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LOVE IS THE KEY INGREDIENT OF THE CHURCH



**By this shall all men know
that ye are my disciples,
IF you have LOVE one to another. *John 13:35***

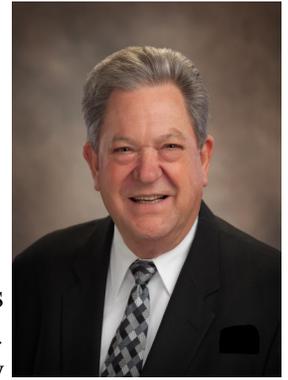
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Editorial:

What Meaning Does Summer Have For Me?

International Overseer
~John A. Wilkins, Jr.~



What is in a Summer for me, one might ask? As we look back at our summers do we see the glory of our God and the beauty of His creation? I hope we all see the things God has made for us to enjoy and take into our minds as we allow them to enter us at a level of truth and realism that will make us better people. I recently spent a month in the hospital and it was not a good experience for me, because I had some days that were lost from memory. Finally when my memory came back, I started to think on some eternal things about how big God is and how He made us in His own image and likeness and how He is able to fix things that are beyond our means. This reminds me of a story about a little boy who was asked some questions about his flying of a kite and gave some very positive answers. A man saw him holding on to a ball of twine and watched as the pull on the string was noticeable. The man asked, "Son what are you doing?" The boy answered, "I am flying my kite." The man said to him, "I don't see your kite so how do you know it is up there?" The little boy without much thought replied, "I can feel it pulling on the line."

Sometimes the fact that we have the Lord pulling on the line is all we need to push us on to some deeper things. After my return home from the hospital I was watching some new born rabbits as they came out of some hedges in my back yard just hopping around eating some grass. This is a safe place for them, because my yard is enclosed

with a six foot fence. This makes them feel safe out there. I love watching them and every year they are back to raise their little ones in the safety of my yard. God has put a safety net up around us to protect us and just like the rabbits we must be on guard against danger and be ready to run if it comes near us. The rabbits have to occasionally run because my son has a big dog that they know is dangerous for them and then there is Yogie, my little dog who likes to chase them. God has given them skills to protect them against these dangers, but they have to be on guard. He has given us the power to know dangers that are all around us and He has promised us His protection.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.
Psalms 46:1-5

Let's enjoy our Summer and have no fear, for God is with us and He will deliver us from all danger!



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LOVE IS THE KEY INGREDIENT OF THE CHURCH



International Overseer
John A. Wilkins, Jr.

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13:35

From the beginning of time, God has shown us His Church by **LOVE**. There was so much love in Heaven that Christ, willing to die on a cross for our sins, came to this earth as a baby and because of that love, He laid His life down and was nailed to the cross. But the words He spoke to His disciples in the opening passage found in John the 13th chapter was just prior to His crucifixion. In fact, He stated to them that He was giving them a *new* commandment, that they love one another ***“as I have loved you”***. Though they did not fully understand it at the time, He told them that where He was about to go, they could not follow Him now, but would afterwards, referring to His second coming. There was much work to be done, and still is, between the crucifixion and the second coming, but none of it will be accomplished without the love of God that is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost. We are living in a sick world with people’s hearts overpowered and in bondage by the evil one, but the scripture says that **all men** would **know** that you are disciples of the Lord by the love that you have one to another. They should feel the love of God by just being in the presence of one of His disciples.

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that

loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 1 John 4:7-11

There should be no confusion as to the meaning of this passage. **God is love.** His church should have that same love manifested through them both among themselves and to others. It is through Him that we live and move and have our being and so much so that others should desire what we have – the key ingredient of love. Because we are humans, differences of opinion will arise, even among church folk, but by the love of God, and a desire to find His perfect will in every situation, differences can be settled without hard feelings remaining. Genuine prayer and love will prevail over anything the enemy tosses at us in order to divide and ultimately conquer us. Just watch children as they play, and you will see them get upset with one another even to the point of crying, and we think they will never want to play with each other anymore only to find out they are best friends tomorrow. They forgive and continue to love each other just like nothing ever happened. In the Church we display the same behavior sometimes, but instead of forgiveness, we see people hide these

things in their heart and refuse to have the love that they ought to have and the forgiveness for each other. This can cause great harm to an entire local church. Remember, Jesus said, “Love one another” and it was given as a command, not an option.

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. John 15:12

Love has been failing in man since the Garden of Eden when Cain and Abel did not have the proper attitude regarding their offering to the Lord. Cain slew Abel because there was a lack of love and since Abel’s offering was acceptable and Cain’s was not, God gave Adam another son named Seth to replace Cain and God’s plan was continued.

God knew what He was doing before the flood, after the flood, and He knows what He is doing even now, and the plan was for His love to shine and for us to love one another, and in all ages, it was to be that God’s love would be the key ingredient to sustain us in all dispensations. If my wife bakes a cake or uses some other recipe and leaves out the key ingredient, you know something is wrong by the look and taste of it. So it is without His love being displayed properly in His church.

For thy waste and thy desolate places, and the land of thy destruction, shall even now be too narrow by reason of the inhabitants, and they that swallowed thee up shall be far away. Isaiah 49:19

The message is entitled, “**Love is the Key Ingredient of the Church**”. When people come through the doors of our sanctuaries, they should be overcome by such a feeling of love and unity that abides there. That spirit continues throughout the worship service and everyone goes away blessed by that service and the fellowship of the saints. There is so much suffering and pain in people’s lives all around us every day and many feel hopeless in their situations and so alone as they face things such as financial stress, marriage problems, problems with their children and so much more. Love is the answer. If they would just look to the only one who can take care of all these things, He would help them in all these situations and give them a peace that passes all understanding. But, many times, instead of looking to Him, they look away and go deeper in their sins. There is a lack of the fear of God and respect of authority today all over this world. The USA is being overrun today by untold millions of people who have no allegiance to the United States Laws, Constitution, or Sovereignty of Her people.

In other countries where I have served, a nation is only as strong as their power to control their borders, and that must be done in order to survive as a nation. The love of our country demands that our borders be protected and defended against all who seek to destroy them. Look at the United States Government over the last 20 years and then look at the Church over the same period of time and you can see that both have been under severe attack by those who do not like them. It is a similar battle against both, and at times it looks like the cause is almost lost. It is time to take the love

for each into serious consideration and determine to hold on to them for our survival.

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. 1 Peter 1:22-25

God brought the Church here out of darkness, and on June 13, 1903 to a small insignificant group of humble people in the mountains of North Carolina, in a place known as the Fields of the Wood. This became known as the great awakening of the last days and began the fulfillment of the last phase of God’s great plan of the ages. This is another illustration of God’s great love for us in that He brought His Church up out of darkness in a FREE LAND that could literally send missionaries around the world to evangelize. Many have turned their back on the vision of the Church and believe that Bishops A. J. Tomlinson and M. A. Tomlinson were promoting a selfish idea that they both had that had no biblical basis at all. The Bible tells us: *Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring*

forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Matthew 7:15-20

We are to beware of false prophets and avoid their blasphemy and lies. Know this that no false prophet is going into Heaven, regardless of who endorses them. These were two great men of God who left the doubters and trouble makers talking to themselves, as they followed God, and miracles took place as they proceeded to tell the Church what God wanted and expected. We must display the same courage today! The Church will never be defeated, but will rise to meet the Lord in the air when the time comes. When the early split occurred, Bishop A. J. took an old fish box over to Central Avenue and started preaching the Church message without the large congregation that the Church had been used to, and soon God came down and started to bless them. These two men stood tall before the doubters and trouble makers of their day as they withstood the impossibilities facing their ministry and The Church of God. They did not change the message for anyone or any group, but continued in the TRUTH they had accepted from the Lord. God revealed their message to thousands who did just like them, by standing before a backslidden world and embracing the TRUTH. When these men preached, the Holy Ghost blessed, and the air was full of excitement, and love was allowed to pull all together into respect and honor of each other. Now there is no such movement where the new found things are being taught and the people are being deceived. It is more like a funeral than a worship service while some are filled with loud music, swinging, jumping and

other wild signs of emotion and they call it worship. Where is the quietness and stillness of God as He speaks to us in His still small voice? It was a good thing to listen to these men, what they wrote, what they recorded, because it was sound doctrine which required something of everyone that read it or heard it. Someone called our headquarters recently and explained that if they were still living, they would have made some concessions with the new changes, but this is not true. They would never have allowed these changes to have occurred, because they are not biblical. May God have mercy on all of us.

We must bear the name THE CHURCH OF GOD and bear the distinguishing marks of His Church. The name does not distinguish us, but the marks do. Our spiritual DNA is important, and if we don't have it, we are an imposter like the rest. Please remember NOAH, how he preached about rain for 120 years, and only 8 souls were saved. We might preach Church all our lives and the number saved might be shocking, but it doesn't give us a right to change the message. The love we have been speaking about in this message by no means changes the message. God loves the sinner, but hates the sin. The sinner must know that they can be delivered from their sins and be transformed by the love and power of God. When they found the Baby Jesus, it wasn't the name that set Him apart, but it was the fact that a Virgin Mary had Him and He had no earthly father, because the Holy Ghost had caused her to conceive and bear Him, breaking the curse of SIN. He was ONE and different! The Church is ONE and different just as God had intended Her to be.

The Church must stop refusing to stand up for the doctrine because it might offend someone who

is playing church. Love for the lost souls who will spend eternity in a burning hell will cause Her to boldly proclaim the truth even in the face of death! Everyone can't be His Church. Many are playing church with their permissive doctrines. In 2015 there was a drop in abortions in the United States with a reported number from the CDC of 638,169 aborted. The number will go up again now with so many states deciding to abort late term up to birth. One state now wants to wrap them in a blanket and keep them comfortable until the mother and doctor can decide whether to let them live or kill them. I heard their governor make that statement on National television and I could not believe what I was hearing, and he was a doctor. Churches now let you decide if you are male or female today and if you desire to change your gender, then you can. There are no standards in most of the churches of today. It requires more commitment to join most of the clubs today than it does the churches. Who are we fooling today with the liberal views and promiscuous behavior of the so-called churches?

God's Church will be one full of love and walking the paths of holiness outlined in the Bible without spot or wrinkle when the Lord comes for Her, soon. How many will make up the Church? I don't know and I don't think you will know either. I do want to be one of them that is walking the walk and talking the talk when the Lord returns for Her. Today, men rise up and want to run things their own way, but The Church of God must be run His way! It is His church and His plan! She must seek His face for Her direction in these last days. She has reached a place in time where She has never been before – at the threshold of

His second coming to take Her out of this sinful world into an eternity of peace where Satan will never come against Her again. The Battle will be over, and the victory will be won on that glorious day!

For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire. 2 Peter 2:20-22

There is no reason to look back, but to look forward to the great and glorious times that lie ahead. Bishop Tomlinson once stated that he saw nothing but victory on top of victory for The Church of God! In this world where Satan is the prince of the power of the air and the spirit that works in the disobedient ones, Jesus said these words in John 16:33 ***These things I have spoken unto you, that ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.***

You may be asking, how can I have peace when I look all around me today and there is nothing but trouble on every hand, but I am here today to let you know that the Church is not gone, but She is alive and well, and while we do not have the many thousands for our assemblies like we used to have, they are still moving forward. The Spirit is about to move and we will be surprised what will happen when everyone that comes will be full of love and God will cause a stir of the



Holy Ghost that has not been seen in a long, long time. He can do more in 15 minutes than we can do in 15 years, if we will just let love rule our hearts.

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. 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. These things I command you, that ye love one another. John 15:9-17

We can take comfort today in the fact that Christ Himself prayed for the Church while He was still here on this earth. Go back and read John chapter 17. The last verse in that chapter says this v 26 *And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.*

As I stated earlier in this message, the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost and it is the same love that God had for Christ and that Christ had for us and that we must have

one to another that all may know that we are His disciples. In this hopeless world today, there is still hope through Jesus Christ our Lord.

There are so many scriptures that pertain to the love of God that there is no way to write about them all, but read the following passages and allow the spirit to bless you through the reading of them.

Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you. And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: 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.

1 Thessalonians 3:11-13

Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body. Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

Hebrews 13:1-7

If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou

shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. James 2:8-9

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 1 John 4:7-11

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. 1 Peter 1:22-25

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. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 22:37-40 □

**LOVE IS
THE KEY
INGREDIENT.**





The Power of His Resurrection

Cathy J. Elder
Hartselle, AL



Easter is a very special time of the year when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. He was crucified and buried, but thank God He arose on the third day just like He said He would!

Go to the book of Philippians chapter 3, before we read the traditional Easter scriptures, beginning with verse 7: ***But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8: Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win (gain) Christ, 9: And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11: If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.***

Now, what is the apostle Paul talking about – the power of his resurrection? Just what does it mean? We know the account of Saul and how he thought he was doing good by persecuting the church and having Christians killed. He was on his way on the road to Damascus to do just that when he had an encounter with the Lord, who turned him completely around because He had a special calling for Saul, whose name was changed to Paul. He was never the same man after that encounter. Sometimes when I am praying for an individual to be saved, I pray Lord, give them a road to Damascus experience. Turn them completely around and use them for your glory! If you have had an encounter with the Lord, you will be completely changed by the power of His resurrection. It is like a light switch. When it's turned on, the darkness is immediately overtaken by the light. You don't have to grow into salvation – it is immediate. You don't have to watch for the mail carrier or Fed Ex for the delivery. A truly repentant soul will receive that light that only comes by believing in the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. When you go somewhere to eat

and you are really hungry, you have to wait for the food to be prepared and served, but when a soul hungers and thirsts for righteousness, the Bible says he shall be filled. The table is already prepared – just come and dine.

You remember one time how the disciples begged the Lord to eat – talking about physical food or meat, which is the main dish of a meal and usually the most costly. But His response to them was that He had meat to eat that they knew not of. The disciples looked at each other and asked if somebody had brought him something. He told the disciples, ***My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.*** The only thing He had on His mind was being about the Father's business. He had a clear vision of the work and He wasted no time when it came to carrying it out. He had explained to His disciples how it would be, but they did not fully comprehend what was to take place at that time. Because sin had separated man from God, Jesus was sent by the Father (and He willingly came) to become the supreme sacrifice that would enable man to be reconciled back to God. He had to die for that. When they came to seize Jesus, the Bible says there was a great multitude with Judas who had swords and staves. Jesus told them that if He wanted to, He could pray to the Father who would send Him more than 12 legions of angels (that's more than 72,000)! But then He asks the question, ***but then how will the scriptures be fulfilled?*** What would be our end had He not gone through with it? So, what a costly price He paid! But that was what was on His mind continually. Under the Jewish law, their sin offerings or sacrifices had to be burnt outside the camp, while they dwelt in tabernacles, and outside the city, when they dwelt in cities. Hebrews 13:12 states ***Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate*** (or outside the city) like a criminal. They put stripes on His back and the blood ran from them. They put a crown of thorns on His head and blood ran from it. They made fun of Him and nailed Him to a cross where He suffered much agony before He declared in John 19:30 ***...It is finished: and he bowed his head and gave up the***

ghost. V 34 *But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.* That blood was for the salvation of the “*whosoever will believe*” soul and for the purchase of His church. You remember the words of the prophet Isaiah, many years before Christ, who wrote as he was moved upon by the Holy Ghost these words, *...and with his stripes we are healed.* We are made whole. I know that by what He did, souls can be saved, lives changed, sicknesses healed and circumstances changed, all because of the power of His resurrection!

Yes, He suffered greatly and died on the cross, but it does not end there! He did just what He said that He would do. On the third day, before corruption would set in, He arose from the dead! How do I know? Because the Bible tells me so! In the book of John chapter 20: 1-10 *The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulcher, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulcher. Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulcher, and we know not where they have laid him. Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulcher. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulcher. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulcher, and seeth the linen clothes lie, And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulcher, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.*

Lets look at these scriptures for a few moments. Mary Magdalene started out very early in the morning to the tomb. In fact, the Bible says that it was still dark outside. I don't particularly care about visiting a grave, but when I do, it is not dark outside. But, she was eager to get



there early. When she arrived, she found that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. She runs quickly to tell Peter and John what she found. “He’s gone and we don’t know where they put Him,” she declared, so Peter and John ran together toward the tomb, but John outran Peter and stooped down to look in, but did not go in. Some people are the same way. They just take a glance, but Peter went in (went a little further) to check it out. He saw the linen clothes lying in one place and the napkin that was about his head lying in a separate place by itself. I have read that the Jews had this custom. If the head of the house was called away during a meal for important business, he would do one of two things to let his servants know whether or not he would be back to finish his meal. If he would not be back, the napkin would be tossed aside, indicating that they could go ahead and clean up, but if he was not quite finished and would return, he would fold the napkin neatly and place it to the side. Christ had suffered, died, and rose again on the third day, but He was not completely finished. He is going to return again one day soon to take us, that where He is, there we may be also and so shall we ever be with the Lord! Do you believe it? Amen!

But, He has not returned yet and He has left a work for us to do. We need to have that same spirit and desire that Paul had when he wrote to the Philippians. He had already suffered much for the cause of Christ. In one place he wrote that he had received 39 stripes five times from the Jews (that’s 195 stripes), was beaten three times with rods, stoned one time, suffered shipwreck three times. He said he journeyed in perils of water, perils of robbers, in perils by his own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, perils in the city, in the wilderness, in the sea and among false brethren; he knew what it was like to be so tired, weary and in much pain, thirsty and hungry, cold and in need. Then he went on to say, beside all those kinds of things that are without, I have to deal with that which comes on me daily, the care of all the churches. Yet through all his sufferings, he did not waiver nor complain. He said in one place that “none of these things move me.” He said he didn’t even count his life dear unto himself so that he could finish his course with joy. But his attitude was, *If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.* (II Corinthians 11:30) Look at chapter 12 v 7-9 with me, *And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above*

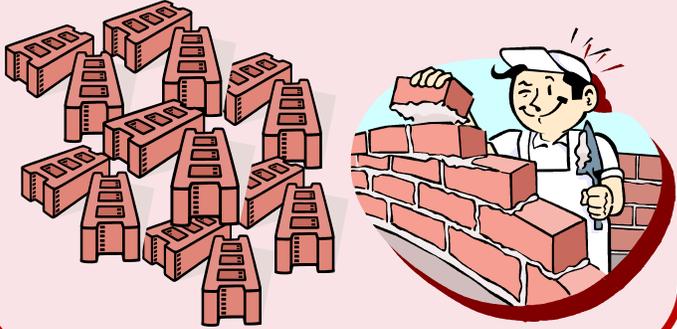
measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. He goes on to say that he takes pleasure in these adversities for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. How did he learn all this? By the power of the resurrection. In verse 8 of Philippians 3, Paul said that he counted all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus his Lord. Some people know who He is, but do they really know Him. They know He can answer prayer, but do they believe He will! Does their knowledge of Him excel from what they have read or been told to that level of knowledge that comes from experiencing for themselves the life changing power of God by the resurrection. Paul said I want to be **found in him** not doing things my way, but God's way. Not having my own righteousness which is of the law, but the righteousness which is of God by faith. He *said I want to know Him, the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings being made conformable to His death.* In other words, to become dead to sin by His power. Some people don't believe we can live without sin in this present world. I say they don't know Him nor the power of His resurrection! Some say, nobody is without sin. We all sin every day. I say, they don't know Him nor the power of His resurrection.

I have a friend who I can say that I know pretty well and she knows me. We have communicated much through the years and suffered many things together. God put Sister Shirley Michael and I together many years ago. Back in March 1981, I came back to the Lord with a determination to serve him. I was 26 years old (divorced since age 17). Later that year in September, the Assembly was coming up. I wanted to go, but I did not see how. I prayed and said, "Lord, you know I want to go, but I do not know even how to get there, especially all by myself. I am leaving it in your hands to work out for me." My Dad lived in the Decatur, AL area at that time where Sister Shirley lived and I told him my desire. He contacted Sister Shirley, she gave me a call and invited me to go with her and another lady to the Assembly. I could hear the sincerity in her voice. I drove 150 miles, met her, and spent the week with her and we have been best of friends since. That was 38 years ago this fall. Thank God for my friend; my soul mate! Our lives are

amazingly parallel. We were both young divorced women who loved God. Our Dads were both backslid preachers. Both of us later were reunited with our husbands and then the 4 of us became good friends. We both had no children and later we both became widows when we lost our husbands by death – hers in June 2005 and mine July 2008. She moved from the home she had lived in many years to Vina, AL, and a couple of years ago, I moved from the home I had lived in for 33 years to Hartselle, AL, close to where she had lived, to be close to my sister and family. I am sure there are many other things that could be said, but we know each other. I know that when I am in need of prayer and something from the Lord, I can call on my friend and she cares enough to pray for me about that situation. But, as much as I love and know her, **I want to know Him.** Paul wanted to know the Lord – really know him and he did. He spent much time communicating with Him. The scripture tells us to draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to us. If we find ourselves not as close as we would like, all we need to do is to take that one step toward Him and He will move toward us. Paul knew the Lord in the fellowship of his sufferings as we have looked at in the scriptures and he knew what it was like to be made conformable (similar) to His death.

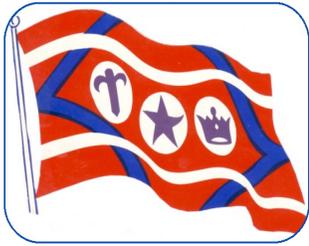
Don't you really want to know Him and the power of His resurrection? Are you looking for His return? It could be today. God bless you. □

SPECIAL THANKS TO “ALL”
Who are Participating in our Brick Plan.
YOUR HELP IS
GREATLY APPRECIATED!

An illustration within a red rounded rectangle. On the left, several red bricks are scattered. On the right, a bricklayer wearing a white cap and apron is shown in profile, using a trowel to lay a brick on a wall. The background is light blue.

ALL NATIONS FLAG

In the General Assembly of 1964, the recommendation of the General Overseer, June 13 has been set aside as the All Nations Flag Day.

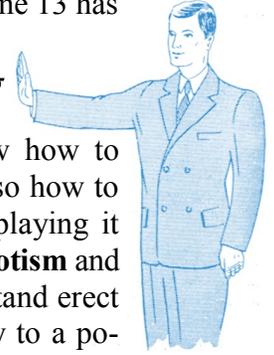


The Church Flag Pledge

I Pledge Allegiance to our Church Flag, and to the doctrine for which it stands—one God, one faith, one mind, and one Church for all.

To Salute The Flag

Every person should know how to display his country's flag and also how to salute it. owning a flag and displaying it properly are the marks of **Patriotism** and **respect**. Those saluting should stand erect with the right arm raised quickly to a position in line with the shoulder open palm toward the flag.



A nation's flag stands for the land, the people, the government and the ideals of their country no matter when or where it is displayed.

Since every nation of the world has its own flag to stand for the people, the government and ideals of that particular nation, so the Church, a body of people who are setting forth the New Testament government and doctrine, bears its own distinctive **flag** to identify it as the Holy Nation. The flag of the Holy Nation represents a theocratic government, a government under the immediate direction of God. Historically, The Church of God flag was introduced by the General Overseer, A.J. Tomlinson, in the 28th General Assembly, September 15, 1933, with more than 5,000 delegates witnessing this momentous occasion. A Scriptural foundation for the flag was presented to the Assembly. Guided by these Biblical truths, the **scepter**, **star** and **crown** were placed in the design.

The concept, the design and the colors of the flag were born in the minds of the ancient prophets who recorded the very heartbeat of the Spirit in the **written Word**. Genesis, 49:10 *The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.* This is a prophecy of Jesus Christ to whom the people will gather in the last days. Naturally then, the Church He established should have an ensign, a banner, a flag, to display wherever His Body, the Church, is located. To amplify this Old Testament passage, look to this New Testament Scripture in St. John 11:51-52:

And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

This agrees with many Scriptures, showing there is to be a divine movement in the last days which will attract the people of God and bring them together unto Jesus who is the Head of the Church. This movement, described by Peter as an Holy Nation, will be entitled to an ensign or flag as much as, or perhaps more than, any other nation of the world.

Again prophecy speaks of the coming of Jesus in Numbers 24:17 *I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth.* Jesus is the Star, and the Sceptre is symbol of His authority as King.

David, wrote: *Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.* Psalms 45:6

These prophecies of the coming of Jesus to reign as king are represented on the flag by the scepter, star and the crown.

Its colors are red, white, blue and purple. The **red** represents the blood of Jesus Christ which was shed for all mankind regardless of race, color or creed. The **white** stands for purity or holiness; the **blue** stands for truth. The **purple** stands for **royalty** or **kingship**, the church to reign forever with Christ. The **blue stripes** of the flag do not meet at the top or bottom, showing that all of God's people who are scattered abroad over the face of the earth are not as yet gathered together in **one**.

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah. Psalms 60:4

Every person should know how to display his country's flag and also how to salute it. owning a flag and displaying it properly are the marks of **Patriotism** and **respect**. □

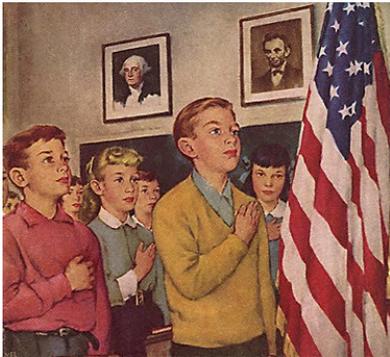
TEACHING THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Courtesy of Gateways to Better Education

P.O. Box 514, Lake Forrest, CA 92609-0514 and...

THE Historical News

State of South Carolina



I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE:

A pledge is a promise, and allegiance means being loyal or faithful to something.

with certain unalienable right.” Our Founders understood that the governments are established to secure those God-given rights.

IDIVISIBLE: We pledge ourselves never to be torn apart as we were during the Civil War.

WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR

ALL: We commit ourselves to the very difficult task of maintaining liberty and justice for everyone. Liberty means freedom and we commit ourselves to ideals such as having the freedom to worship, freedom to assemble, and freedom to speak our minds. We also commit ourselves to justice, which means being fair and right in our judgement of people. For instance, the government must abide by the law when dealing with people in court or in local, state, or federal governing decisions. While America has not always lived up to these high ideals, saying the pledge is one way to frequently reminding ourselves of the importance of these ideals. If we ever stop reminding ourselves, how will we achieve these great American Ideals? □

TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Nations and groups from ancient times to the present have flags to identify themselves.

AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH IT STANDS: Now we begin to get at the heart of the matter. As Americans, we don’t pledge allegiance to a land, or a king. We pledge to be faithful to a set of ideals. One of the ideals is how we govern ourselves as a republic. The people elect representatives who govern for a time and we accountable to the people for the time and are accountable to the people for the job they do. In many countries around the world, people do not have the wonderful opportunity to select their leaders, nor can they select the new ones when they want a change.

ONE NATION: We pledge ourselves to stay together as a country, even when we disagree on many things. We are a nation of many races and religions, but we can be unified by our commitments to our ideals.

UNDER GOD: Our Declaration of Independence states one of Americas most cherished ideals, “we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and are endowed by; their creator



AMERICA STANDS FOR FREEDOM

God's Financial Plan

Submitted by Thurman J. Lowe
National Overseer, USA



We all want God to bless us with our finance and other needs we have. If we truly want God's blessing and all that He has for us we must please him in all things. We must do what He has ask us to do and that is giving willingly of our tithes and offerings to support The Church of God. If we will do our part God will bless us beyond our expectations and we will see God moving in our lives and in our churches. If we want growth in our churches we must follow and obey His commandments. I would like to enter the doors of our churches and feel the mighty power of God so strong that people will flock to see what is going on. Let's all members of The Church of God do what He has laid out for us to do and see what God will do for us. God's Financial Plan is outlined in His Word as "Tithes and Offerings". His plan comes with promise and blessings as we obey and put it into operation.

The New Testament reference to tithing runs back to Abraham and we go back to Abraham for our tithe-paying the same as if the law had never been instituted. The paying of tithes can be traced from Abraham to the present day. The writer of Hebrews (7:2) refers to Abraham giving a **"tenth part of all"** to Melchizedek. Genesis 14:18-20 gives the actual account and states, **"and he gave him tithes of all."** Abraham lived and paid tithes at least four hundred years before the Law.

In Genesis 28:22 when Jacob experienced the vision of the ladder, he made a vow to God. It was a vow that stated, **"and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee."** Jacob paid tithes of all that was given to him from God.

Throughout the entire dispensation of the law from Mount Sinai to the fulfilling of the law in Jesus, tithe paying was a part of the legalistic code. (On tithing and giving as a vital part of the law in Israel, see Leviticus 27:30-34; Numbers 18:10-32; Deuteronomy 14:22-29.) Tithes was God's plan to aid in financing the service of the tabernacle of the congregation. The Children of Israel were tithe-payers.

A tithes was, of course, a tenth. Offerings were above and beyond the tithe. God's relationship with Israel was based on a covenant principle, As such, there were two sides to the agreement—two mutual obligations. If Israel kept her end of the agreement and observed the law, God would bless her and fulfill His promises. If Israel disobeyed the law, the covenant was broken and God was not under obligation to fulfill His part of the blessing agreement.

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings" Malachi 3:8 In this passage, God's complaint is against His people because they have



robbed Him in not paying tithes and offerings. For that reason, they suffered loss and yet wondered why they could not prosper.

When Christ came fulfilling the law, He sanctioned the paying of tithes—Matthew 23:23 ***"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."*** The laws of God written on the hearts of men by Christ would compel them to be faithful to God's financial plan. The paying of one tenth of the individual's increase into the Church treasury has become the established practice of the last days Church of God.

Obedience to God is the focal point. Tithing and giving becomes a secondary matter with obedience becoming the point of prime importance. As with many Biblical issues, an outward act such as paying tithes is easily seen by people, but one may be obedient in outward conduct and fail in inward obedience. That is, our attitude or motivation for doing something becomes the issue with God. We may pay tithes or give offerings outwardly, but inwardly resent or covet every cent paid. Our spiritual blessings come because of

our inward obedience in pleasing God.

What is the purpose of tithing and giving? Why does God place so much emphasis on it? It is because He wants a tenth of everything simply to possess it for Himself? Surely not, since the whole world is His already. He wants the tithe as evidence that His people recognize His love toward them. The book of Malachi opens with God's assurance, "***I have loved you:***" He wants His people to recognize that great truth and to respond to it by tithing and giving, the value of which lies in being an expression of our love and recognition of His love. "***All the tithes***" means "*the whole tithe.*" It is possible to pay a full ten percent, and yet not tithe the whole tithe, if tithes are paid as an obligation and not as an expression of our love and gratitude.

The New Testament does not approach tithing and giving as a law to be obeyed, but as an expression of a loving response to God's love.



If we were under the law we would be forced to pay tithes and offerings. Surely, being under grace, we will not allow those under the law to outdo us in expressing our profound gratitude for the riches of God's grace and mercy. When people do not tithe and give, they are saying in effect, "Since I am not forced to do it, my love and gratitude to God are not strong enough to motivate me to give to God what is due Him. I do not love Him that much. Even though He gave His only Son for my redemption, and has enriched my life with countless good things, I do not recognize Him as the Source of my blessings, and therefore I do not feel that I owe Him anything."

Who should tithe and give? 1 Corinthians 16:2 "***Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.***" Every student of the Scriptures knows that 1 Corinthians 15 is the greatest single chapter in the Bible dealing with the resurrection. It is with surprise that the apostle moves directly from that great theme to the next. It is as if he paused a moment after he had finished with the great resurrection theme, took a breath, then wrote, "***Now concerning the collection.***" The position of these two themes should reveal something about the ministry of tithing and giving. It is not merely a matter of everybody chipping in to help defray "the expenses of the work," but is rather elevated to the level of worship as

we participate with God in the stewardship which is committed to us to carry on His work of communication the gospel of the resurrected Christ to the world.

It is significant that verse 2 literally means putting into the treasury" or "hording up," and this is entirely consistent with the Church's provision of a common treasury for the collection of tithes and offerings out of which the work of the Lord will be finance.

Giving offerings is separate and apart from paying tithes. Our offerings are to be given in addition to the tithes we pay. We are under obligation to give offerings just the same as we are to pay tithes. We cannot fulfill our obligation for paying tithes by giving; neither can we fulfill our obligation for giving paying tithes.

The tithe is a specified amount, one-tenth of our increase, but we are free to give an offering of any amount. The tithe is to be placed in the storehouse while an offering may be given to help the poor and needy, to construct Church buildings, to finance the mission work, to publish the gospel, and many other activities which promote the work of the Church. Our obligation to support these activities by our offerings is just as great as it is to support the ministry with our tithes.

The Church of God teaches that its members should pay tithes and give offerings. The reason the Church teaches these things is because they are taught in the Bible. The seriousness of failure to pay tithes or give offerings is shown in the prophet's question under the inspiration of God; "***Will a man rob God?***" And goes on to tell us that the sin was committed by withholding tithes and offerings, continuing with the admonition that such will be cursed with a curse Malachi 3:8,9). Any who may have been guilty of robbing God in tithes and offerings will surely want to stop and to begin paying tithes and giving offerings. For such who obey is the promise of greater material and spiritual blessings of the Lord. It brings great joy to our hearts and frees us from condemnation to know we are keeping the commandments of the Lord and doing the things which He said.

God Bless The Church of God as we strive to become closer to God in all ways. □

Thurman J. Lowe
National Overseer, USA

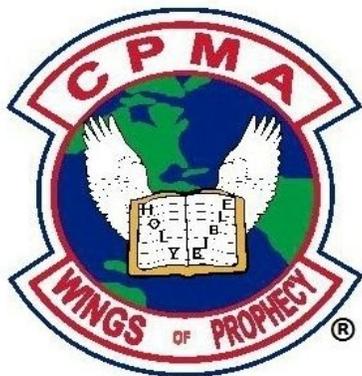
CPMA—The Church of Prophecy Marker Association

Sis. Jannece Colon
CPMA Secretary—United State of America



The General Overseer recommended the adoption of The Church of Prophecy Marker Association in the 36th Annual Assembly in 1941. General Overseer—Ambrose Jessup Tomlinson better known as Bro. A.J. Tomlinson said these words, “I am so enthused about the mighty vision I have of the work that will be done by the Church of Prophecy Marker Association that I feel like taking this opportunity of giving further information about this wonderful 1941 project. I earnestly hope the Questions and Subjects Committee will be interested to give this subject their attention and not only consider it themselves, but bring it to the Assembly in regular order to give a chance for the multitudes to give it careful consideration, since it has often been said that in the multitude of counselors there is safety.” The Questions and Subjects Committee presented this recommendation to the same Assembly in a report that was accepted unanimously. The report is as read: “We heartily agree with a section of the General Overseer’s Annual Address concerning the Marker Association as an Auxiliary. We recommend that this Assembly consider and adopt it as an auxiliary. Further development to be worked out by the Association.”

CHURCH OF PROPHECY MARKER ASSOCIATION



talk about the necessity to use a method of marking so that people may see them.

In our history, we had the Fields of the Woods that was a testimony to the CPMA program and marked

our teachings, the arise shine, the ten commandments,

Burger Mountain (and I do not mean the burger shack and grill), as well as our rich Godly heritage. It was a very Holy and Sacred place to many of us, while to others it was nothing more than a playground or an amusement/theme park. The Fields of the Woods was created to assist in leading others to Christ, to mark the work and miracles of God and the church through the years. It truly was there to give Scriptural meaning and to help others understand the Scriptural vision that the markers and happenings pointed out. Oh, if those mountains and stones could only speak of the miracles and the changes that were made in so many lives down through the years.

After all these years, the CPMA program is still very important. We need to mark our buildings, fly the flag, and be a personal marker for God and The Church of God. The necessity is still real! It is more important to have and hold onto a vision of The Church of God now more than ever. As the end times are upon us, we must hold on to the truth and the vision of The Church of God. We must stand strong and never quit! We must always remember, that the CPMA is to give a Scriptural meaning and help others understand the Scriptural vision that markers and happenings through the years have pointed out. Our mission has not changed, just our situation. We must be living markers and share the message with all those around us and that come in contact with us daily. We must keep in mind that the duty and purpose of the CPMA is to bring the works of the Church before the world. The word “mark” in the days of the prophet was used before the word “advertising.” The two words can be used interchangeably. It is very important that we see this point in order to see the marking which does the advertising of what the Church has fulfilled and what it is doing.

Why should I give to the CPMA? First of all, it was put down by the General Assembly that we as members of The Church of God were obligated to do so. Second, Because we are the last days Church and we must not fall short in spreading the gospel and giving a Scriptural meaning of events that have happened and help other people in understanding the Scriptural vision of The Church and happenings in our daily lives, not just our history.

How much is it a year? When is it due? CPMA Memberships are \$10/year that is due in January every year. The membership now runs from January—December of each year.

Who can be a CPMA member? Anyone, any age can be a member of the CPMA. It is recommended that all Church members join the CPMA.

What do I do? How can I afford it? There is a very old saying, “Where there is a will, there is a way.” \$10 per year is not much. That is only 83 cents per month!! If you can’t afford it all at one time, plan it out that you can save up to pay your CPMA each January.

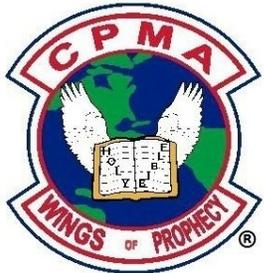
It is now June, can I still become a member of the CPMA? YES, you can be a member. The membership is still \$10.00 for the year.

Alamogordo, New Mexico
Dunn, North Carolina
Magna, Utah
Falls View, West Virginia

2019
Local Churches
100% in CPMA Memberships



CHURCH OF PROPHECY
MARKER ASSOCIATION



YOUR CHURCH could be recognized here next time!!

PLEASE JOIN THE CPMA TODAY!

PLEASE send in with your monthly Church Treasurer’s report with a list a names of the members so that cards can be printed for all the CPMA members and watch for your Name here!

Thank you for giving to the Lord and the Church!



Mark you calendars
and Make plans NOW
to attend our Annual
Family Camp!!

Grab Your Umbrella and Sing in the Rain!
It is time to prepare for Showers of Blessings!



October 25-27, 2019

Cloudcroft, NM

\$100.00 if registered through last day of Assembly.
Starting September 28, 2019, price increases to
\$125.00. (Price includes room, food, all camp sup-
plies, door prizes, etc.—You must bring a Great Attitude
and Receiving Spirit with you!)



For more information, registration, etc.
Please contact Jannece Colon
At jc@thechurchofgodofnc.com or at
575-631-3412





Announcing!!

107th INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD OF NORTH CAROLINA

September 25-27, 2019

The Assembly will be held at the Hamilton, AL Church located at 12024 St. Hwy 19, Hamilton, AL 35570. If you would like to received information about the location, motels, restaurants or anything about the area just call the host pastor, Brother James Miller and he will be glad to help you. He can be reached at **(205) 921-3701** or **(205) 495-3432**. Brother Miller has a beautiful church will accommodate our assembly. The **date** for the **Assembly will be September 25-27, 2019**. Our services will begin at 9:00 Am and will end each evening around 9:00 PM or when the Spirit of the Lord is finished.

There will be a pre-assembly meeting on the 24th at 7:00 PM and everyone is invited to come for open discussion and for questions regarding the 107th International Assembly. This meeting is always open for everyone to ask questions or provide suggestions for our headquarters staff a long as is done in a good spirit with the interest of the entire Church considered. The 24th will be a set up day for the assembly and if you would like to help us be at the church around 9:00 Am to help us unpack and set up everything.

We will have some parking spaces for motorhomes; campers with full hookups near the convention if you will need one please let Pastor Miller know as soon as possible.

This is where the business of The Church of God is handled for twenty-four (24) months at a time so it is a very important meeting for all of us. Please come praying for God to work His will through us for the good of the entire Body of Christ. We will seek God for His wisdom and Divine guidance for His Church. Please help us get the word out to all of our pastors, members and friends regarding this very important assembly.

John A. Wilkins, Jr.,
International Overseer

**Are you planning to bring
any of these vehicles to the
International Assembly?**

**Below are some nearby
RV PARKS IN Hamilton, AL**

Logan Valley RV Park

205-412-2873

205-412-8173

**CALL NOW AND MAKE YOUR
RESERVATIONS!**



**THANKS FOR YOUR LOVE AND
PRAYERS DURING MY
SURGERY AND RECOVERY**

I have just completed a one month stay in the hospital where I had my 9th back surgery. I then was sent home and the next day Sister Wilkins noticed that something was wrong so she took me back to Rex Hospital and after they evaluated the situation they transferred me to Wake Medical Hospital where they did another surgery. This made the 10th back surgery and I do hope the last one that will need to be done. God has been so good to me and now I am back in the office working every day. Thanks to God for keeping me during this time and allowing me to be pain free and walking now!

Many of you have called, sent cards, e-mails and some have visited me. I can't say thanks enough for all the kindness shown to me and Sister Wilkins during these times. Your love has been so needed as we have fallen behind with so many of our duties. We apologize for The Banner of Truth going out late and want to say thanks for your understanding.

Our 107th Assembly is coming up quickly and I have been asked if we would be able to make it and I must tell you that if God will allow me to do it, I will be there. Please help us pray for it to be a huge success for the Lord. We need the Lord in every session as always. Big things are ahead for us in The Church of God if we keep the faith!

**THANKS AGAIN FOR YOUR
PRAYERS AND SUPPORT – SEE
YOU AT THE ASSEMBLY!**

*John Wilkins,
International Overseer*

Mark Your Calendar!

107th International Assembly

Hamilton, AL

September 25-27, 2019

Family Camp

Cloudfcroft, NM

October 25-27, 2019

Information about these events are inside this publication.

Make your plans NOW to attend!!

“THE BANNER OF TRUTH”

310 W. Edgerton St.

P.O. Box 2109

Dunn, NC 28335-2109

Address Service Requested

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