



The Banner of Truth®

International Voice of The Church Of God Of North Carolina

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103RD INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THEME: ARISE, SHINE
SEPTEMBER 1-4, 2011



Auditorium of Cornerstone Center on 7545 Highway 29,
Browns Summit, NC 27214



A HEARTY INVITATION TO THE 103RD INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The International Overseer and all the Headquarters Staff take this opportunity to extend to all the members and friends of the Church throughout the world a very cordial welcome to the 103rd International Assembly. This all-nations feast is scheduled for September 1-4, 2011, in the spacious Auditorium of Cornerstone Center on 7545 Highway 29, Browns Summit, NC 27214

The Assembly's principal purpose is the transaction of business relevant to the Church's ongoing march toward her perfection. Inasmuch as we hold the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Ghost to be vital in all our deliberations, we shall seek the favor of His presence for a Spirit-filled program. Therefore, we anticipate mighty outpourings of the Holy Ghost and fire, fervent preaching of the Word, great altar services and worship which magnifies the name of Jesus.

Come and join us in great expectations of a mighty move of God. The time is short for the Church to finish her work; so, I urge you to come praying that God's perfect will might prevail in all that is said and done. May God bless and protect each one who journeys to Browns Summit, NC from all around the world.

John A. Wilkins, Jr.
International Overseer

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

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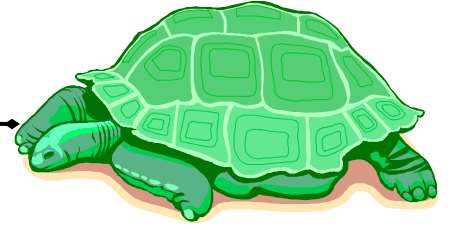
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"The Lord Will Guide You Like a Turtle"

~John Wilkins~
Dunn, NC



*Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way. **The meek will he guide in judgment:** and the meek will he teach his way. All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.* Psalms 25:8-10

The Green Brazilian Turtle (*Chelonia Mydas*) nest on the Ascension Island in the south central Atlantic Ocean during the months of January through April. Then they head westward to Brazilian waters, traveling more than 1500 miles to their favorite feeding grounds. Then when it is time for their eggs to hatch they slip back into the water, travel back to the same beach, the same spot to attend to their young and the life of the Green Brazilian Turtle is continued over and over. Oh yes, I forgot to mention that they sometimes weigh up to 850 pounds and there is no GPS on board or is there? These turtles are some of the most interesting travelers on this earth. Their ability to swim great distances at a record 1.8 miles per hour in open ocean waters with remarkable precision has intrigued marine scientist for centuries. They are just as loyal to their preferred feeding sites as they are to their nesting sites and favorite sleeping rocks. We can only speculate why these turtles swim such great distances and make such a difficult journey and yet they find their island in the vastness of the mid-Atlantic. Oh, the awesomeness of our God! What a mighty God we

serve!

Yet men ask the question, "What would He have me do?" Many often complain that they cannot find their way in this wicked and perverse world. Is it too hard to understand what God wants us to do or the direction He wants us to take? I have a feeling that Mrs. Turtle does not leave with a map case under her shell but rather with her God given instinct and guidance from the God who created her. Once she is in the water the guidance kicks in and she just moves her feet and travels in that direction, no doubt that often she must make corrections due to the waves and wind that try to drive her off course. We certainly have to do the same with our lives as we move through life ever so slowly and carefully that we do not drift so far that we cannot return to the TRUE COURSE LINE. God wants to guide our course and direct our steps but we must be willing to move our feet first before He can guide our steps.

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. Psalms 37:23

Many have lost their way in the denominations of the world. Today, rather than seek out the way for themselves they just follow the leader who in many cases is spiritually blind to the things of God. Many leaders have lost their way because they will not listen to God when He speaks

to them. They choose rather to formulate their own ideas and opinions into doctrine and then project it to a congregation. They are inclined to believe that which is easy and does not hold them to the true course that has been plotted by the Lord. He has told us that the way is straight, yet it is so simple that a wayfaring man could follow it. Listen to what the Word says about that, *And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.* Isaiah 35:8-10

The way has not become too hard for our people but the real problem is leadership has failed and they refuse to look to the TRUE LEADER, the Holy Ghost sent by God to guide us like a turtle in a slow and deliberate path of holiness until we arrive on that golden shore safe forever more.

Most of the large mega churches are not leading people to the paths of righteousness but

rather to the paths leading into Hell. God has given us His word that the ungodly will be cast into Hell! This makes us to know that we better not trust the preacher to guide us unless we know he is walking in the light also.

Pastors have washed many ashore with no hope of return to the water we can swim in, with their passionate love and soothing words. The Bible still admonishes us to warn the sheep and sound the alarm when evil is about to pounce on them.

A watchman's duty is to warn the people.

Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. Ezekiel 33:1-6

For I have not shunned

to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Acts 20:27-30

Many have scattered the sheep today and refused to warn them of the impending wrath of God coming to America and every nation that forgets God. They have been driven into the churches of our day where they feel secure hiding behind false doctrine which is the easy way. They feel religious and sometimes even praise the Lord to pacify their conscience for a season if conviction ever does come near them. It is still God's way, not man's way and we must answer the challenge for our own self. How can we say, "I don't know what to do because there are so many to choose from?" The truth is there are not many who will preach the TRUTH because it doesn't fit well in the 21st Century pulpit. There is accountability required where TRUTH is preached and practiced for the Bible says:

But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. Ezekiel 33:6

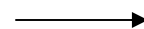
There is a woe to those who scatter the flock and irresponsibly destroy the sheep of God:

Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD. Jeremiah 23:1-2

There are too many hirelings today that do not care for the sheep; they only want a position of honor and money from those whom they fleece for more and more as they attempt to build their own kingdom instead of the Kingdom of God.

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. John 10:11-13

We know the way, the only way for The Church of God and that is to allow the Holy Ghost to lead Her homeward. Men have derailed Her over and over and just since 1903 there have been over 35 splits in what we call THE CHURCH OF GOD. This ought to alarm all of us and show us that He has not been allowed to guide this work for a very long time without man injecting his ideas and opinions



with great harm to the Body of Christ. We will not proceed according to God's guidance until we allow the Holy Ghost to once again guide us individually and collectively. It must be His will for The Church of God because no man owns the Church. This is The Church that was bought with the blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ and She can only be led by His Spirit in order to keep on course. Can we say today, "I am on the Lord's side and I will submit to His guiding hand, I will ask Him to show me the way and another I will not follow." Who are you following? Can we say together, "He is our God and we are listening for His voice?"

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

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. Isaiah 30:21

And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them. Isaiah 42:16

Church of God, we are not forsaken and every member still counts ONE and we will be guided by the Lord if we will only trust Him. These are perilous times when so many different sounds emanate from those who we have trusted in the past. We need not be carried away by the sounds of strange doctrine because we know what the Church is to teach and practice.

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; Ephesians 4:14

The failure has been to back up and let the Holy Ghost of God come into our hearts with the understanding of the scripture as the washing of the Word of God takes place. The sanctifying blood is not preached anymore and the result has been disaster and we have taken growth to mean numbers rather than spiritual maturity. The desire to be like the world church has outweighed the desire to be more like Him and walk in the old paths as we have alleged that we desire to do. Our cry must be, ***Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.*** Psalms 25:4-5

Yes, like the Green Brazilian Turtle we must crawl before God and allow Him to direct us. In order to enjoy the birth of new young to replace us and carry on this reproduction process into the future we must let Him lead us. Without His guidance it will not happen and we will wash ashore somewhere between our own island of opinion and the Promised Land. Eternal life awaits those who make the run successful. Our journey, like the turtle is rough and the seas are boisterous but the destination is almost in sight. Now to make it, we must rely on the Spirit of Truth because He has provided the guidance system which we need and the only one that will work.

I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you. John 16:12-15

Now, what is wrong? Do you not see where the problems of navigation have been all the time? We must ditch the flesh for the spirit if we want to arrive on our island which is hidden to the wise and revealed to the babes in Christ. We'll not miss the island if we will let Him lead the way but woe is he who tries to find another way there. The work has been finished on the cross and He will not come down to unravel the mess created by man. He is counting on YOU and I to fix the mess made by man and be THE CHURCH OF GOD of these last days. He finished it on the cross and in His last words said, "**...It is finished:**" and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost. John 19:30b

Are you willing now to trust God through the power of the Holy Ghost to guide you safely home and teach you the way? Then like the Green Brazilian Turtle, we will safely find our way and on Heaven's shore we can finally say, "I am home at last, thank God I am home at last!" □



“What Kind of Soldier Are You?”

~Betty Wrenfrow~
Walnut Ridge, AR

Ephesians 6:10-18 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

What kind of soldier are You? Armour is a dressing for battle. We are in God’s army so we must put on the whole armour of God. I’ve enlisted for life in the army of the Lord, though the fight may be long and the struggle fierce and hard. With the armour of God and the Spirit’s sword, at the front of the battle you will find me. We have the armour of God and the Spirit’s sword.

If we are a Christian, we are a soldier in God’s army. We are promised victory through Jesus Christ. We are more than conquerors through him.

II Chronicles 32:7,8 reads *Be strong and courageous, be not afraid nor dismayed for the king of Assyria, nor for all the multitude that is with him: for there be more with us than with him: With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah.*

When we are in a battle, we can remember Hezekiah’s words, “Be strong and courageous, be not afraid”. With him is the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our

battles. And the people rested themselves upon the word of Hezekiah, king of Judah.

This is God’s promise. As the people rested (believed) Hezekiah, so we should put our faith in God’s promises. He’s never lost a battle yet. We only lose the battle when we surrender.

A soldier must be brave, trustworthy, and faithful to the cause. He puts his love and loyalty to country first. When God calls us to enlist, He wants volunteers. He forces no one. He wants willing servants; someone who is dedicated to God’s service, God’s authority, to go and do, whatever is required.

When the U.S. soldier enters the army, he is given armour for the battle. It’s up to him to put it on. First, he takes off his civilian clothes and puts on his uniform, his boots, his helmet, etc. He’s under the country’s authority. He’s saying I will go where you send me and do what you require. He leaves behind everything including family, home, etc. The army becomes his first priority. The uniform is his identity. It tells who he belongs to. When God calls us we must first put off this old garment of flesh and put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:22-24 *That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

Our uniform is his robe of righteousness. It identifies us. He changes the man to fit the robe of righteousness, not change the robe to the man.

1 John 3:24 *And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.*

Without the Spirit of God, we are none of His. Our priority is to do what he says, go where he



sends. We are the servant of whom we serve.

II Timothy 2:4 *No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*

He leaves everything behind to follow God.

Hebrews 12:1a ... *let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

The soldier must not let anything distract him from the purpose he is called to do. The soldier must always be alert, watching for the enemy. He's there even when we can't see him. Our purpose is doing battle with Satan for our own soul and the souls of those we are sent to win.

II Corinthians 13:5a *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves...*The soldier has inspection every day. If everything is not just right, he must correct it. We must compare ourselves to the Word. Sometimes we may not see what God sees. Anger, envy, unforgiveness or jealousy may sneak in. God knows our hearts.

Mark 4:22 *For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad.*

If we see spots, we should immediately wash it off with the precious Word of Christ. The eyes of the Lord run to and fro beholding the evil and the good. We must keep our robes spotless.

The soldiers all eat the same food. The skinny gain weight and the overweight will lose. A soldier could not go long on milk, but must have meat for strength. He would soon suffer from malnutrition.

Hebrews 5:13,14 *For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

Our food is the Word of God. It's up to us to eat and grow spiritually. We can't stay on milk or we will become spiritually malnourished. If we eat God's Word we will grow fit. If we eat the same food we will grow as one man, believing the same thing.

The soldier learns and obeys the rules of the

army. If rules are broken there are consequences. God's word is our rule book. If we "choose" to disobey and break rules there is chastisement. Self is our greatest enemy. Paul said, "I die daily". He died out to self and brought his body into subjection to God's will. That is not always easy but God will show us the way and walk with us. God corrects those he loves. Thank God He loves us enough to bring us back in line. He has his way of shaping and molding us to fit His requirements.

The soldier is faithful to his country. God expects us to be faithful, unmoving and steadfast. We are under training until we are ready for God to send us out.

Romans 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

God required obedience. Our duty is to God's authority. We become doers of the word. We are laborers together with God.

A soldier stays with his unit. He knows the voice of his commander. The soldier who drifts off alone is the one who the enemy picks off. The devil is as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. A real lion always attacks the straggler. Many have been lost because they strayed from the fold.

I Corinthians 6:15-17 *Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.*

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: 2 Corinthians 6:14

Our friends and companions should be Christians. We don't need to wonder off into the world. In God's army we must put on his whole armour. It's prepared for us and is up to us to put it on. Our loins must be girded well with truth. Know the truth and it will set you free. Some do not know what the truth is. They don't know what they believe. We are to know the truth and stand steadfast on truth.

The breast plate covers the heart. We must guard our hearts against the wiles of Satan. We must totally give our heart to God's keeping. He

will keep things right for us. There is a saying, “If we throw our heart into serving God. Our body will follow!” ***Keep thine heart with all diligence.***

When we let the Word of God lead our feet, we will go where God leads and it will be in the right places. He never leads us wrong. If we walk in the spirit, we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Proverbs 4:26 ***Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.***

We must know the voice of God. He will say, “This is the way, walk in it. The soldier’s boots are to protect his feet. He isn’t looking down but his eyes are ever in search of the enemy. Gospel and peace will keep our feet on the narrow way.

The helmet of salvation protects our mind. Satan works on the mind. He puts evil thoughts into our minds if we aren’t protected by salvation. Satan put evil in Eve’s mind in the Garden of Eden. She looked, she desired, she took. David saw Bathsheba, he looked, he desired and he took. Achan saw the wedge of gold, he desired it and took it. It must first be put into our minds, and then acted upon. We are to think on heavenly things. We are to have the mind of Christ.

The sword of the Spirit, the Word of God is our weapon. Without the word, we have no weapon. Jesus used the word of God when Satan came to Him in the wilderness. He came in His weak moment after fasting. Jesus simply said, ***“Thus saith the Word”***. When temptation comes it is our defense, saving power, discerner, gives light and it purifies. We must know it and use it. If we study the word God will bring it to our remembrance in the time of temptation.

When Satan fires those darts at us we must hold up the shield of faith. It is impossible to please God without it. We must never give place to the devil.

Pray without ceasing. Be in a prayerful place at all times. Satan attacks our time. Some people pray only when they lay down at night. My prayer when I get up in the morning is “God, let me walk in the shadow of the almighty, Let me dwell in the secret place of the most high. Let the word of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to thee, Oh, God. Hold me in your hands, Lord!” We are to pray for one another. When we pray we talk to God, if we listen He’ll talk back.

We must be prepared for battle. There is

always the wounded soldier. He isn’t left behind. Someone picks him up and carries him or he will die. We are to exhort one another when one is wounded. Then surround them with love, and help in their need. The good soldier is ever watchful and alert. He may suffer fatigue and hardship. They keep going through the mud and the storms and fires. Trials will make us strong. We are never alone.

Isaiah 43:2 ***When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.*** He didn’t say “if” He said “when”.

The soldier goes out to win the battle. Be determined to stand. Don’t give in to Satan; God is with us. We must go out in faith to win our families, friends and neighbors. Prayer is our weapon. God sees the whole picture. Without prayer there is no victory. There is battle going on for every soul. Each soul is precious to God and He thinks it’s worth saving. No one is so mean or so lowly that God in His mercy will not save. The enemy is all around us. We must fight to keep our own soul safe and win the lost. We must keep our whole armour of faith on, never leaving even one part off. Nehemiah said, “Go fight for your sons and daughters, your wives, brethren, houses.

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.

There is work to do. Someone said, If you think your mission on earth is done, there is a simple test to see. If you are alive, it isn’t! If God has called us, let us fulfill our commission in His army. If He called you to be a General, Captain, Sergeant, or just a private, do your best. Every job is important. God doesn’t require the best, only OUR best. We may not win any medals, purple hearts, etc. but if we are faithful to the end, there is a crown of righteousness we will receive in heaven.

What kind of soldier are you? Can God trust you to be steadfast, faithful, trustworthy and dependable? □

“RALLY DAY”

Pastor Rodger Tidwell
Walnut Ridge, AR



While serving as Sunday School Superintendent years ago the local church had an outreach campaign they called “RALLY DAY.” Our goal, as you can imagine was to reach out to as many people as possible and bring them together on a particular Sunday. We wanted to boost our attendance and at the same time touch souls for Christ. I don’t remember the number in attendance that day but the name of the campaign has stuck with me through the years. The name “RALLY DAY” has stuck with me through the years. The name “RALLY DAY” is reminiscent of what various scriptures in the Bible indicates will happen in the future.

Did you know that Jesus prayed for a Rally Day of His own?

John 17:20-22 *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:*

I do not believe any prayer that Jesus prayed was ever in vain. With some of His prayers the answers came immediately but there were also some where the answers came over a short period of time. The prayer He prayed in John 17 reaches even into our day and the answer will not be completed until He gets what He asked for— *“That they all may be one”!*

Jesus also indicated this great event by His words in the following scripture.

John 10:16 *And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*

Now the Church of God is not the only one that believes in a coming together and union with other saints and other groups. In the 1900’s several organizations and churches were formed which

advocated union with other believers and many of them have quoted the same scriptures we are using here today but many of them also fall short in that they only advocate union but not Bible unity. They teach "unity with diversity." This is a term that the World Council of Churches has chosen in the past to use. They mean we agree on a few doctrinal issues but differ on all the rest. Such groups have some sort of common denominator that ties them together but that falls far short of the type of Unity Jesus prayed for and also that Paul under the anointing of the Spirit said would happen. The following scripture not only indicates a RALLY DAY but also a RALLY POINT — THE FAITH. Remember Paul in one place said he preached the Faith (doctrine/ the Word of God) that he once destroyed.

Ephesians 4:13 *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

Some who have held to these scriptural beliefs in the past of doctrinal unity and of the coming together of God’s saints have wavered from their stance on these Biblical views. These views are not the popular view and to many are even illogical because in their minds they cannot see how it is going to happen. Regardless of how impossible it looks God’s Word will be accomplished and His prayer will be answered.

Looking out into the Christian world today we see division and more division on the horizon, among those who profess to know Christ. We know that not everyone who professes Jesus possesses Him in their lives but there are many who do know Him yet are separated by beliefs and organizations lines. This continual path of separation is in the opposite direction of what Jesus was praying for but mark God’s Word, something will happen. I do not know exactly what but something will happen to **RALLY** the honest hearted in the other direction. God’s spirit will move as it did in the days of Noah when it brought all the animals together.

Did you know that the Bible predicts

another Rally of another nature? There will not only be a rallying together of good (God's forces) but also of evil forces in the last days. The devil will have his **RALLY DAY**. The scripture indicates this in several places. Some scriptures talk about the great difficulties that the church will have to contend with and operate under. Other scriptures tell us of the united hatred of God's people among the nations of the world. The united evil opposition that the Bible forewarns us about should make us realize why God's people needs to **RALLY**.

II Timothy 3: 13 *But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.*

Matthew 24:12 *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*

Matthew 24:9 *Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.*

The forces of evil have already began to merge. They understand the power of being unified. Their sights are set on those we love and their intentions are not good. Their objectives are becoming apparent to the Christian who has an understanding of the times we are living in. The Saints of God need one another desperately.

Disassociation and alienation was never

God's intention for honest hearted Christians, yet many seem to be content with the status quo of division. I believe Jesus' prayer is being felt in many hearts and the spirit of One Shepherd and One Fold is taking hold.

Just recently the Prime Minister of Great Britain made a bold and powerful statement to his nation. He spoke of their failure in values, ethics and morals and signaled that these are some of the causes behind the acts of violence and rioting in their streets. He indicated that they must **change directions and turn the tide on such actions**. When I heard these things I thought of the condition of God's people and how they are divided and experiencing disassociation and alienation of one another. I thought of how those in various groups claiming to be The Church of God also need to **change directions and turn the tide of division and see the RALLYING** of God's people.

There is a great divide that is taking place right before our very eyes. The lines are being drawn and decisions are being called for. Like Joshua of old, who said "choose you this day whom you will serve" this day demands a quick response. The children of God are being scattered abroad. **A UNITED SURGE OF GOD'S PEOPLE IS NEEDED.** □



New Changes

NEW

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johnpultz@thechurchofgodofnc.com

brendafowler@thechurchofgodofnc.com

elizabethwilkins@thechurchofgodofnc.com





Persecuted, But Not Forsaken

~Harry D. Elder~
Shady Springs, WV

Where are you God? Psalms 42:1-5 *As the hart panteth after the water*

brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God? When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life. I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where is thy God? Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God. Psalms 42:8-11

It is enough, just let me die. I Kings 19:4 *But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.*

He just had victory at Mt.

Carmel. Miracle of rain after three and a half years of drought. Yet James 5:17 recognizes the fact that he was a man subject to like passions as we are.

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. James 5:17

No matter how great the Lord has used us, how many trials we have successfully come through, we are still in this flesh (subject to those passions) and can sometimes wonder "where are you God?" or feel like "Lord, just take me on home."

The Lord is Faithful Lamentations 3:22-25 *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.*

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all. Psalms 34:15, 17, 19

They Hated Me without A Cause.

John 15:25 *But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause.*

Mark 3: 1-2,6,20-21 *And he entered again into the synagogue;*

and there was a man there which had a withered hand. And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him. And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said, He is beside himself.

Persecuted, But Not Forsaken.

II Corinthians 4:8-9 *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, (puzzled) but not in despair (without help); Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;*

Be Not Afraid of Them II Timothy 1:7 *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

The Lord told Ezekiel and Jeremiah not to be afraid of their faces or their looks.

Isaiah 54:17 *No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.*

Isaiah 59:19b *...When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.*

I Trust You, God Psalm 18:2 *The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*



Look up, and lift up your heads

Pastor Susan Cox
Barnhart, MO

John 14: 1-4 *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.*

Jesus Christ or Lord and our Saviour is coming back just like he said. The second coming of Jesus Christ will be in the air to resurrect the dead saints and to catch away the living saints.

I Thes.4:16-17 *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

The dead in Christ will be all whose name is written in the Lambs book of Life the Kingdom and The Church of God members. Those who are alive, at this time The Church of God will have completed the Great Commission and will have prepared herself without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. And there shall be one fold and one shepherd. If you do not believe this then you do not believe the word of God. This is the first resurrection. We will be changed in a moment, mortality to immortality (New Bodies) and caught up together with the resurrected saints, the dead in Christ, to meet the Lord in the air.

The Rapture, Glory be to God!!!

Matt 24:36 Jesus said: *But of that day and hour knoweth no man no not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.*

It behooves us to not get caught up in the deception of false prophets predicting the year, date or time of the coming of our Lord. Because we know this is contrary to the Word of God. Neither should you and I be putting forth great effort

trying to narrow the date. However, my friend we should be about the work that Christ left for us to do. And striving to perfect ourselves for we know by the 21st Chapter of Luke and the 24 Chapter of Matthew where Jesus tells us much about the signs of the times of this world before his coming. Please study these two chapters on your own and you will know with out a doubt that the time is upon us.

Though we are told in the book of Luke 21:28 *And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads: for your redemption draweth nigh.*

As we see the signs of the coming of the Lord coming to pass. Look up let your hearts not be troubled for our redemption draweth nigh. And let us not be weary in well doing. There is a work to be done.

Matt 24: 37-44 *But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.*

This is the day that we now live in. Everyone everywhere is eating and drinking, everything has become a social event. Man no longer cares for The Word of God or pleasing the Lord. or even for their families. It is a world of self pleasure an "I and Me" world where only self pleasure and the lust of the flesh is sought. Being married three and four times has become very normal and the world has also accepted same sex unions and alternative live styles, which is an abomination to the Lord.

Unfortunately even many Kingdom church services are merely a social event trying to please the people. Let it not be so in The Church of God. We must stand and preach and teach the truth even more as the day approaches. We must shine brighter and brighter by upholding the Truth of God. By this Christ is Glorified!

Matt.25: 1-13 *Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*

You can not make it on Mom and Dad's experience. You can not make it on your Pastor's faith. You can not make it just because your name is on The Church books. Don't be looking at the spiritual shape of your brothers and sisters and miss out on your own spiritual walk with the Lord.

There were two phases to a Jewish wedding. First the bridegroom went to the brides home to obtain his bride who had prepared herself for his coming. Then he took his bride to a place he had prepared for great festivities: Christ coming in mid-air, the saints caught up to meet him, their activity together while in the air are known to us as the rapture and marriage supper of the Lamb. The scripture tells us His coming will take place in a moment in the twinkling of an eye. Matt 24: 27 says: as a flash of lightning.

No time to prepare as the ten virgins. If you

are planning on waiting you are only kidding yourself. There will be no time. The hour will have past.

Rev 19:7-9 *Let us be glad and rejoice and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lam. And he saith unto me. These are the true sayings of God.*

The Church of God, The Bride of Christ. Seek the Vision. And if you already have the vision, don't lose the Vision! We have come too far to turn back now. There is too much to gain to lose.

How blessed to make the first resurrection for we shall escape the wrath of God. For while we are celebrating, this earth will experience sorrow as they have never known. For the Anti-Christ will have full rein after The Church and the Spirit of God which is the Sweet Holy Ghost is lifted. The Great Tribulation.

If you are not ready to meet God and if you are not preparing yourself for His coming, you should be living in Great Fear of what is coming to pass. But my friend if you are covered in the blood of Jesus, if your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life, if you are joined to Him by covenant, bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh, if you are walking in all the light that He has shined upon your path. Then my friend, Praise God, Rejoice, and again I say Rejoice today and forever more, Amen. Fear not what is coming to pass, for Jesus has saved your soul and He will also spare you from the wrath of God that is to be poured out upon the sinner and ungodly.

Today is the day for repentance and salvation

Today is the day to seek a closer walk with the Lord

Today is the day to examine yourself and see if there be any unclean thing within you.

For It is written: ***And the Lord said, my spirit shall not always strive with man,*** Gen6:3b □



Anna Mae Pash Home Going

Anna Mae Pash (nee Gill) went to be with the Lord on Saturday July 16th, 2011, at the New Life Hospice Center in Lorain, Ohio. She was born October 18th, 1931, in Summerlee, West Virginia. She lived in Oberlin, Ohio since 1968.

Before retiring she worked for several retail food stores. She enjoyed studying the Bible, going to church, and spending time with her family and many friends, these were very important to her. She was a member of The Church of God of NC.

Sister Anna Mae will be greatly missed by all who knew her gentle words of love for her God. This radiated each time she spoke of her love for Him and her love for everyone she met. Whether at Wal-Mart, on the street or at Church her testimony was the same and she was never reluctant to share it with others. The times that I shared with her will always be present in my mind as I remember the wonderful refreshing times when she brought smiles to my face when there were really tears in my eyes. Her love for Christ and His church was reflected in everything she did.

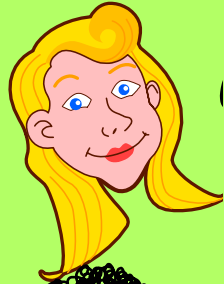
She has left us with an example that will be hard to follow unless we, like her, put God first with others second and self-last. Her acts of kindness and sacrifice for her church shall never be forgotten by those who knew her and they will live on as a memorial to her. As I look around here at headquarters and throughout the church world there are signs of her everywhere and I can't help remembering her hours of work when she visited headquarters.

Goodbye, Sister Pash, for now but we long to visit again with you in Heaven when we too find our path has ended and our work is done. We praise God for another true SOLDIER OF THE CROSS!

*John A. Wilkins, Jr.
International Overseer*

World Missions

~ Eunice Foster ~
International WMB Director



World Missions. What awesome words. They include every corner and every soul in the world. One of the songs the Gleaners sings says, "Jesus loves the children of the world, all the children of the world. Red and yellow black and white, They are precious in his sight."

So without hesitation everyone, there is no racial barriers in the love of God.

So as our prayers go up and we dig deep in our pockets, let us listen closely for God's voice as He directs us in our giving to World Missions.

If we're not careful we look at the world situation and allow our minds to be drawn away from God. We must not let Satan keep us upset and confused. Our answer is to keep our mind stayed on God, and His last days work. Isaiah 26:3 *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

Our mission field is the world, so let us pull together, each one in the field God has placed him in. Working in our place and helping others to go where God sends them. This great commission can and will be completed as Jesus as commanded us.



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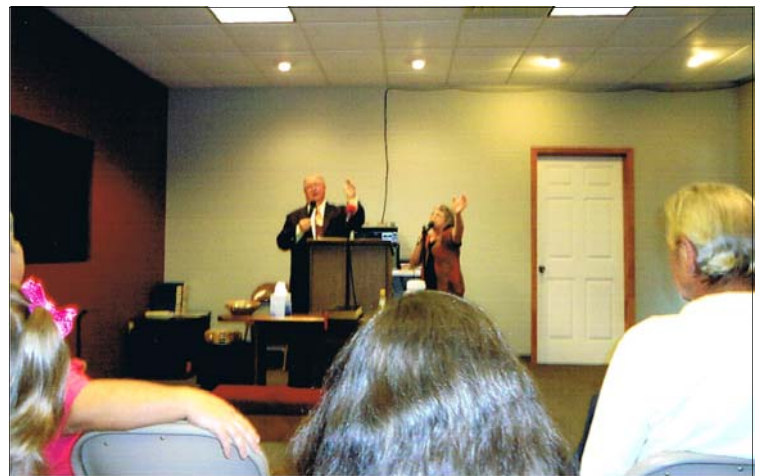
New Church, in Adamsville, AL

~ Pastor Ed Swindle ~



Enclosed are a few pictures of our church and also a few people in our first Sunday Service on August 7, 2011. A total of 15. Praise the Lord! We are so excited... Pray for us and we love you all.

Diane Swindle
Reporter



I have heard it said, "A picture is worth a thousand words" now you can judge from these just how proud Brother and Sister Swindle are to be in their new building. They are to be congratulated for their progress and the establishment of The Church of God in the Adamsville, AL area. Our hats are off to this congregation and our pastor and his wife for the sacrifices they have made to establish the work. May God continue to bless and supply the needs of this local church, its members and friends as we push on with the work that God has assigned to our hands to do? To God be the glory and honor, great things He has done for Adamsville, Alabama!

Walnut Ridge, AR

~ Pastor Rodger Tidwell ~

Pulpit Area



The Church of God, Walnut Ridge, Arkansas has moved into their spacious new sanctuary recently and they are to be applauded for their success and hard work. An edifice of this size not only cost a lot of money but I know the General Contractor, Bishop Rodger Tidwell and wife Tenna, they have worked together on this. It has been reported that Sister Tidwell has been seen with paint and brush and the interior will reflect that this is true. We, at headquarters are extremely proud of the work done at Walnut Ridge by all who have had a part in building this beautiful building and we look forward to the dedication day coming soon.

Pastor Tidwell & Some Members



Sanctuary



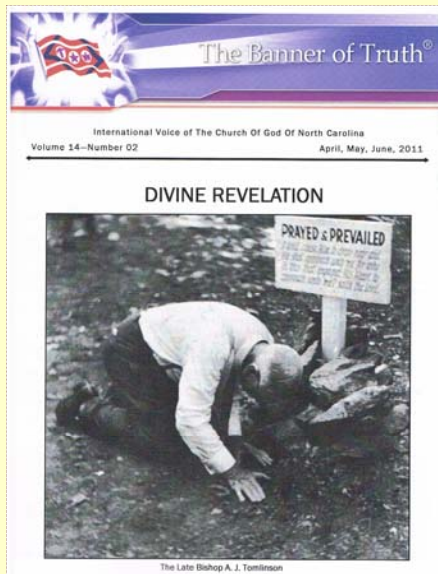
Fellowship Hall



Bathrooms & Narthex



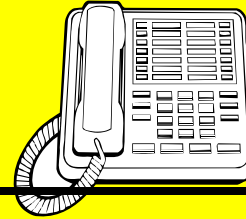
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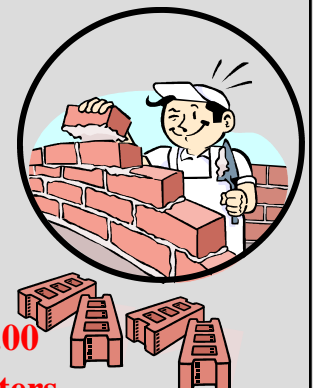
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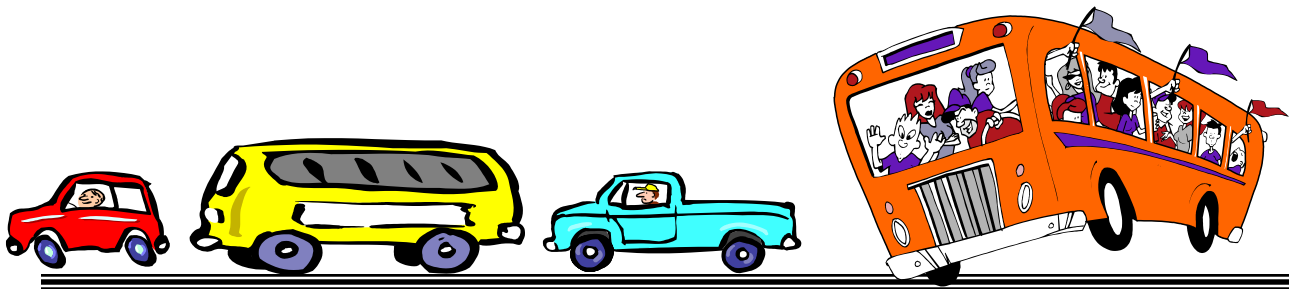
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