



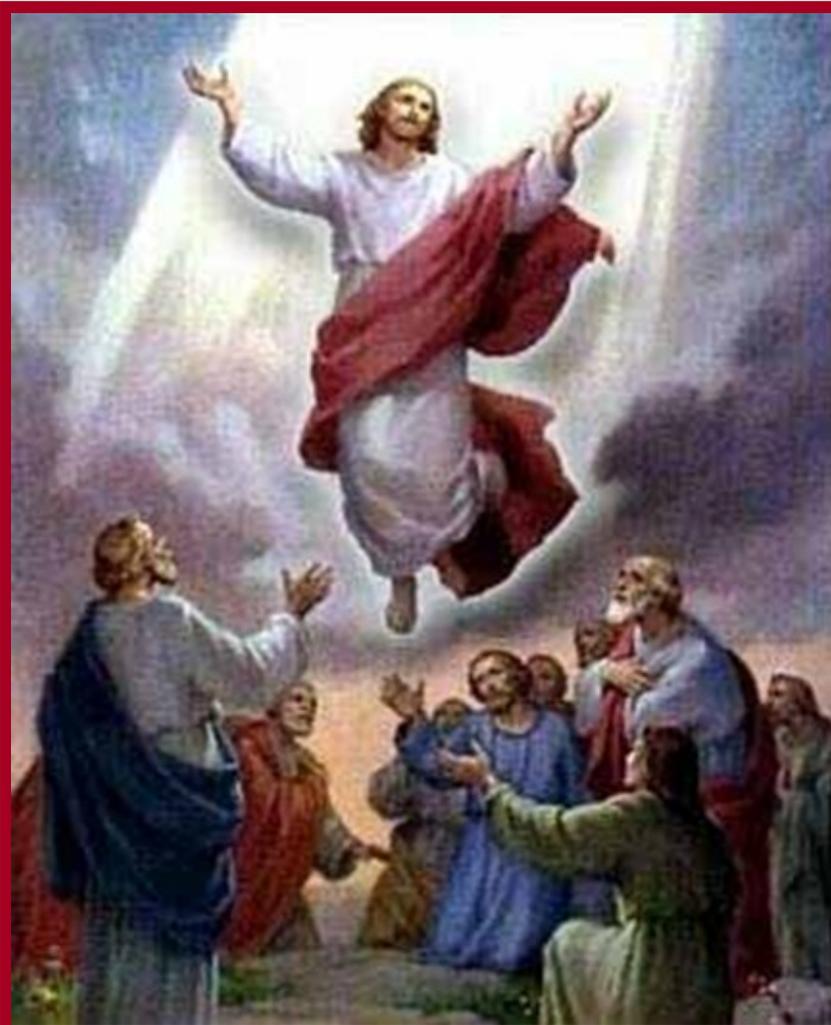
The Banner of Truth®

International Voice of The Church of God of North Carolina

Volume 16—Number 03

July, August, September, 2013

## 104th International Assembly



**THEME:**  
**This Same Jesus-**  
**This Same Church**

**Acts 1:11**

## Editorial....



*International Overseer  
John A. Wilkins, Jr.*

Our 104<sup>th</sup> International Assembly has come and gone and so has our Bible Training Institute. Our BTI Theme was, **“TEACH THE WORD”**

and it was certainly the case as our teachers stood before their classes and shared the Word of God.

The theme of the 104<sup>th</sup> Assembly was, **“THIS SAME JESUS—THIS SAME CHURCH”** and the ministers presented the Word in a way that deeply planted this in our minds. *And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.* Acts 1:9-11 (KJV) This theme helped us to realize that Jesus has not changed and neither has His Church changed.

These events have slipped away into

history and only the blessings and wonderful times will be remembered by our delegates to the assembly and our students to BTI. If you were not in attendance for these events then please make plans now to attend the next ones. We have about 9 months now to plan and prepare. It is not too early to begin now to plan for the next BTI which will be held in conjunction with the USA National Convention which is tentatively scheduled for Hamilton, Alabama. We will give the dates in the next issue of The Banner of Truth.

We had students from as far away as Oregon and one student was 93 years old and she is planning to return next year for her graduation. The assembly delegates were from several of the states and the National Overseer of Haiti was present with us for this historic assembly. We had the blessings of God during both of these events and especially during the assembly where many things were done to affect us for many years to come if the Lord tarries.

We thank the Lord for His presence and blessing during these events and look forward to this year’s work as we await His soon return for His Church. To God be the glory, great things He has done!

### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

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## 104th International Assembly Holy Ghost message Friday afternoon, July 26, 2013



Come, my children. Look unto me. Am I not your Father? Am I not your God? Are you not my children? Have I not poured out my blessings upon you? Have I not protected you against the enemy? Will I not fail you? I shall not fail, saith the Lord of Hosts. Yea, know me by my name. I am the Lord of Hosts. I am the Almighty, and there is no other God. There is no other God. Look unto me and I will strengthen you. If you will obey me; if you will hearken and humble unto me, and listen to everything that I tell you to do in the days that are ahead, I will prepare the way before you and it shall be prepared with blessings. Blessing upon blessing, for I am the Lord of Hosts. I Am, yea, I Am, saith the I Am. Fear not thou. Fear not. I am with you, but there are trying times ahead of you. You must stand together and stand in one mind, and stand with one accord. If you will hearken unto me and listen to everything I tell you, you shall be fine. Yea, you shall be protected. Yea, you shall be well fed. For I am the Lord of Hosts and all is mine, saith God, yea, your God, your God. I am your God. Fear not, my children. If you humble yourselves unto me and walk diligently with me, you have nothing to fear. Yea, you have nothing to fear. Hearken unto me now, trust me. Look to me. Look to me. Look to me. Trust me, my children. Trust me. Yea, yea, trust me.

# Wedding

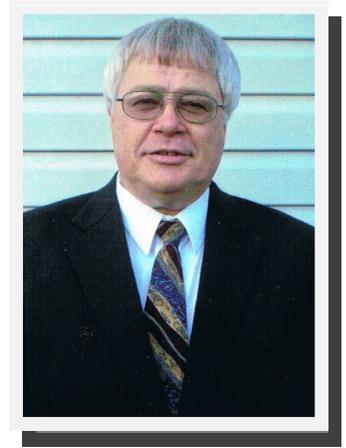


*Sister Cathy Jones and Bishop Harry D. Elder were united in holy matrimony at 8:00 pm on Thursday evening, September 5, 2013 after a very short engagement. Bro. Elder proposed marriage to Sis. Cathy on Thursday, August 8, 2013 and they were married just 4 weeks later. Bishop John Wilkins performed the ceremony in the chapel of the Headquarters building. The Elders will reside in Dunn and work with the Wilkins at Headquarters.*

*Congratulations  
Bro. & Sis. Elder!*

# “THIS SAME CHURCH”

John Pultz  
Roanoke, VA



How far back do we have to look to say that we are "this same church", that Jesus founded? Further than when women weren't allowed to cut their hair or get permanents. Further than when the General Overseer thought it was wrong to drink soft drinks in public (mind you, all but a trace of cocaine had been removed from Coca Cola by 1904 and even that trace was removed in 1929).

Do we go to the 1940's, 30's? I have heard the Holy Ghost say " *How soon after the man of God called My people together out of darkness did they begin to err.*" We need to go past the major splits, in the church, and past the minor splits. To be sure that we avoid all error in this comparison, we need to go to God's Word, when Jesus and the Apostles, whom He ordained, were walking, talking and teaching the Word of God. These were the first to be baptized with the Holy Ghost, after Jesus' return to the Father. This was The Church of God that Jesus purchased with His own blood and put the ones that He had called and chosen to oversee it. He still calls and ordains those whom he chooses, to be His ministers today.

Going this far back is the only way that we can be sure that we are established on the firm foundation: **“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”**

**1 Corinthians 3:11.**

Even then, we have to make sure that we are taking the scriptural route: **“Examine**

**yourself, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” 2 Corinthians 13:5.** This helps us to identify anything that should not be a part of The Church of God, that He purchased with His own blood, at Calvary.

Jesus is the Head of His church: **“...even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.” Ephesians 5:23b.** And the church is the habitation of His Spirit, the Holy Ghost: **“In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” Ephesians 2:22.** So the Holy Ghost is like a building inspector, through whom the Lord directs and corrects the continued building and operation of His church. So who do we need to listen to, men with their own ideas and opinions, or the Holy Ghost, who speaks only the Lord's instructions?: **“for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.” John 16:13b** Remember God's Word , in the latter part of the **4th chapter and 6b verse of Zechariah,** **“...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”.**

When God's church is operating as the Holy Ghost directs, we will be leading people into a more spiritually intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, who reveals His Church to them by His Spirit, the Holy Ghost. We won't be wasting

our time or God's time, trying to prove to others that we are His Church. That kind of thinking comes from the ways of the world, not from God.

When we understand and accept that the work of the Church is to bring people into a spiritually intimate relationship with our Lord Jesus that He can reveal His church unto them, then we realize that the ministry of The Church of God is to instruct by **His Word** and our actions: **“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every**

**part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." Ephesians 4:12-16** The last sentence in these verses simply means that when we all do what the Lord leads and instructs us to do, by the leading of the Spirit, then each one's actions, words and life will compliment all other members' actions, words and lives. Like a giant puzzle, each one is assigned their specific part(s) to do, so that the whole of the members of the church, causes the Body of Christ to be seen, heard and felt by those in the world. The Church of God will no longer look like a pile of individual puzzle pieces. Instead, she will be seen as the beautiful bride and body of Christ, that He purchased Her to be.

When Peter and John said to the lame man: **"...In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."** Acts 3:6b, then the multitude gathered around them, amazed and astounded, because the lame man was healed. Peter said: **"...Why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus..."** (Excerpts from Acts 3:12, 13). Notice that Peter didn't say "this is what God will do for you if you join The Church of God". Peter and John were doing the work which The Church of God was given to do, calling men and women to repent, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and begin an intimate spiritual relationship with Him. The Lord was bearing witness to their ministry, through the Holy Ghost, by healing this man who had been lame

all of his life. Nowhere in the New Testament do we find the Apostles, including Paul, telling people to come into the church. Rather, we see them calling people into a personal relationship with Christ, who then unites together all who will obey Him, into His fold, The Church of God. This uniting together as His Church, can only truly come from walking in the light, as He reveals it. You nor I nor anyone else, can give a vision of The Church of God to anyone. It can only come from the Lord. However, He can and does use those whom He calls, to reveal this vision. When the Lord called me to preach, He instructed me to "Proclaim holiness unto the Lord to My people and all peoples" and later He said "teach My truth to my people and all peoples and call My people together unto Me".

God makes it known who is His Church. Just as the Father bare witness, to make it known that Jesus is His Son: **"And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased."** Luke 3:22 The Father and Son will also bear witness to His Church, by signs and wonders.

What are the signs by which God declares to the world, that it is His Church? No doubt you are thinking of healings and miracles. But, as the Apostle Paul said, **"and yet I show unto you a more excellent way."**

1. The best sign is the fruit of the Spirit, manifested in the lives of those who are led by the Spirit of God: **"For as many**

**as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God"** Romans 8:14;

**"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."** Galatians 5:22-24.

2. Another sign is boldness to speak God's truth, in love: **"And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear."** Philippians 1:14;

**"But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention."** 1 Thessalonians 2:2.

3. Enduring suffering and reproach, with humility **"But I say unto, you that ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven; for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on**

**the just and on the unjust." Matthew 5:39-40, 44-45** Rain & sun are both blessings. God blesses ALL men and is long-suffering to them, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. ("See that none render evil for evil to any man..." 1Thesalonians 5:15a;

**"Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head (he will be made to feel guilty for mistreating you). Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:20-21).**

Jesus himself, set the example for us. Even though He knew Peter was about to deny Him, He still loved Peter and instructed him: **"But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." Luke 22:32.** And when Jesus was breathing His last breath on the cross: **"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..." Luke 23:34a.**

Is "This Same Church" identified by buildings, properties and material possessions? I'll answer that question with the Apostle Peter's instructions to godly wives: **"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting of the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."**

#### **1 Peter 3:3-4.**

Shouldn't this let us know that our lives being hid in Christ and His life being manifested in us, is the thing that truly makes us to be seen as His church? Jesus, the Son of God, had no earthly possessions: **"And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." Luke 9:58.** And yet, He is the Head of The Church of God, the Lord of lords and the King of kings, who gave himself to purchase the church (us), with His own blood. **"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:20.**

So, what do we need to be "This Same Church" of God, the body of Christ? **"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." (Seeing that God has) "...put all things under his (Christ's) 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." Ephesians 1:22-23.**

We don't need to seek possessions and properties, etc., we need to seek after the fullness of Christ in us. To be living epistles to be read by all men, so that they may see Christ through us. Jesus, who had no earthly possessions, said: **"It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master..." Matthew 10:25a:**

**"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33.**

The scripture tells us that The Church is God's building and we are workers together with

Him. **"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." 1 Corinthians 3:9.**

If we are workers, then this is an ongoing work. Jesus is still revealing the final details of the blueprint, as He opens our eyes and understanding of the scriptures, through the Holy Ghost. Not only is He still instructing and revealing, He is also still hiring workers, even at this eleventh hour!

Jesus is not a dead, lifeless cornerstone, He is: **"...a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God and precious, Ye also as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 2:4b, 5.** (We workers are "lively stones, The Church, the priesthood).

Just as the Father made it visibly and audibly known that Jesus was His Son, The Lord will make it known who is His Church. In chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation, Jesus says seven times **"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches"**.

The following are five quotes from messages given by the Holy Ghost, in the last several years and some of them on numerous occasions:

1. "This is the last time that I am calling My people together."
2. "I am coming VERY soon."
3. "MY people are in great error, because they think with the mind of man and the ways of the world."
4. "Look to ME. I will guide you and protect you. Gather around ME."

5. "Humble yourselves and hearken to MY words." (To humble and hearken means to listen intently, as though your life depends on you hearing and obeying exactly what He says, because your life actually does depend on you understanding and obeying).

God is weary of His people proudly proclaiming "We are The Church of God". That's for God to proclaim. What are you proud about? **GOD** brought us under conviction for our sins and led us to Christ, by the **Holy Ghost**. **GOD** rightly divides the Word of God for us, by the **Holy Ghost**. Is there any thing you have, that **GOD** didn't provide? So I ask again; What do any of us have to be proud about? **"For who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive?"**

**Now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?" 1 Corinthians 4:7.**

What Paul wants us to understand is this, we need to be **THANKFUL**, not prideful. Pride is a stench in the nostrils of God! **"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18.**

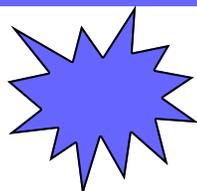
If we were already humbled and hearkening to the point of being in the place that He wants us to be, then He wouldn't have to keep telling us the same things. When we are in the place He wants us to be, then we will do what He spoke through the Holy Ghost many years ago: **"YOU MUST FORSAKE YOUR PRECONCEIVED IDEAS AND NOTIONS (opinions)"**. He is still calling us to have hearing ears so

that we can **"hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches"**.

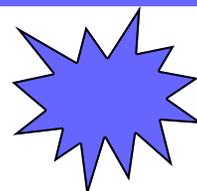
Anyone can proclaim **"WE ARE THE CHURCH OF GOD"**. I'd rather just humble and hearken to Him and let Him proclaim **"THIS IS MY BELOVED CHURCH"**, for whom He will return to take for His wife.

I leave you with this one thought: If we are truly His Church, then we ought to be the most humble people on earth!

**"For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones". Isaiah 57:15** □



# Special Notice!

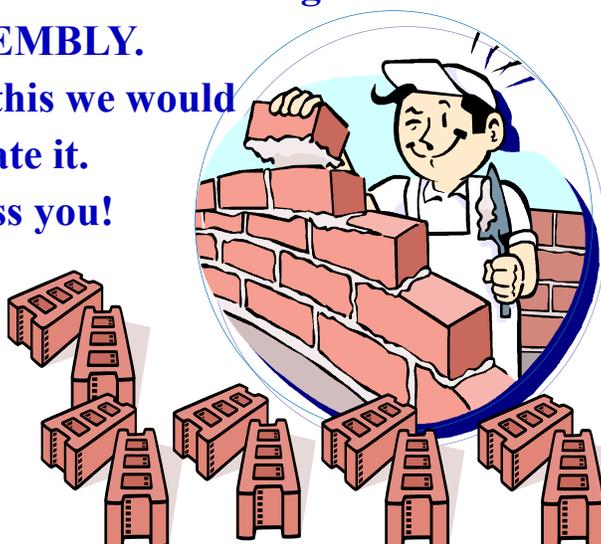


## HEADQUARTERS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We need your help in clearing up some outstanding bills related to the ASSEMBLY.

If you could help us with this we would greatly appreciate it.

May the Lord bless you!



# Jesus: The Greatest Pattern Of Humility

Text: Philippians 2:7-11



Humility is an excellent mark of a man of character, and composure and humility are inseparable virtues of a wise man. Through the ages, pride has always been evident in human race. God hates proud people, but he extends

mercy to the humble. God wants His people to live in humility so they may experience more grace from Him. What a blessing to realize that His Son Jesus came into the world not only to save sinners, but also to demonstrate the kind of humility God wants us to live by.

Jesus is the greatest pattern of humility to learn from. Having the willingness to follow the Lord and the shape through the pattern He has shown us will bring us to Christ-likeness.

## I. Christ-like humility must be seen in the believer's life Philippians 2:1-8

If we truly desire to project the true image of Christianity in this sin-troubled world, we must start with step of humility. It is sadly true that perverted image of Christianity confuses unbelievers and truth seekers because of spiritual negligence on the part many professing believers. Christ-like humility must be seen in the lives of believers as they serve the Lord.

### Behind Christ humility: —Love

Love is powerful and animates our moral bearings, and without it, true humility fades away. In Philippians 2:1-3, it is written, **1** *If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,* **2** *Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*

**3** *Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*

Love seeks not her own, but always considers others.

### Sacrificial act for others

Sacrifice brings special benefits to others. Christ shed His blood and gave His life at Calvary and what He did became a blessing to the human race. In this self-centered generation, it is very rare to see people who do heroic acts for the sake of others.

In Romans 5:7-9 it says, **7** *For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.* **8** *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* **9** *Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*

What a blessing to contemplate as we follow Christ's steps. Christ humbled Himself and he who follows Him must also live in humility. In Philippians 2: 7-8, it is written, **7** *But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:* **8** *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

True love produces sacrificial acts. In Philippians 2:30 Paul mentioned a believer named Epharoditus in his epistle and He said; **30** *Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.*

It takes humility to have a servant's heart. May we pray to God for more Epharoditus-like believers in our Churches to demonstrate the life of Christ through their lives. True Christians seek not their own, but consider the needs of others.

## II. The Lord Jesus Christ Is Worthy To Be Exalted. Philippians 2: 9-11

The Lord Jesus Christ was defamed and rejected of men, but God exalted Him because He is worthy to be lifted up.

In Philippians 2:9-11, it is written, **9** *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10* *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11* *And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

We must exalt the Lord at all times and be thankful for what He has done for us at Calvary.

- **Every knee should bow**  
At the name of Jesus
- **Every tongue should confess**  
Jesus Christ is Lord
- **Everyone should glorify God**  
Give glory to the Father

Judas and the religious leaders defamed Jesus in a disheartening way because of greediness and envy. Sad to say, such defamation still exists today in many ways.

In Matthew 26:14-16, it is written, **14** *Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, 15* *And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. 16* *And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.*

We cannot imagine how sorrowful it was for the Lord to receive such kind of treachery and treatment from professing believers during His earthly ministry.

May we not be as greedy as Judas and say to the world, "What will you give me, and I will deny Him as my Master?" May we not be like those religious hypocrites and insult the Saviour and compare Him to slave gored by an ox.

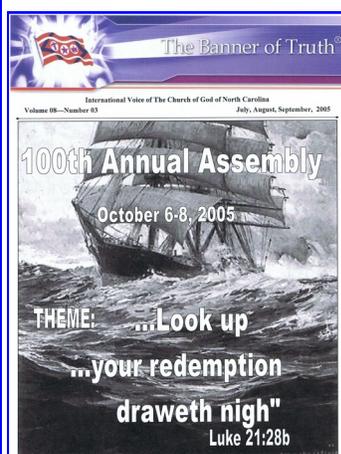
In Exodus 21:32 it is written, **32** *If the ox shall push a manservant or a maidservant; he shall give unto their master thirty shekels of silver, and the ox shall be stoned.*

Don't belittle the Lord by compromising yourself with the world.

Let your knees bow at the name of Jesus, let your tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and let your well-spent life give glory to God.

In Romans 12:1-2 it is written, *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 ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Do what is right and pleasing before God. Be faithful and humble as you tell the world that Jesus saves. □



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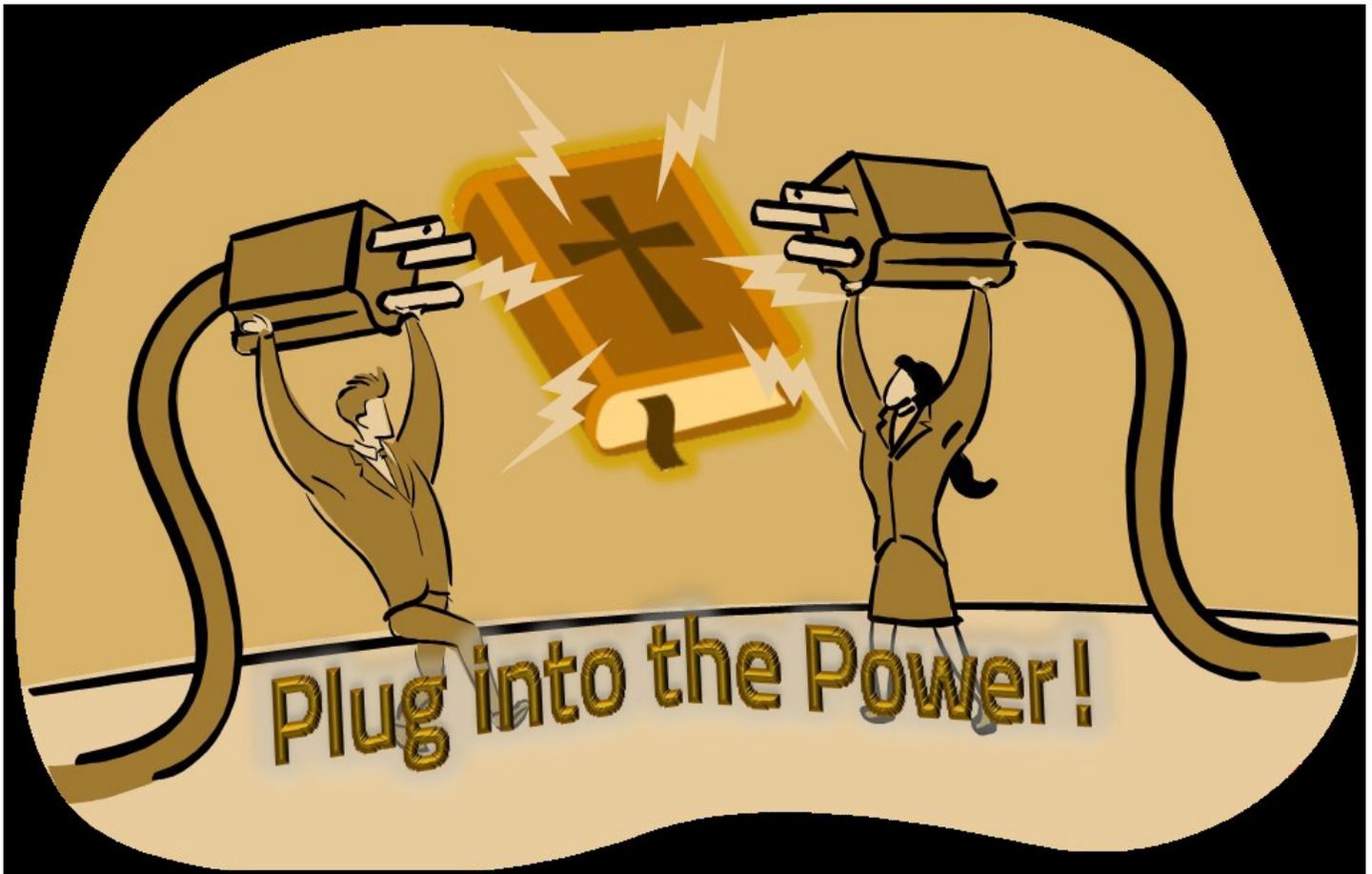
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Calling **ALL** Women, Men, Children  
It is time for our **FALL REFRESHING** Weekend!!

When: October 4-6, 2013

Where: Cloudcroft, NM

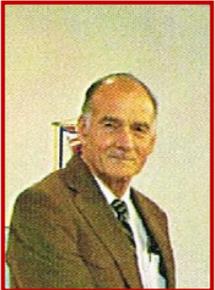
How Much: \$75.00/person

Come and Join Us for a Great Camp! Looking forward to seeing you!

For more information, contact Jannece Colon at 575-631-3412  
or [jannececolon@hotmail.com](mailto:jannececolon@hotmail.com)

# "Bible Training Institute" REPORT

## "Teach the Word"



International Director  
~Keith Murphy~

Well Saints, another B.T.I. has come and gone, and what a time we had! There was a good spirit, good fellowship and good food, but most of all, there was a hunger to learn the truth of God's Word in unity!

Proverbs 11:14 tells us "*Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.* We need counsel and to be of one consent. How is that possible except we come together face to face? The Lord is about to wrap this thing up and there is much yet to be revealed to the last day's Church.

It is so very important for all who can attend, to attend. Next year, we are going to have Third Term B.T.I. We are so excited about this already!!! You do not want to miss this. It is the scripture that is being taught throughout the entire courses. It does fulfill the scripture found in II Timothy 3:16-17 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

If you truly have a vision of the Body of Christ, then you know that we all must be of one mind and one accord. Attend B.T.I. next year and find out what you are missing. Make plans now and do what you must to get to B.T.I.



## First Term BTI U.S.A Report – 2013

Jannece Colon  
Alamogordo, NM Reporter



First Term BTI was a major blessing to those that attended. We had a small class of four students – Bro. Dumas from Haiti, Sis. Cathy Jones from N.C., Sis. Jannece Colon from N.M., and Bro. Harry Elder from WV. We got to come together for a wonderful time in the Lord !! Our instructors for first term were:

- ⇒ Bro. Wilkins – Church Finances & Church Business
- ⇒ Bro. Murphy – Church History
- ⇒ Bro. Clark – Old Testament History
- ⇒ Sis. Murphy – Auxiliaries/Helps
- ⇒ Sis. Lowe – Bible Doctrine
- ⇒ Sis. Wilkins – Homiletics

We were very blessed with knowledgeable men and women of God as teachers. Our days were filled with many hours of learning and refreshing our learning of the Church and our history with some great fellowship with old friends and new, and great lunches by Sis. Murphy. Our evenings were filled with more fellowship and study. It was a tremendous time in the Lord and a time that we will not soon forget!



# Second Term B.T.I. Report

~Nellie Lowe Reporter~



Second Term B.T.I. Opened on Wednesday July 17, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. sharp with devotion led by Keith Murphy, our director. There was a time of wonderful congregational singing and concert prayer by all. This was the way we started everyday by meeting with God in a time of prayer. Oh, how God did bless. He is ever so gracious with His great out pouring of blessings.



Sister Elizabeth Wilkins did our first class of Homiletics. Homiletics is generally called the “art of preaching.” But it is a great class for those who are called to teach as well. Homiletics involves the study of everything related to the art of preaching sermons, or preparing lessons for teaching Sunday School lessons or Bible Studies. We learned that the first and most important thing a minister of the gospel must do is learn to Wait On God. Every good sermon or lesson begins in the heart of God and we must all be in tune with Him as we study and let Him bring out the divine truth. The Bible tells us in 1Corinthians 1:21 “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.” And in 2 Timothy 2:15 “study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, ....” Our jobs as ministers of the gospel, whether we are preachers or teachers, is to not merely inform our congregation, but rather to form a life. The one thing that is of the utmost importance is to be sure we seek God for His anointing. Sister Wilkins is such a gifted teacher and gave us so much to think about and pray about in our preparation of bringing God's Word.



We then went into class with Charles Clark where he expounded to us about Bible Doctrine. We learned about the “Full Restoration of the Gifts to the Church,” “Fruit of the Spirit,” “Divine Healing,” “The Lord's Supper,”

“Tithing and Giving,” Restitution Where Possible,” “The Church Established by Jesus,” and “The Doctrine of Balaam.” 1Corinthians 12:28 “And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.” The manifestation of the gifts comes by the Holy Ghost. It is the Holy Ghost that decides when the manifestation of a gift will edify the Church. He also decides which gift will be manifested and through which individual manifestation will come. We should prepare ourselves for the manifestation of the gifts by consecrating ourselves to God rather than seeking a gift. It is better that we give our time to being so full of the Holy Ghost that when the need for manifestation of a gift arises, the Spirit may work through us.

Mark 16:17-18 “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.” Signs are given to confirm the message of God, not for the edification of the individual. We learned that Divine Healing is provided for in the atonement. Divine healing is accomplished by the power of God without the aid of medicine or surgical skills. God is to receive the glory. Every Christian should observe the Lords Supper. We who are constantly receiving the blessings provided by the death of Jesus are commanded to observe the memorial instituted by Jesus Christ.

We talked of Tithing and Giving. We are commanded to pay our tithes in Malachi 3:10-12. There are no acceptable excuses for not paying our tithes. When we are obedient to God's commands, we can expect to receive the blessings He has promised us.

Restitution is the act of restoring to the owner anything which was wrongfully taken or giving satisfaction to a person who has been injured. One of the outstanding points of the story of Zacchaeus and his conversion is his willingness to make adjustment for his dishonesty. Jesus established The Church of God.

This was one of the purposes for Jesus Christ on this earth, to establish the divine Church. Scripture indicates that the Church was definitely organized before Jesus went back to the Father. He demonstrated His great love for the Church by the very fact that He gave Himself for it and purchased it with His own blood. The Church is a visible body composed of flesh and blood member and we become members by covenant and the visible act of joining. 2 Peter 2:15 "Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness." We must be careful lest we should become tainted or marred by some false doctrine or delusive spirit and thus be disqualified for the Rapture. God in His infinite wisdom and goodness has given us His Holy Word and in it is the instruction necessary for our spiritual welfare here in this world and our eternal happiness in the world to come.

Church Business was taught by Brother Keith Murphy. He taught us that a minister's life preaches twenty-four hours a day. We learned of the different ranks of ministry, bishops, deacons, evangelists and teachers. We learned that each of these are under the authority of The Church. God's Holy Nation needs government just as any nation needs government. We are under Theocratic Government which is that we are under the direction of God. We learned what the responsibilities of the International Assembly is as well as International Headquarters, the responsibility of the local church and each of the auxiliaries and helps placed within The Church. Brother Murphy then went into teaching us on Pastoral Work. We learned that The Word is the message of the minister because it is the Power that edifies Christians and saves sinners. So a Pastor's main responsibility is to preach The Word. A Pastor is "to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:24 Pastors are constantly being asked for help and advice by members and friends of the congregation who are discouraged. So pastoral counseling may be defined as the ministry of helping a needy person's relationship with God, others and himself. The Pastor is responsible for local church administration and public relations of the church.

Brother Charles Clark then taught us the Bible, Life of Christ. He took us back to the beginning

of Christ in the Old Testament, all the types and shadows. We then moved in to the early life of Christ, his human and spiritual or divine relationship. We learned that where the first man, Adam, fell and brought sin upon the world, Christ succeeded and proved His power to defeat Satan and sin. We covered the three years of Christ's ministry. We found out that Christ's great miracles proved two things, (1) Christ possessed great power and manifested it through His miracles. (2) Christ had great compassion and love for the people that caused Him to manifest His power and authority. Since Christ is our great example and pattern and has left us many wonderful precepts, it is important that we know what that example is and what those precepts are that we may be better fitted to follow and practice them.

Brother Keith Murphy taught us on all the Auxiliaries within The Church. We learned that in order to receive the benefits from the auxiliaries they must be properly organized and operating. The auxiliaries are only helps within The Church, to help to minister to every individual and to take the message to each and every soul. We are never to exalt the auxiliaries above that for which they are given; neither underestimate their importance in their respective places. No part of the body is everything, but each part is something. Let every part perform its function, but let it all be for the edification of the Church.

Each teacher taught with the knowledge of the lessons. We received great insight into the Word of God. We had many fun times. God blessed us as we gave ourselves to this intense learning.



No report on our time in B.T.I. would be complete if we left off speaking about the wonderful lunches being prepared for us. Sister Polly Murphy out did herself again this year. So nice to know that we can have a delicious lunch prepared for us and we don't have to go out to a restaurant. "Sister Polly, I don't think God is going to make you the chief cook and bottle washer in Heaven, but it sure is nice having you in BTI." □

**Plan NOW to Attend "Bible Training Institute 2014"**

# HOME GOING FOR

~Annie Mae Myers~

South Hill, VA



Sister Myers' First Husband was John C. Willoughby who was the first man drafted into the Army during World War II and lost his life fighting in that war. To this union was born one son, John T. Willoughby.

Sister Myers later married Richard G. Myers on March 30th 1946 in Norfolk, VA and to this home there were 3 sons born and one daughter. Sister Myers was the mother of 5 children, the grandmother of 17 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren. She and Bishop Richard Myers pastored some 6 churches and 1 mission during their time in the ministry which spanned 36 years at his death in 1992. She was ever by his side to help him and support him in every way during a marriage of 46 years until his death in 1992. She was truly a good pastor's wife as they moved to various places as she cared for her family of 5 children and supported her husband's work in the ministry as times were pretty hard in those days.

Sister Myers loved beautiful flowers and enjoyed working in her garden. She loved her family and friends and loved to cook for them. Her cooking was one way of having family and friends for fellowship and loved to hear them talk about how good everything was as they enjoyed her food. She also liked to sing and would sing from her heart in the Spirit and all would be blessed that heard her. She loved her God, her Church and the Bible Teachings of the same. Her membership in The Church of God was over 70 years and was a member of The Church of God of North Carolina at the time of her death. Her faithfulness to God is an example for all to follow. The Bible tells us in Proverbs 6:6, ***Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.*** This is not taking away from Sister Myers' life or attempting to make her look as though she had little impact but is rather pointing all to look at her life and spiritually pattern ours after what she did in leaving us an example. She was very busy all during her life laying up treasures in Heaven and preparing for this Home Going by reading her Bible, praying and dedicating her life to the Lord. In death, she found a friend in Jesus that we all can have if we follow her example which was compared to the ant in this scripture.

She went home to be with the Lord on August 31, 2013. The Church of God flag draped her casket as a testimony to her for loyalty to Christ and His Church as the words of "Amazing Grace" rang out one could feel the serenity and peace of God that she enjoyed all during her life of service to the Lord. This was truly a Home Going celebration as her family looked on and acknowledged the victory that had finally been won by Annie Mae Myers.



***So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 1 Corinthians 15:54-55*** □

# THE CHURCH OF GOD OF NC/PHILIPPINES NATIONAL YOUTH CAMP

## ***THEME: FROM VISION TO VICTORY***

APRIL 13-17, 2013

A.C.T.S CATBANGEN, CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION

*Report by : Jussella Cara Esguerra*

5 days...

76 souls..

6 cabins..

2 sites..

1 goal... to achieve SPIRITUAL VICTORY...

### **We thank God for this Successful camp...**

The 5-day youth camp of our Church in the Philippines was indeed a very inspiring one; this event has once again a proof of God's unending blessing, because either the staffs or the campers had their personal struggles on how to attend, Each one has their own reasons and excuses but God has crushed the entire blockage and provided all their needs so they can attend camp.



*The Staff together with our National Overseer Bishop Darwin Gaba and his wife.*

The presence of the Lord was existent all throughout the entire camp, everyone were so blessed and God exceeded everything we planned and prayed for. Truly, He is an Awesome God! During the Camp Fire the Holy Ghost worked, all of the campers were filled with the Holy Spirit, 2 were baptized with the Holy Ghost, and some were slain in the Spirit. Everyone voluntarily testified about their experience with God's presence. Hallelujah!



That 5 days were filled with new knowledge about God, a deeper understanding about the Church and learnings on how to be more faithful, thanks to our Camp teachers Ptr. Lilia Miranda and Ptr. Marie Orillo.



*Here are the pictures of the campers with their respective Counselors.*

**All the Glory, Praises and Thanksgiving be to the Author of this Event, our Almighty God!**

# Surprisingly Satisfied

Submitted By: Jannece Colon  
Alamogordo, NM



Think of a Molten Lava Cake or your favorite dessert. When you have one in front of you, do you scarf it down or do you take time to enjoy every bite? Think about it! How do we live our lives, just getting through each day or savoring every minute of that day? Do we rush ahead looking forward to what's in front of us and miss the minute that we are in? We have all become so busy that we don't have time for much of anything anymore—our families, ourselves, church, and most importantly our Lord.

As a little girl, you always dream of being a wife and mother and just can't wait. As a little boy, you may dream of being a firefighter or policeman. We want to rush it up, we want to be Big!! As a preteen you want everything to speed up so you can drive or date or go out with your friends on road trips. Often as adults, we look to the next holiday, payday, whatever we think could make us happy. We do all this looking for happiness and we often forget to live in the moment that we are in. We have too often passed up smelling the flowers to get that paycheck, we have often passed up that conversation/visitation with our family members or friends for something. We have often passed up our time with God for what – the list is endless. We are just too busy!! It is time to stop and make a resolution to live in the moment we are in and to live it in contentment with God.

Resolve to enjoy every last minute of that molten lava cake with all the ooey gooey yumminess of the chocolate and all the goodies!!

What does the Bible say about contentment?  
1 Timothy 6:6,8 ***But godliness with contentment is great gain. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.***

Hebrews 13:5 ***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.***

Think about a few things:  
What have you been hurrying through?  
What have you been hurrying to get to?  
What are some of the good parts of your experience that you've missed in your attempt to rush through the more difficult ones?

What can you do differently today to “scrape the plate” to gather up all the good things around you and begin enjoying the journey of your life? A satisfied/contented person is a surprising person. They will exude peace and serenity and your presence will deliver an air of refreshment to any setting you enter—not resentment or stress. This is rare and unique, but can and should happen. You must choose contentment over displeasure.

Philippians 4:11-13 ***Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.***

Paul's secret was that he had resolved to be content. Content referred to an inner sufficiency—a satisfaction found through the depth of one's own life with God, independent of our surroundings.

When you've concluded that what you already have on hand is enough, that it's adequate – that it's been deemed by God as sufficient – then you're equipped and empowered to participate fully in the tasks set before you during this season of life. Paul described it in 2 Corinthians 9:8 ***And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:***

One thing leads to another. The more you believe that God's grace to you is overflowing, the more you'll be convinced that you will always have everything you need.

Psalms 84:11 ***For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.***

God has already given enough. He always does. When we choose to recognize this and trust in His continued supply, we'll be able to engage in life in a way we never have before. We'll finally be living life to the fullest.

We must resolve to live with God's overflowing blessings and be content, live in the moment we are in. Enjoy each breath as the blessing God has given us. □



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“...Ye men of Galilee,  
why stand ye  
gazing up into heaven?  
this same Jesus,  
which is taken up from you  
into heaven,  
shall so come in like manner  
as ye have seen him  
go into heaven.” Acts 1:11



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