doesn't kill you will make you stronger." I thank God he is making me stronger.

Galatians 5:22-26 ***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.***

Jona Nelson  
International VLB Director

VICTORY LEADERS BAND

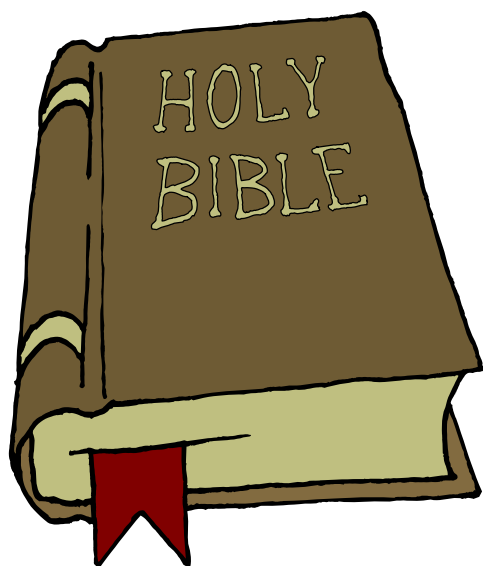


# BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

**July 24-31, 2012**

**440 Kentucky St.  
Walnut Ridge, AR 72476**

**Theme: "I Believe It"**



**Tuition—\$55.00  
(Includes Lunch)**



# APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE



**Phone:** (910) 891-5017  
(910) 891-5010

**The Church of God of NC**  
**310 W. Edgerton St.**  
**Dunn, NC 28334**

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

I hereby make application for admission to Bible Training Institute. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in Full: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle Maiden

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

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ (Students must be at least 16 years of age by enrollment date of School they will be attending).

Give name and address of nearest relative: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

(Check the following which applies to you) Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Married \_\_\_\_\_

Single \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Are you Saved? \_\_\_\_\_ Sanctified? \_\_\_\_\_

Have the Holy Ghost? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a member of The Church of God of NC? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

For what special work are you preparing? \_\_\_\_\_

If a minister, what license do you hold? \_\_\_\_\_

If in the ministry, in which state are you presently working? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you physically and mentally able to take this course? \_\_\_\_\_

Education: Elementary \_\_\_\_\_ years, High School \_\_\_\_\_ years, College \_\_\_\_\_ years.  
(no certain amount of education is required, but you should be able to read and write).

I hereby pledge myself to be loyal to all the rules as outlined by Bible Training Institute.

Applicant's signature \_\_\_\_\_

**A deposit of \$25.00 is required with application (Non-Refundable).**

# **Up-Coming Events**

## **NATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **U. S. A.**

➔ **Bible Training Institute**  
**July 24-31, 2012**

➔ **National Convention**  
**August 2-4, 2012**

### **Philippines**

➔ **Bible Training Institute**  
**April 9-20, 2012**

➔ **National Convention**  
**April 20-22, 2012**

➔ **National Youth Camp**  
**April 23-27, 2012**

## **Pray for These Events**

**“THE BANNER OF TRUTH”**

310 W. Edgerton St.  
Dunn, NC 28334-4106

**Address Service Requested**

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