



The Banner of Truth®

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MARCH IS WORLD MISSIONS

Editorial....

A New Challenge

International Overseer
~John A. Wilkins, Jr.~



←—————→

We hope you are enjoying the New Year of 2015 which is nearing one quarter gone already. Now, that is hard to believe, but it is gone almost, as we collect our thoughts of cold weather and look forward to the spring with the birds singing and beautiful flowers blooming. God has given us such a wonderful world to live in and He has given us so many things to make it colorful and delightful in every place on earth.

Have you thought much about the New Year? This is a perfect time to reflect on the past year and purpose in our heart how we can make 2015 an even better year. Many people plan to lose weight, go to church more, make more money and the list is endless with seldom any positive changes in the way we live. Since resolutions don't do much to change us, let's try allowing God to help us make adjustments that are needed in our lives. This all begins with sincere prayer asking Him to help us make changes that are positive and enhancing to our lives every day. Almost all people who make a resolution to lose weight for example will be a little heavier at the beginning of next year and that will call for another resolution. Our goal should be to find true happiness and contentment in Christ Jesus and learn how to show His love to those in our lives. The money one always gets me, because even if we make more, we spend more and usually for the wrong things and that never satisfies our cravings.

Paul learned a valuable lesson while in prison and wrote the following words regarding it.

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content . Phil 4:11

This is a New Year and a new challenge for you! We can do something new with it or just repeat the past year and really have no positive changes. It is insane to keep doing things the same way over and over and expect different results. It is apparent that we need to accept the challenge for the New Year by taking our lives before the Lord in repentance and asking Him to help us with those things that we just simply don't know how to handle. Happiness comes when we walk each day in Christ and allow Him to make changes in us through His Word and will. Jesus wants us to submit to Him in everything and let Him lead the way, but we must be willing to walk in His way.

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Heb 5:8-9

When we pay our tithes, give in offerings and are obedient to the Lord's commands we can expect Him to meet our needs with money, health and other things which He has promised us.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

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HAPPY NEW YEAR



I do not know, I cannot see
What God's kind hand prepares for me,
Nor can my glance pierce through the haze
Which covers all my future ways:
But yet I know that o'er it all
Rules He who notes the sparrow's fall.

I know the Hand that hath me fed
And through the year my feet hath led;
I know the everlasting arm
That hath upheld and kept from harm.
I trust Him as my God and Guide
And know that He will still provide.

So at the opening of the year,
I banish care and doubt and fear,
And clasping His kind hand, essay
To walk with God from day to day,
Trusting in Him who hath me fed,
Walking with Him who hath me led.

Farewell, Old Year, with goodness crowned
A hand divine hath set thy bound.
Welcome the New Year, which shall bring
Fresh blessings from my God and King.
The old we leave without a tear,
the New we hail without a fear.

Author Unknown



“WE MUST SWIM NOW!”

International Overseer
John A. Wilkins, Jr.

Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over. Ezek 47:5

When I was a little boy, my brother would take me to the gravel holes and then tell me he was going to throw me in and it would frighten me to the point of tears, because I knew that would be the end of me. Today many are in the deep water to swim, but they think of nothing but drowning and death. They know they can't swim in this deep water. Out in the deep water with no way to touch bottom, no way to touch the shore and nothing to hold us up, it doesn't look good for us. Even excellent swimmers can only swim so long without assistance and then they are in serious trouble. Good swimmers can't swim the oceans; they need someone to help them get a breath of fresh air once in-a-while and then they can go on and on. Researchers have found that rats thrown into water can swim for ten minutes before they drown. They also learned that if the rats were picked up for a few seconds every three minutes, they could swim almost indefinitely. When given only a small promise of relief, they could handle so much more than they could without a promise. That is just how we as Christians handle our lives, with a promise from God we can handle almost anything and just keep on going. We MUST SWIM now!

Let us look at the Book concerning this matter. God's

Word is the key we need to unlock the doors of our lives and give us the hope we need to continue to swim.

Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar. Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side. And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles. Ezek. 47:1- 3

God has brought us to the place now where we are to trust in Him and lean on Him, because we can't do this work without Him leading and guiding us. We must access Him by the altar and call upon Him for the strength to swim, because He is continually leading us into the water in which we not only can swim, but we must swim! When we get too tired to swim, we must rely on God to pick us up out of the water for the fresh air and rest that we must have in order to sustain us for the long journey. Many have been in the ankle deep water and some are content to just stay there, but NO, we must continue on out into the deeper water. God

will not fail us He will lead us into the deeper water where He will sustain us still.

Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Ezek. 47:4a

Now we are in the water up to our knees and the fear and concern is mounting up and we wonder sometimes if we will make it with the water up to our knees. The answer is in Him. We will make it if we keep our eyes off the world and the things that Satan has to lure us away from Jesus. With water up to our knees, it is beginning to concern us as to how we will make it out here in the water, while we are thinking about our ability to swim. Now he has brought us through the waters which are up to our knees.

Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins. Ezek. 47:4b

Now the water is to our loins and it is beginning to be more frightful as we continue to follow on out. This is getting more serious as we see that He is taking us on again and again into the deeper water.

Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over. Ezek 47:5

As we continue to get into the water deeper and deeper, now it is about our neck, and we know that it is time to swim, but we are tired now and need to rest. We need some time to think about this

and prepare for the deep water to swim in. The outlook to the side is not good, too far to the right, too far to the left and no way to pass over. The waters have risen and now there is nothing left but to SWIM and trust God for the rest and air that we need to make it. Those who have held back will never swim in these waters because fear will render them unable to cope with the rising waters. It is now swimming time for us and the only way that we can make it is to swim and trust God for His help and rest. This is water to swim in! It is time to remember who we are and why we find ourselves in this particular situation today. God has brought us to a place that we must recognize that we cannot do this without Him. We must count on Him to complete our journey into the Promised Land. He hasn't brought us here to drop us and not be there for us when we need Him. Many have looked around and seen the old timers getting their hats and leaving, giving up the doctrine and practices of the Church as taught in the Bible Church down through time. God didn't change His mind on the teachings; they changed their mind on them and then changed the teachings. They could not swim and failed to trust Him to lift them out for rest and fresh air. Never has God promised us the masses, but He has promised us the opposite. Listen to the Bible:

And the harp, and the viol, the tabret, and pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the LORD, neither consider the operation of his hands. Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried

up with thirst. Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it. And the mean man shall be brought down, and the mighty man shall be humbled, and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled: But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness. Then shall the lambs feed after their manner, and the waste places of the fat ones shall strangers eat. Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope: That say, Let him make speed, and hasten his work, that we may see it: and let the counsel of the Holy One of Israel draw nigh and come, that we may know it! Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 5:12-24

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because

strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Matt 7:13-14

We are almost alone out here in this deep water, but we MUST SWIM NOW, because we have learned that we must trust and allow God to pick us up for the freshness and power that is His to give. We must not measure ourselves by ourselves, but measure to the Word of God in order to swim in this deep water. God has called you and chosen you, you did not choose Him. You are called to swim in the deep water and continue for as long as you need to and He will sustain you.

Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved. Psalms 55:22

As the Jordanian Pilot was burned alive a few days ago, I thought, if only he could know God right now and God would help him to swim and remove the pain from him so that the Isis enemy would be amazed at the calmness in which the flames had no power, but to take his life. We also need God's help as we have seen our doctrine and practices trampled underfoot and seemingly the enemy has washed away every doctrinal principle we stood for as we have watched them from our cage without any power over them. If Bishop M.A. Tomlinson could be alive to see the total disregard for the doctrine and practices of The Church of God that is rampant among so many, he would just want to die. We are in deep water to swim now and we MUST SWIM, because it is the only way to survive now. Jesus, on the cross, paid the price for us, and we must remember and not let Him down. He said to His disciples one time, →

“Will you also go away?” and they said, “but to whom shall we go, thou hast the words of eternal life.” It hasn’t changed one bit. We still have no other place to turn. He is still the lifter of our head, and He is still the only one that can lift us for the fresh air and rest in order to continue to swim. I have been so sick for the last 20 plus years that I feel at times death would be so easy, but He has brought me out into the deep water. I didn’t come here on my own and I certainly want get out on my own and neither will you. God knew the deep would include those who hated us, as they did Him when Isaiah penned the words of Isaiah 66:5-14.

Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed. A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the LORD that rendereth recompence to his enemies. Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God. Rejoice ye with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all ye that love her: rejoice for joy with her, all ye that mourn for her: That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her

consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem. And when ye see this, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like an herb: and the hand of the LORD shall be known toward his servants, and his indignation toward his enemies. Isaiah 66:5-14

These brethren that hated you can’t swim and they grab for every reason to indict you before the other brethren to make you look bad in their eyes, but to no avail, because God will bring to them sorrow. They have broken the covenant, they have trampled His Word under foot and they are worse than infidels, because in their minds, they are holy and prepared to meet their God. They will say when they stand before God, “We have cast out devils in thy name and done many marvelous things.” God will disown them at this point. Listen to the Word of God!

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. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Matt 7:15-23

These are the words of Jesus Christ and who will not believe Him? I would rather accept what He has said than to accept the words of Dr. Sleepy at the local church. You give people the precious Word of God today, and the first thing out of their mouth is, “I will have to ask my pastor about this. I don’t believe it the way you have read it from the Bible. I just can’t accept it.” When you change the Word of God and twist it to fit your lives and then omit a great portion of it because it requires too much, you have made a serious mistake, and God will hold you accountable and cast you into Hell. Most of our seminaries today are teaching a bunch of lies and then sending the people out to propagate them in the churches that are part of the “Great Whore” of Revelation. If the church your are in will not tell you about sin, you are in the wrong church and need to move where sin is named and condemned by the Bible that is preached. I heard one of the great so called pastors of our day recently in an interview with a TV News Anchor recently say, “When someone comes in the door with a frown and feeling bad, we want them to leave with a smile and feeling good about themselves.” This man will tell you your child just got hit by a train and killed with the biggest

smile that could ever be seen on someone's face. He might make a good psychologist or motivational speaker, but he is not a preacher of God's Word. These people can't swim in deep water because they can't trust God to pick them up once in-a-while. Stop feeling bad because you have been done wrong, kicked to the curb, talked about and otherwise treated as a reject, look how they treated Jesus. We haven't made it yet and neither will we unless we follow on to know the Lord in the way He has designed for us. We are The Church of God and there is a price to pay for being His Church. We thank God today for your growth and faithfulness to The Church of God and ask you to keep up the good work of being His Church.

Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire

taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thess 1:1-12

It is time to quit whining and grinding about what happened 25 years ago and look to Jesus to heal our hearts and land as He has promised to do. We have lost so much time rubbing each other's wounds and pouring oil on them to have them healed. These people who have refused to obey God's Word will be cast into Hell without remedy, no matter what you or I may say, that call belongs to God. There is no use trying to pet them any longer to get them to obey the TRUTH, because they can't swim, so they will not fit into His Church. They have new light today which is old darkness instead and they have shamed and reproached the Lord whom they claim to serve and the things they do now are an abomination to Him. Read the Words of Jesus and the Words from 2 Thess 1 which are given above and leave them alone. Let us go after those who have not heard and have not received the message yet. We have been so busy

trying to rescue our family and friends that we have neglected to have revivals and win the lost people to Christ. It is a shame to read the reports that come in from our churches and the ministry today because seldom is one converted and won from a life of sin. My prayer today is Lord give us souls that will be able to swim in the deep waters and trust God to lift them from time to time.

Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 Thess 1:6-8

It just doesn't get clearer than that. God will bring tribulation to them that have troubled you and give rest to those who have been troubled and bring the fire of vengeance to those who know not God. Some say to me very often, "If we are right, then why does God not multiply to us and bring numbers to us to help us with the work?" I often go to the Bible and examine His earthly ministry. When the fish and loaves were gone, so were the followers. It is not hard to get the hungry folks to follow as long as you give them food to eat, but cut the food off and they disappear quickly. Remember, you can't swim while looking at others, only Jesus and His power to lift our heads above the water for air and rest needed to continue. The journey is long and rough, but He has promised us help. It won't come from our friends and family,



but must come from God. He is our source and refuge in these times of troubles.

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

God has brought us out into water too deep for us unless we can swim, and the only way to swim in this water is to trust Him to lift us out for the rest in order to keep swimming. It is too far to go it on our own. The shore is out of reach, the bottom too far down, and our only hope is from above, so why not reach up to Jesus and take His hand. He will safely take us home, but we must trust Him and stop worrying about who has hurt us and when they might repent. You are on your own now with Jesus, and to safely make it to the shore, we must depend

solely on Him. We must obey His Word and keep the covenant that we have entered into with Jesus. Covenant breakers will not swim and God will recompense unto them turmoil and sorrow and then cast them into Hell. They have not escaped just because they walk around praising Him and acting like they love Him, because if they can't love us, they are LOST. Many try to paint a beautiful picture of them doing the work of God someplace else, but He called us to be ONE in Him and to love one another. Let them alone now and pray for them to repent, and then let us move on with winning souls for the Lord and then teaching them to swim as they watch our example.



WE MUST SWIM NOW! □

Our Goal...

...Is for Every Member and Friend of each Local Church be a Monthly PARTICIPANT in the **BRICK PLAN**.

Whether it be: \$1.00 \$5.00 \$10.00 etc., or **\$50.00** (goal). Regardless of the amount (you commit to send) the goal is to send this amount **EVERY MONTH**. This will help meet the returning needs of Headquarters each month.

As many of you know, this is our main avenue for which we meet our operating expenses. We trust you will pray and look at your home budget and ask the Lord what amount He would have you send. If every member and friend would commit to SOMETHING every month our work could operate much more smoothly.

Maybe someone at your Local Church could take it upon their heart and boost this each month. We need **everyone's help** in this matter.



May God Bless you as we meet these needs, "TOGETHER".



SHARING THE WAY

~John Pultz~
Roanoke, VA

There are many ways that we can share the unadulterated gospel with others. Many venues are opened to us by the Lord, at various times. The Lord opened a door for me about 30 years ago and it is still open to me today. Sometimes we are in a place to share not only the message of salvation, but also of sanctification, baptism of the Holy Ghost and the message of the one fold, The Church of God. Other times we are only in a place where we can teach the way of salvation and maybe sanctification and yes, even a little about the baptism of the Holy Ghost and The Church of God.

Such a place is where I preached the following message this past October. I am speaking of the Rescue Mission in my hometown of Roanoke, VA. Usually there will be between 40 and 100 homeless men, at these services, and once in awhile well over 100. Many of these have heard the gospel many times and a lot of them were Christians, at one time or another, who have succumbed to wiles of the devil, and lost their way. I will usually have about 3 to 6 men come up to pray for their salvation, but on this particular Saturday night there were 10. I always get them to write their names down for me, so that I and the local church can pray for them.

The location of the chapel, at the Rescue Mission, has changed three times in the 30 years of my

service there. They continue to add new additions and they have several new buildings for battered women and children, free medical care, etc. We used to have a prayer room, where you could take those seeking salvation, to pray and counsel them. Nowadays, there is no prayer room, no altar and very little space up front to pray with these men (years ago there were men and women together, but now the women have separate services). Now all you can do is gather those who are seeking forgiveness and salvation into a circle and counsel them and then have them repeat a sinner's prayer. I always tell them to thank the Lord and praise Him, if they believe what they have just prayed. Many of these men have heard others preach a watered down, adulterated gospel, so I want them to know the truth ("**Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**" **JOHN 8:32**). I keep a supply of KJV New Testaments, to give to anyone who would like to have one and I encourage them to study God's Word and pray often (reminding them that they can pray in their heart when they are walking down the street, sitting on a park bench or anywhere else, because God hears what is spoken from their hearts). The point here is this: Sometimes there are doors opened to us that we only see when we are in an intimate relationship with the Lord.

Now for the message next page... →



Reminder!

Please send ALL Written Correspondence to our Postal address. (Such as letters, reports, Invoices, etc.)

The Church of God of NC
P.O. Box 2109
Dunn, NC 28335

Contact us...

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

Fax: → (910) 891-5693

E-mail Us:

jw@thechurchofgodofnc.com
ew@thechurchofgodofnc.com
cathyelder@thechurchofgodofnc.com
jc@thechurchofgodofnc.com



THE NARROW WAY

~John Pultz~
Roanoke, VA

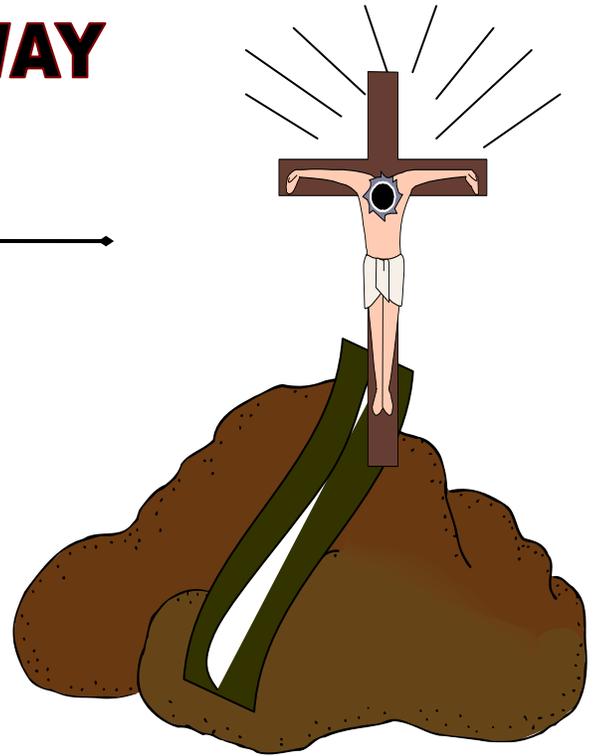
"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." MATTHEW 7:13-14

What is this straight way? "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." JOHN 14:6. Why are there only "few there be that find it"?

"Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." JOHN 14:23. "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." LUKE 14:26. The "hate" here means to take a position higher than God, in one's heart. God has to be first! If anyone, mamma, daddy, brother, sister, wife, pastor, anyone, tells you to do anything that is contrary to what the Lord says, then you must reject their counsel and cling to the Lord Jesus, if you want the Father and Son's blessings to be upon you.

So why are there so few that love Him enough to forsake all else and put their trust in Him and love Him above all else? "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5. When we turn away from those mentioned above, to live a holy life, separated from sin, then we embrace the truth of GALATIANS 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Instead of accepting the false teaching that



"everyone sins" or "you sin more or less everyday", we now reject those lies and take a firm grip on "the way, the truth, and the life" Jesus Christ, the Living Word of God. "Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. " JOHN 8:34-35. "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."..."For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" ROMANS 8:15.

I had been brought up under the teaching that no one can live without sin. This is true, if we don't have Jesus as our Savior, but with Jesus we can sing a victory song: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." PHILIPPIANS 4:13.

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." ROMANS 7:1-2.

So one night, as I was home alone in my bed, I started to say one of my lay-me-down-to-sleep prayers (Lord forgive of my sins and keep me safe through the night....). But I heard a voice speak to me saying "Get down on your knees, because you are talking to God". Before my knees hit the floor, I burst into tears, sobbing, because I saw the evil things I had

done playing out before me, as if they were being projected onto a large movie screen. These were things that I wouldn't tell to anyone! I knew at that moment that there was nothing hid from God; my life was naked and open to His eyes. I cried for a very long time, because I was so sorry that I had done those things. Then I realized what God was doing. He wanted me to understand that even with all this evil in my life, He loved me and that was why Jesus came to earth as a man. With my head hung low and still crying, I said, "Father, I am so sorry that you had to give your Son for me. Lord Jesus, I am so sorry that you had to go to the cross for me. I now know that I am the one who nailed you on that cross, it was my sins that did it." As soon as those words from my heart came out of my mouth, my sorrow was turned to joy unspeakable! It was as if 500 pounds had been lifted off of my chest and I was no longer suffocating in sorrow and guilt. Instantly I leaped up and began jumping up and down, praising and thanking God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost!

We must all understand that to live with sin in your life, is to be dead to the Lord and His salvation. You cannot serve two masters. **"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."** 1 JOHN 3:8-9. Once we return back to sin, we have lost our salvation and must repent and go back and do the first works over (confess and repent of our sins, because we have lost our relationship with God, our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ).

We all have to realize that many stand behind a pulpit or lecturn and teach the word of man and the thoughts of man, for the commandments of God. They don't know what holiness is and because they don't possess eternal life, they have no way of teaching the truth to others. Jesus said: **"But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men...Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."** MATTHEW 15:9, 14. I want all of you here to understand this, only what THUS SAYETH THE LORD, will stand up to God's judgement. We must know the truth and have an intimate relationship with our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, to receive eternal life.

Any doctrine that tries to please the world,

will condemn you to eternal punishment in the lake of fire. Jesus said: **"And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."** MARK 13:13. **"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax (grow) cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."** MATTHEW 24:11-13.

We must understand that when we turn away from holiness, back to the ways of the world, we are no longer in an intimate relationship with God. We have left our first love and become one of those that are "lovers of themselves", one of those that God's Word commands us to "turn away from". Paul made it pretty clear, that if we sin knowingly, then we have lost our salvation: **"For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."** HEBREWS 10:26-27. And Jesus said to the Ephesian Church: **"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."** REVELATION 2:5.

From the 14th and 15th chapters of Matthew, we find that Jesus had multitudes (5,000 men one time and 4,000 men another time, not counting the women and children), following him and being miraculously fed with a few little loaves and fishes that he multiplied. But not long after (27th chapter of Matthew), we find the multitude crying out "crucify Him". I wonder how many of these who cried crucify Him, were part of the multitude that followed Him and partook of the loaves and fishes? Many today say that they are His followers, but they live in sin. Their mouth professes salvation, but their hearts and lives are saying crucify him, because they have embraced the broad way of the world and they are blind leaders of the blind. **"Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:"** MATTHEW 7:13.

In the first chapter of ACTS, instead of multitudes we find that there were only about 120 true believers, after Jesus had been crucified and arisen from the dead. How many today say that they have eternal life, but are dead in their sins? Many of these are of the number that speak evil of those of us who hold to

eternal life in Christ, obeying His commands and living a holy life, by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ: **"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."** 2 PETER 1:4.

Don't expect the world to love you because you are a child of God in Christ Jesus. Rather, expect them to hate you: **"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."**

2 TIMOTHY 3:12.

And, as we mentioned earlier: **"And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."**

MARK 13:13

Have you gone through the straight gate, Jesus Christ, by truly repenting of your sins and asking His forgiveness? You must give him your whole life, so that he can be your Lord, Master and Savior.

Anything short of total submission to God, could lead you into the broad way of destruction, where "many go in thereat". If there is any doubt that you have repented of your sins and are allowing Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, then you need to ask His forgiveness so that He can give you peace in your heart. Wouldn't it be good to have the weight of guilt lifted off of your chest, so that you could breathe again?

We all have to make our choice, salvation or damnation. **"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."** REVELATION 20:15. **"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."** REVELATION 21:8. And in the 14th chapter of Revelation we find that the "smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever." But look at the reward of those who repented of their sins and joyfully gave themselves wholly to Jesus and trusted Him to give them strength and whatever else they needed to "endure unto the end": **"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away...He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be His God, and he shall be my son."** REVELATION 21:4, 7

You can receive forgiveness of your sins and

become a "new creature in Christ". The Word of God says: **"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."** ROMANS 10:9-10.

When I give this altar call to the men at the Rescue Mission, I explain to them that they must believe that Jesus suffered and died on the cross to pay the price of our sins. And if they confess that He is the Way, Truth and life and believe that God forgives them because Jesus did this to purchase their salvation, then they can become children of God, but they must confess Him to be their Savior and "LORD". **"And with the mouth confession is made unto salvation"**. I ask everyone to close their eyes and raise their hand if they know that they are in sin and want to receive forgiveness and become children of God. Then I ask for the hands of anyone who had walked with Jesus in the past, but have returned to sin and want to come back to Jesus and be forgiven and start over. After they have opened their eyes, I ask for all who had raised their hands to come forward and we will pray together for their forgiveness. I also stress that anyone who didn't raise their hand, but felt God's spirit speaking to their hearts, to come. I explain that this is their confession before all who are present that they believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that they are making this confession to God in the presence of all these people. I try to emphasize that we have no promise of tomorrow, so this may be the last time that they will have an opportunity to be saved. We might die this night or a plane could crash into the building and kill us all, etc... And I tell them that they should not worry about what others present might think or say, because this is the most important decision they will ever make.

Let me close with the words of Jesus, in encouraging us all to be mindful of who we are and our responsibility to Him: **"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."** MARK 8:38. **"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."** REVELATION 22:12. Let our works be the works of righteousness that the Master commands us to do, so that we can hear Him say **"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."** □



Bishop Darwin P. Gaba
National Overseer,
Philippines

Ministry or Job?

SOME PEOPLE HAVE A JOB IN THE CHURCH
OTHERS INVITE THEMSELVES INTO A MINISTRY.
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

IF YOU ARE DOING IT BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE WILL, IT'S A JOB.
IF YOU ARE DOING IT TO SERVE THE LORD, IT'S A MINISTRY.

IF YOU QUIT BECAUSE SOMEBODY CRITICIZED YOU, IT'S A JOB
IF YOU KEEP ON SERVING, IT'S A MINISTRY

IF YOU'LL DO IT ONLY AS LONG AS IT DOES NOT INTERFERE
WITH YOUR OTHER ACTIVITIES, IT'S A JOB.
IF YOU ARE COMMITTED TO STAYING WITH IT EVEN IF IT
MEANS LETTING GO OF OTHER THINGS, IT'S A MINISTRY.

IF YOU QUIT BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE PRAISED OR THANKED
YOU, IT'S A JOB.
IF YOU STAY WITH IT EVEN THOUGH NOBODY RECOGNIZED
YOUR EFFORTS, IT'S A MINISTRY.

IT'S HARD TO GET EXCITED ABOUT A JOB.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO BE EXCITED ABOUT A
MINISTRY.
IF OUR CONCERN IS FAITHFULNESS, IT'S A MINISTRY.

AN AVERAGE CHURCH IS FILLED WITH PEOPLE DOING
JOBS.
A GREAT GROWING CHURCH IS FILLED WITH PEOPLE
INVOLVED IN MINISTRY.

GOD BLESS!



CONCERNED ABOUT THE LOST

Minds Blinded by the God of This World Holy Ghost Conviction Can Penetrate this Blindness

“For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

“What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

“*For the wages of sin is death*; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:20-23)

If the Church is to be faithful to her charge it is essential that she retain a clear vision of her purposes for existence. One of these purposes is to reach a lost and dying world with the message of salvation from sins through Jesus Christ. We must see people as they are—eternally lost, doomed to an endless hell unless we can persuade them to accept their only hope for salvation. A soul lost forever is a tragedy beyond imagination. And we must not lose sight of this tragic reality.

In our text Paul stated very plainly, *the wages of sin is death*. Now, all have sinned. As John wrote, “If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.” (1 John 1:10) I am afraid the majority of people do not understand how repulsive sin is to God. It is absolutely unacceptable and irreconcilable with His holy nature. The Psalmist wrote, “God is angry with the wicked every day.” (Psalm 7:11) Again he wrote, “The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.” (Psalm 9:17) It is obvious that very few of those who are unsaved fully recognize the awfulness of their condition. Thus it is necessary for the Church to sound an alarm to arouse them from the stupor into which they have been induced by Satan. They are lost and they must know they are lost!

Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians, “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.” (2 Corinthians 5:11) It seems needful that we step up our persuasive efforts. God is angry with the wicked, and David wrote, “He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.” (Psalm 103:9) What happens to a sinner when our efforts to persuade him to cease from sinning and to turn to Jesus as his Saviour fail? Jesus depicted the scene for us as recorded by Luke: “The rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that

he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.” (Luke 16:22-24)

Yes, hell is a real place, as real as heaven. But too many lukewarm Christians seem to have lost their vision of souls plunging into this inescapable pit. Modern churches are turning their attention to the presentation of a *social gospel*, an approach which denies man’s depravity and estrangement from God. There is a religion of *self-improvement* and allows no room for the necessity of the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

And multitudes are being swept along by this fallacy, ignoring God’s judgment against sin which pronounces a sentence of everlasting condemnation and punishment for all unforgiven sinners. The gloom and darkness of this picture is broken only by the love which carried Jesus to Calvary, where He made the only atonement for sin which God would accept—the giving of His life, the shedding of His own precious blood.

Thanks be to God for the blood! It is our means of escape from the wrath of God. Only through His blood can sinners who are doomed for hell find hope of forgiveness. Jesus is mankind’s Saviour, man’s only Saviour. “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

We sometimes wonder how people in a Christian influenced society can be so insensitive to their plight—destined to endure the agonies of endless torment in a lake that burns with fire and brimstone. How could anyone be indifferent toward such a future? We may find the answer from the pen of Paul, the apostle who wrote, “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not*, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” (2 Corinthians 4:3, 4)

The god of this world is Satan. Men have allowed him to assert his sovereignty over them. Enthroned in their hearts he rules them; he is their god. And he has blinded the minds of his subjects to the point that they cannot behold the light of truth. The gospel, which not only reveals God’s severity in dealing with sin but also His goodness and mercy manifested in Jesus, as Saviour for all who have sinned, is not perceived by their blinded minds. Being so blinded,

CONCERNED . . .

Continued

many people, even some religious leaders actually doubt the existence of Satan as a real being, crediting his existence as being only in the minds of those whom they term *religious fanatics*.

How sad to be so blind. And from this point of view the condition of such people seems almost hopeless. And it would be if it were not for the goodness of God in providing a plan of redemption for lost humanity. Only His Spirit can penetrate this veil of blindness which covers multitudes of minds today. In His great love He visits individuals—His Spirit piercing through this concealing veil, reaching to a person's heart, revealing to him his sinfulness, convicting him of his guilt, and manifesting to him the mercy of God and His willingness to forgive.

At this point, which we term *conviction by the Holy Ghost*, this blindness which was inflicted by the god of this world is momentarily lifted and an individual is shown his way of escape from the horrors that await the ungodly. At that moment he may flee from the wrath of an *angry* God, and at once know the joy of being welcomed into the warmth of a *loving* God, who for Christ's sake forgives him all his sins and welcomes him as His child. This is a joyous experience, one which is *better felt than told*. Attempts to tell it most always fall short of what one really feels who has experienced the saving grace of God.

To refuse this merciful visitation of the Spirit can be disastrous. And a person may refuse if he so

chooses. God never forces His will for man's salvation upon an individual. Failing to appreciate and respond to the light of the gospel, a person can expect this veil of blindness to descend again upon his mind whereby he will once more become insensitive to his dreadful separation from God.

The condition of the lost and their blindness should be a matter of constant concern and prayer for every Christian. "Pray without ceasing," was Paul's admonition to the church at Thessalonica, and this is no less important for us today. There are many things for which prayers should be made, but nothing is more important than to pray for the salvation of souls who at any moment could be cut off from any further opportunity to be saved. How heartbreaking to know a person has departed this life and entered into eternity unsaved!

And while we are praying for those who are lost let's also pray for ourselves, that a greater burden for these who are going into eternity daily, unprepared to meet God, will come upon us. We must not allow our minds to be blinded by the same one who has blinded the minds of the lost. Our vision of these precious souls must remain clear, and as it does our hearts will be filled with compassion toward them. It will be a compassion which will increase the fervency of our prayers in their behalf, a compassion that will not let us rest until we are doing all we can to bring deliverance to these captives of Satan.

O God, please have mercy upon those who are still lost, and bring Holy Ghost conviction upon them we pray!

March 3, 1979

MISSION BOOST

REMBMBER...March is World Mission month. Let's all do our very best with a special offering. Along with our giving, let us be reminded of the prayer Jesus told us to pray in **Matthew 9:37-38**

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.



MARCH IS WORLD MISSIONS

Join C.P.M.A. Today

International Director

~Nellie Lowe~



It's that time again, 2015 has arrived. Have you joined the C.P.M.A.?

Remember that membership goes from January through the end of December. It is time now to get the memberships in. Run, don't walk to your nearest church treasurer and get this taken care of now. We have two churches that are 100%. Let's get in on this. Wouldn't it be a wonderful picture if every local church could be 100%.

Habakkuk 2:20 *And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.*

We must remember that the Markers draw attention of the sightseers who are passing by. Just think about how many people will see the markers from all over the world. It is our job to set up and keep up these Markers.

Matthew 28:19-20 *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

If we are concerned enough about getting the gospel out then we need to do everything possible to do that one thing. God has given us a command to go and teach. We must do as the Lord commands. I am so proud of the message that we have to offer to the world, I want to share it with everyone.

Go, now and let people know The Message of Christ and His Church.



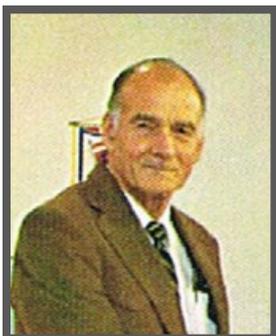
We Are So Sorry!

We are so sorry to have had to cancel our first “Family Camp” on the East side of the U.S.A.

We hope you are not too disappointed and will plan to come next year in 2016.

Sometimes things happen that's beyond our control.

Thanks for your understanding and prayers.



U.S.A. Bible Training Institute 2015

International Director

~Keith Murphy~

I am very pleased to announce that 2015 BTI First and Second Term are on schedule for August 25—September 01.

further states that we are to glorify God with one mind and one mouth. Something special will surely happen as we do these things.

There is something in The Church of God that is not found everywhere. Ephesians 3:9-10 talks about the “fellowship of the mystery”. *And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,*

There are good Christian people everywhere, but only can this mystery be understood by divine revelation.

Church, we have a great responsibility to each other. Let us be likeminded in all things and let the SPIRIT direct us as one body in this year’s BTI. □



It will take place at our Headquarters in Dunn, NC. This year’s theme is **“I BELIEVE IT!”** The cost of \$60.00 covers your lunch each day as well as your text book. Teachers will only pay the cost of their lunch meals which is \$30. Please make plans now to attend. The **deadline** for applications is July 9, 2015. We must have a minimal number of students by that date or else we will have to cancel classes this year. Please do not allow that to happen as this will be our 4th year.

Is BTI that important to us as members of the great Church of God? **YES—YES—YES!** According to Romans 15:4-7, we are to learn from the things written in God’s Word and be likeminded one toward another. As we come together with patience and comfort from the scriptures, the Holy Ghost will surely meet with us and guide us into all Truth. The scripture

"The Witness Tree"

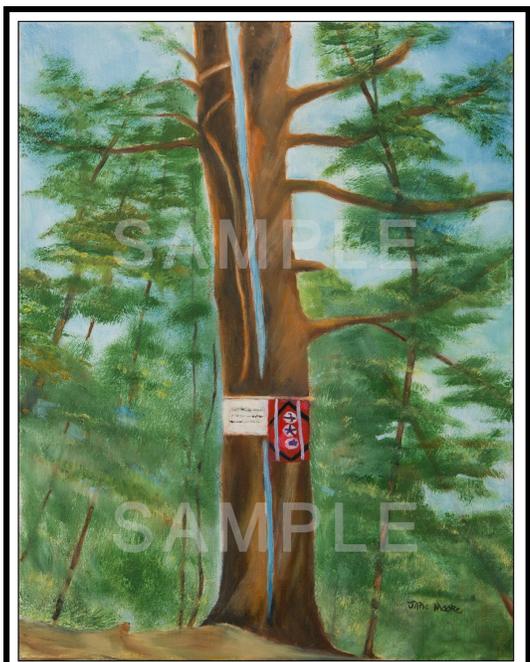
Special Thanks to all that have purchased “The Witness Tree” 11x14 prints. Your purchase helps The Church Operations Fund. It is our prayer that these pictures will soon hang in all our homes as a witness of the Glory of God. They are available for a donation of only \$25.00 plus postage.

If you desire one or several, Call: (910) 891-5017 or send a check or money order made out to:

The Church of God of NC
P. O. Box 2109
Dunn, NC 28335-2109

Limited Number Available

Get Yours While Supplies Last!



“Witness Tree”

This tree is called the “WITNESS TREE” because God manifested His recognition of the Church of God during a severe electrical storm by striking this giant tree and splitting it from the top down to the flag, then jumping off the tree and taking up its course again underneath the flag and on into the ground. The tree continued to live in this configuration for many long years with the sky shining through to be a silent witness to this event as it is to the glory of God.

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth.
Psalm 64:9 (KJV)

SNAP, CRACKLE, POP!



International Sunday School Director
~Polly Murphy~



Snap Into the Word

Be snappy in the Word of God, quick to have an answer.

II Timothy 4:2 *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

This is telling us we must be instant in season, out of season, anytime be quick to give a biblical answer. When we preach the Word, there are people out there that want to know what the Bible says, the sound doctrine, that's why we must be ready, quick to preach the Word of God in its fullness.

Crackle Fire

Let us look at the scripture in the day of Moses when the angel of the Lord appeared in a flame of Fire in the midst of a bush.

Exodus 3:2-3 *And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.*

God used this burning bush to show Moses I am That I am. I am The Lord God.

Exodus 3:14. *And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.*

We need to be aware that in these last days, God will show us many miracles.

John 16:7-9 *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me;*



Jesus tells of the coming of the Holy Ghost. He spoke that Holy Ghost Fire that Crackles. Are you excited about the Holy Ghost Fire?

Acts 2:1-4 *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

This is a gift from our Lord. We should use it to help us preach His Word.

Luke 12:12 *For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.*

The Holy Ghost will give you the words to say. Let the Holy Ghost use you in these Last days to spread the Sound doctrine of the Bible.

Pop Alive

Let the Word of God be alive in our Hearts. If you are alive in the Word of God, your daily life will show it. I want God to say to me, "you have fought a good fight and finished your course here on earth; I'm taking you home". I want everyone to be encouraged. Let's put a SNAP, CRACKLE and POP in our lives.

Use us Lord. Don't let us give up when the going gets tough, just let the Holy Ghost Fire consume us. Sunday School Superintendents, be prepared to testify what God has done in your local area.

Come to the Assembly, prayed up and expect the Holy Ghost Fire to fall. Put a dance in your step. Let's Snap Crackle & Pop for Jesus and His Church!

Praise God!
Polly Murphy



EMERGENCY FUND

During the last **USA National Convention** it was passed for each member that could to give \$10.00 into a **National Emergency Fund** to help our ministers that have come up against an extreme hardship or emergency of some kind. Please send these funds to our USA National Treasurer and let him know if or when your church becomes 100% in emergency fund dollars and we will send your church a certificate. When the number of emergency fund members produced by your church equals the number of members in your local church, you are 100%.

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Great 2015 Spiritual Events

Bible Training Institute

August 25 through September 01, 2015

Price \$60.00 Includes Text Book and one meal per day.

105th International Assembly

September 3, 4 and 5, 2015

Both these events will be conducted at International Headquarters 310 West Edgerton Street Dunn, NC 28334

More about these events will be in our next issue. Make plans now to attend.

National Office of Haiti



March 26-29, 2015

Southern District Conference

June 24-28, 2015

12th National Convention

October 29-November 2, 2015

West District Convention

December 01-05, 2015

Dominican Republic Convention

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