

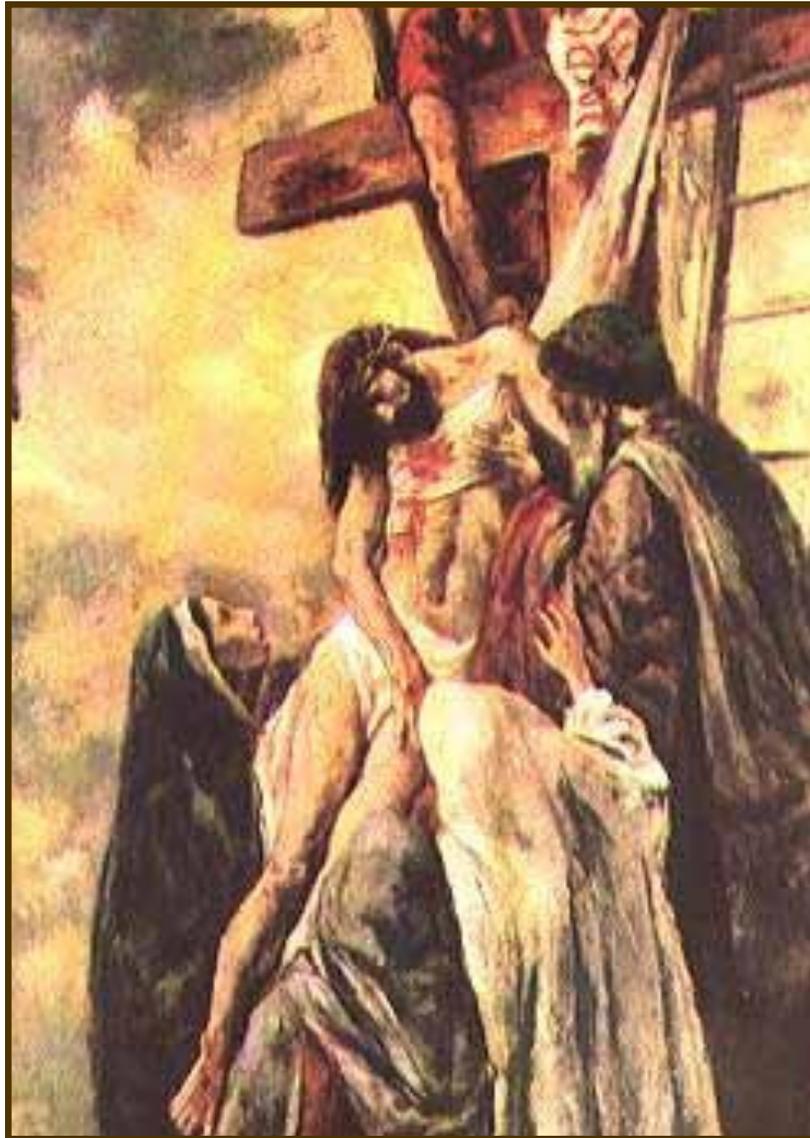


The Banner of Truth[®]

International Voice of The Church of God of North Carolina

Volume 16—Number 01

January, February, March, 2013



Jesus Gave 100%

Message “99 1/2 Won’t Do” on Page 4



Editorial...

2013

International Overseer
John A. Wilkins, Jr.

January 2013						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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We kicked off 2013 in the same way we did 2012, breathing and for this we are grateful to our God. It is wonderful to know Him and to know that it is God that awakens us each morning and not the alarm clock. There are many in this world who do not know this and feel that they are doing everything for themselves and do not believe in God. I feel that this surely must be the ultimate of sadness to feel that you alone are responsible for your own destiny without anyone to help you. I often sit staring out my window for things to write about but then it comes to me, some thought that will hopefully stir our minds to worship our creator and life sustaining Savior, Jesus Christ. He gave us our first breath of air while we were a baby and will take our last one when He calls for it at death for this is an appointment we all must keep.

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: Hebrews 9:27

For many of us this will be the year of appointment with death but no one knows the day nor the hour so it behooves us to watch and pray lest we enter into temptation to walk in disbelief and stubbornness from God's love. He has allowed us to see the close of 2012 and enter into

2013 for a reason and that is to draw nigh unto Him in holiness of life through a fully surrendered life. The greatest obligation we have is to walk in such a way that God can direct us and we reflect His glory back to Him as we walk in obedience to His Word.

Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

1 Thessalonians 4:1-4

This edition of the paper seems to be dedicated to living a holy life, doing the right and shunning the wrong that the Lord will have preeminence in our life, thereby honoring God because we are not our own but have been bought with a price. Let us live for Him in this New Year, closer than ever before. He is coming soon!

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2013!

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

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START WHERE YOU STAND

Start where you stand and never mind the past;
The past won't help you in beginning new;
If you have left it all behind at last
Why, that's enough, you're done with it, you're
through;
This is another chapter in the book;
This is another race that you have planned;
Don't give the vanished days a backward look;
Start where you stand.

The world won't care about your old defeats
If you can start anew and win success; The future
is your time, and time is fleet
And there is much of work and strain and stress;
Forget the buried woes and dead despairs;
Here is a brand-new trial right at hand; The future
is for him who does and dares;
Start where you stand.

Old failures will not halt, old triumphs aid; Today's
the thing, tomorrow soon will be; Get in the fight
and face it unafraid,
And leave the past to ancient history;
What has been, has been; yesterday is dead
And by it you are neither blessed nor banned;
Take courage, man, be brave and drive ahead;
Start where you stand.

Berton Braley

♦ White Wing Messenger January 2, 1982

Items of Interest...

BROTHER WILKINS would like to say thanks to everyone for your prayers, phone calls, and cards as he recovers from major back surgery.

WITH REGRET we must announce the death of one of our members in Alabama Sister Diane Swindle.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the family.



“Ninety-Nine And A-Half Won’t Do”

International Overseer

John A. Wilkins, Jr.

Text: *Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.***
Matt 22:37

Let me indulge you in some imagery for a moment, just imagine ordering a nice, juicy, hot apple pie and about the time you are putting your scoop of vanilla ice cream on it you see that a spoon full is missing. There in the middle is a hole where someone took out one spoon full. Your pie is almost 100 %, but you don't know who, how, why the hole is there. Now even though it is all there except for one spoon full, it is still unacceptable to you for consumption. I am beginning to get the picture and hopefully you are as well. God doesn't want just part of us but He wants all of us to be His in obedience, sacrifice and service. He must be our first love and our entire being must be fully consecrated to Him if we are to please Him. People say, “Well no one is perfect” , so I will do as I please and He will love me any way. The Lord surely loves us in the incomplete stage or we could never be saved, but He wants 100%, a complete vessel. Many whom the Lord loves will be lost due to their excuses for the sins in their lives.

Jesus made it possible for

us to not only be forgiven but to be sanctified holy (old man killed, not just maimed), and then He promised us the Holy Ghost baptism to lead us, guide us and comfort us. If the blood of goats and bulls would have been sufficient then Christ's death at Calvary would have been unnecessary but He had to die that we might have life through His sanctifying blood which was to cleanse us and keep us unspotted from the world. Without sanctification our heart still has something missing which is absolutely necessary in order to give Him all and forsake the world and its allurements. It takes out the will to sin and go back as a dog to its vomit seeking the world to deaden our senses to the Spirit of God. We used to sing the old song, “Ninety-nine And A-half Won't Do” and people were moved by the spirit to seek God for all the blessings, no one wanted to be found with a hole but rather to be complete in Him. Today many want to put as much world on as they can and still be able to shout and speak in tongues on Sunday, the only day that many have any kind of fellowship with Him at all. The TV evangelists are teaching unsaved people to speak in tongues and run the aisles without them being sanctified and this will not work. In fact some of them, have themselves been deceived into believing that they can commit all kinds of sins and keep right on preaching and speaking in tongues because they have never been filled with the Holy Ghost Fire of God. I

recently heard one of them teaching against the scripture and telling the people that when they received the Holy Ghost they would have to tell Him what to say. Let us look here at the Bible for an answer:

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do

hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine. Acts 2:1-13

Let us be very careful because many are deceived today by these men who are successful at selling their message and making millions off the backs of sincere Christian men and women who desire the truth but trust these widely accepted TV preachers with the Word of God. Here is the TRUTH, you don't speak in tongues while you shack up with some whore of the world and continue to have the Holy Ghost inside. They are speaking with something but it isn't the Holy Ghost of God, so beware. It looks good and sounds good sometimes but God's Spirit does not dwell in a temple that is full of sin and has not been purged by the sanctifying blood of Jesus Christ. These men speaking in Acts were Galileans, not educated in the languages of these other lands, yet they heard them speak in their respective languages and marveled at what they saw and heard, therefore God received the glory! They could not possibly have told the Holy Ghost what to say or how to make the utterance; instead He spoke through them in the language known by each country's representative.

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. He shall glorify

me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father. John 16:13-16

He, the Holy Ghost is glorifying the Father and He speaks that which He hears of God in order to enlighten us to the Father's good pleasure. If it doesn't line up with the Word of God then it didn't come from the Holy Ghost and it is a message better left alone. This is a serious time that we are living in and except the days are shortened for the elect's sake none would make it. God wants us to hear Him not some gibberish in tongues that some man is attempting to teach the Holy Ghost. I had someone tell me not long ago that they are teaching them to say things like, "See my tie, see my tie, see my tie" and once they get them going long enough it becomes unintelligible and then they say, "You got it, that's Him, you got the Holy Ghost". This is a bunch of foolishness and we need to safe guard our youth, members and friends from such terrible stuff, the hour is late. When He, the real Holy Ghost comes in then we will hear Him speak through us and He will be in charge of our tongue, not some man teaching us syllables to say. This is what is wrong today in many of our churches; we have taken away the message of "Sanctification" as a second definite work of grace. It must be returned to our pulpits immediately by our ministers because you get

a pie with a hole in the middle without this important Bible Truth. People need the Lord and His completeness in order to stand against the Devil in faith and deliverance from sin. Ninety-nine and a-half won't do, we must have all the blessings of God in order to be complete and the world must be taken from our lives although we still remain in the world. Daniel was in Babylon but Babylon wasn't in Daniel and we are captives in the world but the world must not be in us as we reach higher and higher in the Lord. We have been short changed long enough and we need men and women who have been with God and their lives are changed and their actions prove it. We must simply go back to the Book, the Bible and believe it at face value, it doesn't need any outside source to support It, It is God's Word! Don't be afraid to preach it without compromise and expect to see the results once seen when it was preached and men were cleansed by faith and their lives cleaned up not just spot cleaned. He delivered then and He will deliver now but we must have people who want to be cleaned up by sanctification in order to become a vessel of honor. God has put everything in place that is needed to help us walk a highway of holiness and perfection. Don't try to walk this walk without sanctification through His blood because you can't, the Old Man must die.

It was that old Methodist Minister, John Wesley, who first preached perfection and holiness but it is still the message of truth today even though his church left it behind completely as many so-

called holiness churches are doing today. You can't have holiness without sanctification and that is why so many have dropped off the **message of entire sanctification** and hit the by-pass to the Holy Ghost without sanctification. It is much easier to preach about speaking in tongues than it is teaching and preaching a life of holy living and you can shout and speak in tongues all day long and never be acquainted with the sanctifying blood of Jesus. Many look as though they have fallen out of a fisherman's tackle box as they supposedly dance in the spirit and speak in tongues in many of these TV services today. Please don't blame the people, put the blame where it belongs and hold the ministers responsible for withholding truth from them. These are good people that have been sold a bill of goods and think they can have the love of the world and the love of God at the same time.

I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. 1 John 2:14-17

The prerequisite for the

Holy Ghost is Sanctification and without this experience one does not receive the Holy Ghost Baptism evidenced by other tongues as the spirit gives the utterance. Many are experiencing something exciting and that is the feeling of God's Spirit but stopping short of sanctification and the Holy Ghost only to find the way too hard and the flesh too weak to continue which results in a form of godliness which is deadly to the new Christian. God wants 100 % of you not 99 ½ % which is unacceptable to Him. We are told to present ourselves "**A living sacrifice**" and this is our ticket to success in our walk with Him.

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:1-2

You and I will never walk in the perfection that God intended us to walk until we are able to do what this scripture asks of us, until we are sanctified holy and we allow the Holy Ghost of God to dwell in us to lead us and have charge of our lives. Now if this were not possible then God would never had required it of us. The world has a whole book of jokes about this perfection business but it is not a joke with God. Listen to Jesus as He speaks to us;

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. Matthew 5:48

Now let me explain that in the original language, BE YE THEREFORE PERFECT. If this were impossible then Christ would never have said it to us. The problem lies in our willingness to surrender our will for His and that is never possible to the unsanctified, unholy lives of any individual without the Holy Ghost to guide them. I do believe that there are perfect people alive while I write this message, not as I view perfection and certainly not as you view it but as God views it. He found perfect people throughout the times and said so in His Word but you and I would certainly never have said they were perfect. He judged them so because they did His will and not their own thing. You see perfection in God is doing His will and following His perfect will, will never be viewed by family, friends or enemies as perfection but if He judges you perfect then it would not matter what I thought about you or for that matter what anyone else thought. God will never require more of us than we can deliver, He only wants 100% and He is the only one that can judge the delivery of it. The Word of God talks about being perfect 33 times so I do believe it is possible and we must strive for it with all our heart, mind and soul because 99 ½ just won't do. It used to be preached this way but modern theology forbids it and we are not politically correct to say that God hates SIN but His Word says it.

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that

shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren. Proverbs 6:16-19

The Lord loves the sinner and while in our sins He died for us that we would not have to and took the sins of the world upon Himself. This is why He suffered without the gate for our sanctification so that we could be CLEANSED and the temple swept for the indwelling of the true Holy Ghost. He, the Holy Ghost is our guide to lead us into ALL TRUTH and He helps us to know that **Ninety-Nine And A-Half Won't Do**, we must put in 100% for the Lord. The song says, **"If I die and my soul is lost it's nobody's fault but mine, You got to live right to make a 100, ninety-nine and a half won't do"**. Don't try this by yourself, turn your life over to the Lord, all of it, 100% and ask Him to sanctify you and then to fill you with God sent, Heaven's real Holy Ghost power. It is a struggle to get the "Old Man" killed because He doesn't want to give up a temple which He possesses. He must be eradicated not just injured or maimed!

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more

dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become

servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:6-23

You won't get to this point without sanctification and the Holy Ghost, so there is not even a need to try without first obtaining the provisions Christ has made possible for every believer that comes to Him. He has made every provision to preserve us blameless before Him when it is our time to go meet Him. He wants the pie without a hole where Satan has taken our JOY one spoon at a time and we haven't given Jesus 100% of ourselves.

If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Ephesians 4:21 -24

The new man is 100% but many fail to put him on and continue to lust for the things of the world and this is a hole in the pie of life that God has promised to fill for those that will let Him but we must give up and let Jesus take over in order to achieve it in this world. It is not possible until we do that with our complete trust in Jesus. His Church is a sanctified Church, walking in Holiness.

Ninety-nine And A-Half Won't Do! □



God's Call For Holiness

~ Hillard Foster, Sr. ~
Crab Orchard, KY

While the Church still lay dormant from the “Dark Ages” a small group of sincere Christians formed a Holiness Church on May 15th 1902. It was called “The Holiness Church at Camp Creek” under the guidance of a man by the name of our R. G. Spurling, Jr.

God had already called them to a deeper level of spirituality in their hearts and they were hungry for the deeper truths of all the Scripture. This was a holiness church before the Church was called to arise out of darkness on June 13, 1903. On June 13, 1903 after a revelation by God during a private time of prayer A.J. Tomlinson asked if he could join this little body of believers at Camp Creek with the understanding that it is The Church of God of the Bible. He made sure of their beliefs first, then asked “Why do you call it The Holiness Church at Camp Creek if you take the whole Bible rightly divided? His membership was based on the fact that it was not going to be The Church of God of the Bible but was right now The Church of God.

Holiness was a part of the Church from the beginning and will be when She is caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

I Thessalonians 3:13 *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.*

In 1912 Brother A.J. Tomlinson wrote the book “The Last Great Conflict,” published it in 1913 and dedicated it to The Church of God. It is the duty of The Church of God to preach the gospel of the kingdom in all the world for a witness and to be presented to Jesus Christ with out spot, wrinkle or any such thing.

Ephesians 5:27 *That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

Now according to Webster; Holiness is the doctrine of the second blessing or relating to

perfectionist movement arising in us. This doctrine of holiness, the sixth teaching of the Church sets us apart from the world and lets us achieve a standard not possible in the world church. The standard is “Holy Living” and can only be possible by the Sanctification process through Christ Blood. God never requires us to meet a standard that He hasn’t already provided a means by which we can reach it. God requires man to live Holy (free from sin) in this present world and provided for it with a Second Definite Work called Sanctification. Man can’t achieve this on his own but only through the blood of Christ.

Titus 2:11-12 *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

Hebrews 12:14 *Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:*

Paul says “follow peace with all men and **Holiness** which is not listed as an option because it is necessary”. Without holiness (No) man shall see the Lord. We must follow holiness

1 Thessalonians 4:7 *For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.*

God has called His Church to holiness!

Deuteronomy 32:31 say’s, *For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges.*

The world scoffs at this doctrine and their rock is not our rock but this in no way diminishes the requirement placed upon His Church. Many who once preached this holiness way no longer preach it. They have attempted to gain the masses but God has never permitted it to be opted out.

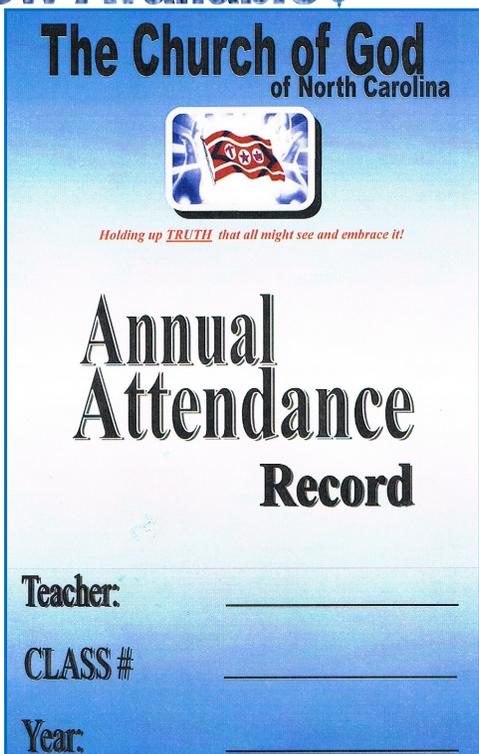
Ephesians 4:24 *And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

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

David said, "Holiness becometh thine house O Lord, O Lord forever." Holiness still is becoming to the House of God, The Church of God. God still demands this of His Church. Holiness is still the trademark of His Church in heart, mind, character, behavior, and our relationships. Some define holiness by dress, hair length and many other things which leave false impressions. Holiness is not a denomination or code of dress but it is a way of life and the standard for all God's people. Holiness is walking with God in His righteousness to the best of our ability and knowledge.

Today God is calling for holiness from those that stand in the pulpit and those that sit in the pew. While many abandon the doctrine of holiness, this must be the trademark of all the true Church of God. She must embrace holiness as the acceptable walk before God. Holiness of life, still a required standard for all of the Church of God which is obtained by Sanctification—Not man's ideas! □

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“To Rise Up And Build”

*International Sunday School Secretary,
 ~ Eunice Foster ~*



Nehemiah 2:17-18 ***“Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach. Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.”***

We are living in a day when Satan's power is evident throughout our world. Many towns, cities, and country sides are without churches, Sunday Schools, prayer services, the teaching of holiness and clean living, fasting and praying for God to send revivals to shake our land with Godly conviction.

So many parents don't take their children to church or seek God for their salvation. Because they are not taught about God in school, most have never heard the name of Jesus.

Sunday school classes are given over to entertainment instead of teaching God's word. Satan has been allowed to tear down the spiritual walls of many homes and churches.

Looking at the current situation, things look dim, but we serve a big God today who still hears and answers prayer! Nehemiah's spirit was stirred by God to build again the walls of Jerusalem. He called the people and God's spirit began to work. Their cry was, **“Let Us Rise Up and Build.”**

Saints, God is the same God today as He was in Nehemiah's day. His Word declares that He is the same yesterday, and today and forever! Let us pray to God that the same spirit that burned within them and caused them to rise up and build will burn among our people. May it burn in each of us until we are totally consumed and no longer content to be idle in God's vineyard. Souls are falling each day, hour, minute, even each second into Hell without knowledge of what God's word says about eternity looming before each one. A final destination is Heaven or Hell, but the Word of God declares in James 5:16b *“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”* Prayer still changes things! God's power is greater than the powers of darkness in this world today. Our Sunday Schools can and will grow!

O, pray with me for the spirit of Nehemiah, **“To Rise Up And Build”**. □



“The Bride Price”

~Betty Wrenfrow~
Pocahontas, AR



There is a story of a poor girl who lived on an island. She was so poor that she didn't have the things necessary for life. Her hair was tangled and her clothes were dirty. She was scorned by all. On the island, when a man chose a bride, the bride price was four (4) cows. No one ever made an offer for her.

One day a prince came to the island to choose a bride. All the young girls with their prettiest clothes were paraded before him but he did not choose any of them. Then he saw the poor girl, the one who had the tangled hair and wore the dirty clothes. He chose her. He asked what the bride price was and was told four (4) cows. He said, “I will give eight (8) cows for her. All the men laughed and mocked him. No one had ever given eight (8) cows for a bride. The prince saw not what the young girl was. He saw what she could be.



Mark 3:13-19
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; And Simon he surnamed Peter, and James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder; and Andrew, and Philip and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him; and they went into an house.

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

Acts 20:28 *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

They took their marriage vows and he took her to his house. He dressed her in beautiful clothes and taught her conduct worthy of a princess. She felt so special because of the bride price he paid for her that she did her very best to live up to his expectations. She was a perfect lady. He took her back to visit the island. No one recognized her but thought her the most beautiful women they had ever seen. She left her old life never to return again. She was ready to be presented to his father as his bride and to reign with him in his kingdom.

He didn't see what she was but what she could be. He took her into his house and made a covenant with her. He clothed her in fine linen and taught her conduct fitting for a king's bride. When she is ready He will present Her to His heavenly Father as His Bride. He has already paid the Bride Price but is still preparing His Bride.

A man called Jesus left His father's kingdom to come to earth to purchase a Bride. He didn't choose her from the rich and famous but from those such as lowly fishermen. They were dirty and poor. He paid the bride price not with cows but with his own blood on the Cross of Calvary. The following verses tell us that He called whom He would and paid the purchasing price.

As it was with the poor island girl, when we give our hearts to Jesus we must leave our old life behind. We must be willing to forsake even family

and friends if they stand between us and the Lord. Jesus deserves all of our heart and life.

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

Colossians 3:10 *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.*

Romans 12:1,2 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world; but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

When we first come to know Jesus we do not know everything about Him but just as we continue to learn about our companion in life through communicating with them, so should we continue to learn about Christ through communicating with Him in prayer and study of His Word. The more the church seeks Him the more He will be able to transform Her into His glorious image.

II Peter 3:18 *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

In order to grow in grace we must have a close personal relationship with Jesus and we must listen when he speaks to our spirit. Have you ever tried to talk to someone knowing they were not listening. It drives me crazy. How do we think God feels when we don't listen? God is interested in changing our lives into something more beautiful than we can imagine but we must hear and take instruction.

If we are going to the Marriage Supper Of The Lamb, we must be ready for that event and dressed in the robes of righteousness, that are to be without spot or wrinkle.

Revelation 19:7 *Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.*

Ephesians 5:27 *That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

We must examine ourselves daily to see if our garments has soiled spots. If we find any they must be made clean by the precious blood of Jesus. We all know that in the natural, if spots are left to long on a piece of garment they sometimes set in, making them harder to get out. In a spiritual sense it tends to work the same way. Not because the blood of Jesus doesn't have the power to remove even the greatest of sins, but because people start to see less of a need to change and become less willing to make that change.

Do we appreciate the price Jesus paid on Calvary. When the Bride has made Herself ready, He will take Her to Heaven to present to His heavenly Father as His Bride. There is an old familiar song that says, "Will you be among the Bride or will you not?" Another song says, "He's still working on me" and how about this third song which says: "But the longer I serve Him the sweeter He grows. The more I love Him, More love He bestows. Each day is like heaven, my heart overflows The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows." □



“WINGS FOR TRACTS”



Many years ago someone came up with the idea of dropping literature from the wings of airplanes upon large gatherings of people. It was a plan that received a lot of recognition both good and bad. When the tracts fell on communities some would complain of litter and someone would receive Christ from reading the little messages on the tracts. The idea was great but soon had to be abandoned

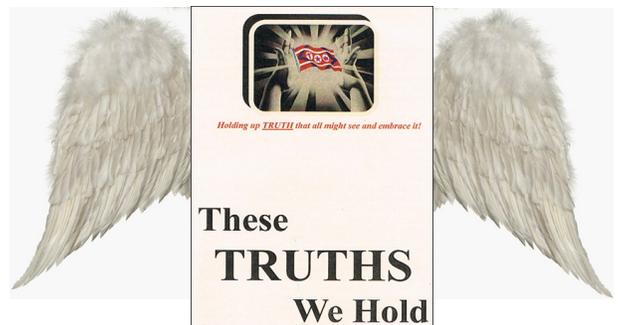
and finally became illegal to drop tracks from aircraft. While serving in Vietnam, I came upon an operation which was doing this exact plan on dropping literature from an aircraft. We called it “the propaganda bomber” because we used it to deliver a message to both of friendlies and the enemy forces. The first thing in my mind was they have heard of the CPMA and have copied our plan.

“Wings For Tracts” is not a new concept but will in time take us into this 21st Century application of the original plan and make it possible to give wings to our tracts. It is a program to send tracks all around the world using the airplane to carry thousands of tracts wherever we go in the suitcases of our representatives. While they do not get dropped from the aircraft in the old way they are dropped from the aircraft in a new way. The accomplishment and goal remains the same “Be A Soul Winner by giving wings to tracts”. Everyone can participate by keeping some tracts with you at all times and slipping them into magazines at the doctor’s offices, air terminals bus stations, train stations, in the back of aircraft seats and wherever people are. It is not illegal and it leaves a message there for someone who is hurting and needs the Lord.

The reality of the matter is this, tracts stuck in the print shop or Bible Lectern will never help until it gets its wings and moves out to find a set of eyes and a heart that will receive the message on it. The tracts will never get wings until someone provides the means, money to publish, print and distribute them. In other words, “GIVE WINGS FOR TRACTS”. They will never fly on their own, only after we help them get their wings! Recently I took tracts with me on a trip half-way around the world and now they will fly even into other countries because someone gave them their wings by offerings, contributions to our printing department hard work to print them and love for souls. These tracts have their wings but many others are laying on our shelves waiting for their wings to fly.

Our “WINGS FOR TRACTS PROGRAM” is waiting, for YOU! Will you become involved today? You can help them fly by doing the following things:

1. Giving to this program on a regular basis.
2. Ordering them for personal distribution.
3. Praying for this program on a regular basis.
4. Placing a tract everywhere you go (giving them wings).
5. Boosting this program in every local church.
6. Believing this program.
7. Asking God to anoint each tract you place and speak to the reader’s heart.





CELEBRATION!!!



~Brenda Fowler Reporter~

The Yakima, Washington, local church had a wonderful time of celebration on December 30, 2012. Many of you have met Ed and Becky Brewer of Yakima. Becky Brewer has played the piano at several of our conventions/assemblies, and Ed has attended one of our assemblies.

Well, it finally worked out for Ed and Becky to retake their marriage vows and then join the Church by covenant. Brother Keith and Sister Polly Murphy of Sweet Home, Oregon, came to Yakima and Brother Murphy administered both the marriage and the Church covenants. Two of the Brewers' sons (James and Jeff) were present at this joyous occasion. After the ceremony, the Brewers took everyone out for lunch. It was a beautiful day of celebration. We are so thankful for our two new members at Yakima. □

Congratulations!





~Jussella Cara Esguerra~
VLB Directress/ Philippines

Six- New Countries

As I was reading reports on our website www.thechurchofgodofnc.com I noticed these six (6) new countries that recently affiliated with the Church whom God has chosen.

I never knew that one day; our International Overseer would ask me to do an article for them. I felt an intense joy in my heart for these brethren because they heard the Shepherd’s Voice whom I know is the reason why they searched and found the fold they belong to. As the Scripture says:

“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)

I am glad for the new members of Christ’s Body, especially the Youth of these Countries. I know there are a lot of young people who are still focused on glorifying God by following His words and examples. We are the backbone of the Church, and if there would still be time, we will be the generation who’ll continue to lift up the Flag of 1933 on the coming years. In order to do this, let’s start now. We must mature spiritually, and shun the flow of this world. We must be flexible. Christian service requires a different kind of flexibility, a flexibility, that leaves no room for personal desires at least not if being faithful followers and servants is our ruling desire. Jesus will never force anyone to do or give of themselves, rather it must be our choice, our hearts desire to bow our knee before him as our Lord. A desire that is born out of our response to His love that He has shown in Calvary.

It’s a privilege for me to **WELCOME** you all... **Young People let’s keep the Work going, we will reap in due season. If we faint not... □**

“Love For God’s Church Radiates From The Faces”

*Report Written by
~John A. Wilkins, Jr.,~
International Overseer*



On the faces of our pastors, leaders and ministers of the Philippines can be seen and felt the love for Christ and His Church. What a time of sharing and enjoying the fellowship of the saints as we recently visited the Philippines for this meeting of the ministers, leaders and pastors, it could be seen and felt from their faces. Your International Overseer and Bishop Roger D. Tidwell, National Overseer of the

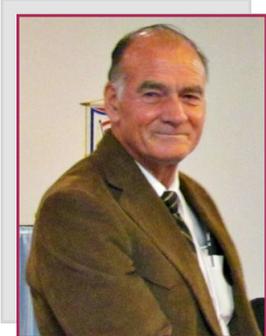
United States of America were invited to attend this special meeting and review of the work in the Philippines on January 26, 2013. We are very happy to report that the work under the able leadership of Bishop Darwin P. Gaba is advancing and we saw and heard with our own ears of the new buildings, new ministers and big plans for building up the work there.

Please pray for our work in the Philippines that soon we will be able to see this country purchase their own headquarters property. While it seems a distant dream at the moment, I sensed a spirit of unity there that will make this come to pass with the blessings of God poured out from above. I envision having this someday soon, where we can conduct our activities in our own facilities such as the National Convention, Youth Camp, BTI, and Minister’s Training etc. Presently there is support coming from other sources outside the Philippines and who knows what God will do for a people who are so willing to work for Him. While we may not have the resources we need at the moment our God is able and He will definitely bless those who are faithful and willing to help themselves.

Recently, I refused an offering for a country because they have not discharged their duties in a faithful manner and kept up their reports to headquarters. I will not accept money for a country specifically if they have not been faithful in reporting, tithing and supporting their headquarters regardless of the amount. In this case I had to explain that the National Overseer had not been faithful to discharge his duties in the proper way. It was to be a fairly large offering which would have gone a long way but the donor wanted it to go specifically to that one country so you see how important it is to have a good report at headquarters.

The Philippines has been working hard and the evidence is there to prove it as new church buildings are going up as I write this. I will not call names but many of you will recognize the faces of several that are always seen when we visit, they are faithful when I am there and when I am gone and the Lord sees their faithfulness and is greatly blessing them. You can feel free to join me in expecting great things from the Philippines during 2013 and on into the future of The Church of God of NC/Philippines. We are expecting at least two of them to join us for the upcoming International Assembly and I wish they could all come for the assembly, what a time we would have! We are truly a family and share the same family emblem, the flag of 1933 as it waves in the wind over our churches everywhere. □





Bible Training Institute (BTI)

USA, BTI Superintendent
~ Keith Murphy ~

Are you excited yet about attending B T I this year? Is the effort worth it? IN EVERY WAY I SAY YES! YES! YES!

Sure, times are hard economically, but we serve a mighty big God who makes a way when there is no way! We do our best to cut costs in every way, and when we do our best, God will do the rest. The date has been set for July 16 – July 23, so start planning now, if you haven't already. Both 1st and 2nd terms will be taught this year, so those who participated in 1st term last year are ready for 2nd term this year. More details will be provided in the next issue of The Banner of Truth.

Enough cannot be said about the importance of BTI to every member of the Church. It is not only about how these topics of study work (government, finance, etc.), but why they work and who makes them work. The purpose of BTI is not to establish a **new doctrine**, but to establish the members **in the doctrine**. The materials used are based on the Holy Scriptures. Look at these verses found in Ephesians 1: 19-23 *“And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised in him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”*

Jesus is far above anything and everything, seen or unseen, and is the head over all things to the church, which is his body. Therefore, dear saints, we must be prepared to give an answer to those who have questions about the teachings of the Bible. We have but a short time to work. James puts it this way in James 4:14 *“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow, For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then*

vanisheth away.”

All who have a vision of the great Church of God are truly blessed, and it stands to reason that we should desire to learn as much as we can about how the Body, established by Jesus Christ himself, is to function here on the earth. It is so important that we know the history of the Church and teach it to our children and our children's children because they will not receive it in the school system today. Many so called Bible scholars are changing GOD's Word to make it “easier to understand”. We must preserve His precious Word and seek for understanding. He will reveal it by His spirit to those who seek to know. His Spirit surely met with us in a mighty way last year, and we can experience it in even a greater way this year as we go to BTI with great anticipation. When we do our part, we can rest assured God will do His.

In closing, I want you to think about the account of Elijah and Elisha found in II Kings 2:7-12 *“And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off: and they two stood by Jordan. And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground. And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.”*

Now, Elijah and Elisha were not only good friends, but they were both prophets. They may have

gone to the same school as the sons of the prophets, but there was a vast difference between Elisha's spirit and the 50 who stood to view afar off. We must know, believe, and practice what thus saith the Word. Let us be as Elisha and have that hunger for a double portion of the Spirit upon us this year at BTI.

Get ready! Something great is about to happen at BTI!

Yes, we are proud of the past, but we are most certainly focused on the future. □



Tracts Order # and Price List



- # 1001 We Must Continue.....20@ 3.50
- # 1002 These Truths We Hold.....20@ 3.50
- # 1003 The Covering Removed
By A.J. Tomlinson.....20@ 3.50
- # 1004 Bible Reading Plan.....20@ 3.50
- # 1005 The Way The Truth & The Life.....20@ 3.00
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Minister's Daily Record Book—\$5.00 + Postage

"Support March World Missions"

*International WMB Director
~Shirley Michael~*

Support World Missions with your prayers, your time, your finance.

Ephesians 3:9-10 *And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,*

The Church is built on a rock of understanding of all that Jesus is, all His words and sayings. Jesus will build His Church through TRUTH and LOVE.



The Church that Jesus set in order before He ascended back to Heaven will support Him in all words and sayings (including the thought).

"Support March World Missions."



missions missions missions



Tracts Now Available



Holding up TRUTH that all might see and embrace it!

**We
Must
Continue ...**



This Declaration was formally adopted by
The Church of God of North Carolina
on September 01, 1997 at Ringgold, Georgia.
Amended August 01, 2003 by the 98th International Assembly.
Tract # 1001



**The
Covering
Removed**

THE CHURCH WE HONOR
A. J. Tomlinson

The conflict is now on. The great forces of right and wrong are in lively combat. We know which side will win, but the wrong claims every inch of the ground and the only way right can prevail is by a lively and continuous struggle. Not only shall the right be on the defensive, but she shall wage a mighty offensive warfare.

There is but little said or written about the Lord's Church in these days except by a few humble followers of the lowly Nazarene. But these few can be numbered by the thousands when they are all put together. But when there are so few in comparison with the millions of earth's inhabitants, I do not see how there can be too much said on the subject.

It seems to amaze many to hear both men and women speaking in honor of this great institution. In our meetings it is very common to hear the people praise God for the great Church of God the same as for salvation. Of course, those who object to this do not really know what the Church is. If they knew it as it is, they would love it like we do.

The Church of God is Christ's own building. It is wrong to suppose some man is its founder. Jesus plainly told the disciples that He would build His Church and I believe what the disciples said about it. And nobody has any right to dispute their word. I fully believe that Christ did just what He said He would do.

There is a beauty and power about the Church of God that are not about other churches. Jesus said of His Church, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." No doubt Jesus said this because He knew it would have strong opposition. But to encourage its members, He said it would hold its anchor and not be overthrown.

True, it has been beaten down and bruised and forsaken, but not entirely overthrown. It is strong now and full of glory and power. It is still holding steady and battling against sin with a strong hand. And while the enemy rages the Church still shines and looks good to those who have eyes to see it.

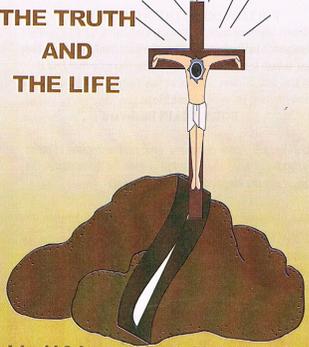
THE HOLY GHOST



THE EVIDENCE

Your Personal Road Map

To
**THE WAY
THE TRUTH
AND
THE LIFE**



John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.



Holding up TRUTH that all might see and embrace it!

**These
TRUTHS
We Hold**

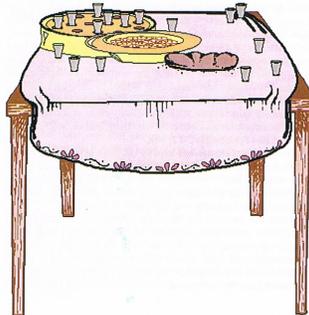
**"...being now justified
by his blood..." Romans 5:9**

SANCTIFICATION

**A
SECOND
WORK
OF
GRACE**

THE COMMUNION

A. J. Tomlinson



FEET WASHING

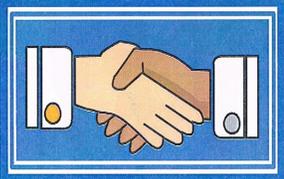
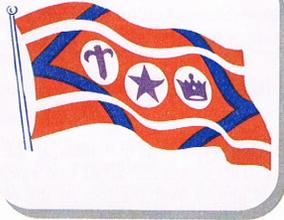
A. J. Tomlinson



"For I have given you an example..."

You're Invited

To SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Church
Flag Colors
Explained...**

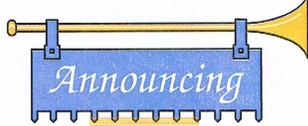
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Show me your ways,
O LORD,
teach me your paths...

Psalm 25:4



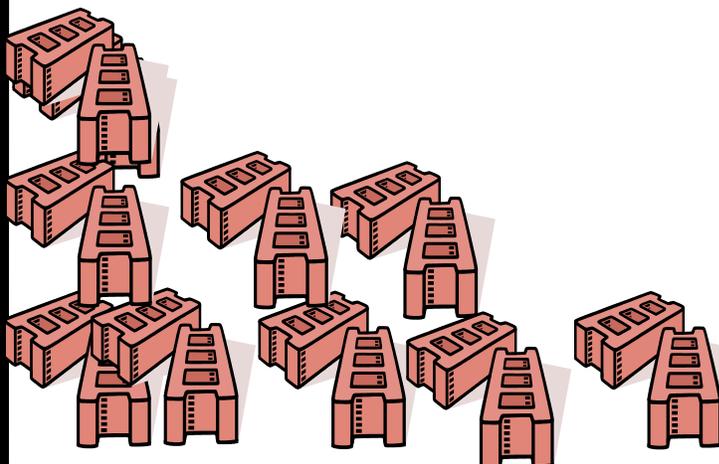
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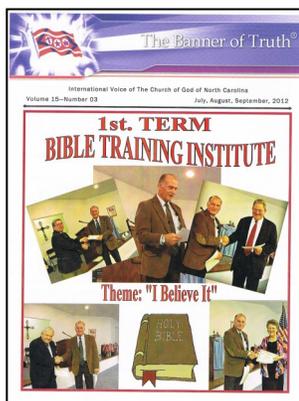
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Make your plans NOW, Attend...



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WHEN: July 25,26,27, 2013
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