

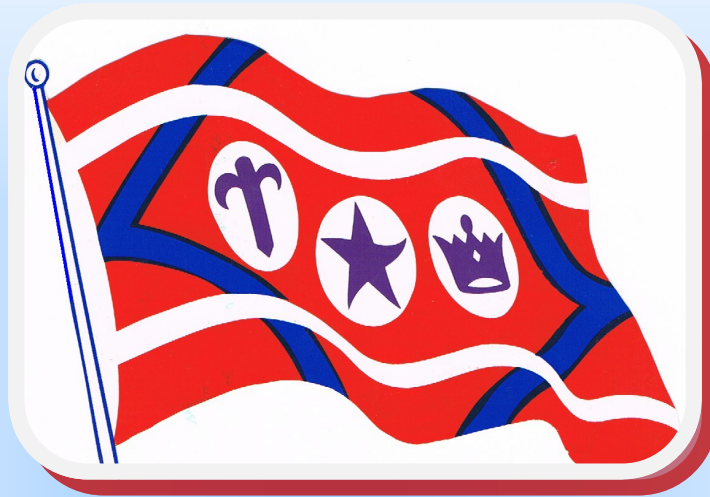


International Voice of The Church of God of North Carolina

Volume 17—Number 02

April, May, June, 2014

All Nations Flag



*"I pledge allegiance to our
Church Flag, and
to the doctrine for which
it stands—one God,
one Faith, one Mind, and
One Church for All.
Amen."*

Flag Day June 13th.

Editorial....

A LOT OF NOISE ABOUT THINGS

International Overseer

John A. Wilkins, Jr.



Today there is a lot of noise about things that really don't matter very much. People make noise about their country, their school, family and various other things that they want recognized. You see noise, colors, balloons and fireworks generate excitement and attract people's eyes when nothing else will and all of these are used for that purpose. It is now June 2014 and this takes us back a few years as we remember the things that caused us to make noise and show our colors in the past as we celebrated such things as the "Arise Shine", flag day and other events of our history that have meant so much to us. It is time to get excited about these again while we reflect on what is going to happen soon as the "People of God" get into the work of the Lord with their whole heart, soul and mind. God did not give these to be forgotten but to be remembered as we think about our past, present and future with the Lord on our side.

And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout. Joshua 6:10

It is now time to make noise and open our mouths regarding the colors, emblems, and marks that the Lord has given us. The world is asleep but

the Church must wake up and start making noise about the things that are so important to

us which the Lord has given for making His Church known. It is time to put the flag on our cars, homes, airplanes and any vehicle we own to make it known to the world. I can remember when it was on the guitars, notebooks, home windows and just about anything we owned, but the enemy has discouraged its use with all the bad treatment. It is time to get excited about the "Arise Shine" of The Church of God on June 13, 1903 when Bishop A. J. Tomlinson received and shared the vision from the top of the mountain. This event that occurred in the top of the mountain there in Cherokee County, North Carolina near Murphy, North Carolina, is not a dead vision but it is alive! Let us all declare it in glory and honor during this special month of the year so that it will come to life again in the hearts and minds of our people. Fly the flag and let the whole world know what it means to us.

NOTE: Please read Joshua 6: for a special blessing.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

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Beautiful Banner



Tune : (Beautiful Texas)
By Beatrice Ellis, Indiana
1939 White Wing Messenger

*I am thinking just now of heaven,
Where Jesus has gone to prepare
A place for His bride, the Church of God,
Beyond the golden stair ;
Oh, how it thrills and thrills me,
As I look on our banner bright,
That is calling us to oneness,
Then soon we will take our flight.*

CHORUS

*Beautiful, beautiful banner—
The red, white, purple and blue,
The star you see means Jesus,
Who gave His life for you ;
The beautiful crown it means kingship,
We are of royal birth,
The scepter denotes the power
That shall not depart from the earth.*

*You may live in the hills or valleys
Or down where the sea breezes blow,
But you'll find our beautiful banner
Just anywhere you may go ;
Though it be in the crowded cities
Or over the deep blue sea,
You'll find this ensign waving,
A story for you and for me.*

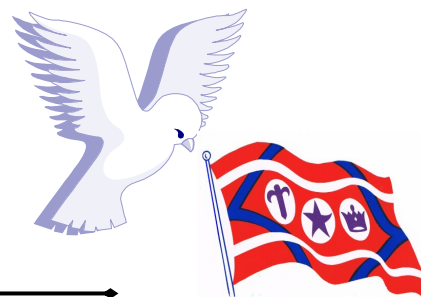
*It stands for one holy nation,
Made up of all the redeemed,
The black, white, yellow, red and brown,
With joy their faces will beam;
It waves out the last days message,
Which must go throughout the world,
Send out, send out the Gospel
And watch our flag unfurl.*



“God Sends A Post!”

Isaiah 7:14 “A Sign”

International Overseer
John Wilkins



When times are hard and things look bad for God’s People, He often sends us a post to help us get oriented and headed in the right direction. I remember reading about Noah and how it rained and covered the earth with water until there was nothing left for Noah to see that even reminded him of the earth under the flood. God saw the situation and sent a bird from the vessel to look for a twig and when one was found, it was returned to the ark for Noah to see. The post, in the form of a twig was all Noah needed to see, to convince him that the bird had found land again. The whole of the earth was covered with water but now the post was issued to convince them that it was still underneath the water and the water was going away. There are so many stories like this one which explain that God is still at work and He is still protecting what He has placed here for us to use and for our help. Now God entered a covenant with Noah that this would never happen again, water cover all of mankind and destroy all of the living from the earth as it did happen during this flood except for those on the ark.

And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying, And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you; And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to

every beast of the earth. And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. Genesis 9:8-13

Not long after the “Arise Shine” on June 13, 1903, the enemy started to work again on God’s program and the covenant relationship between God and man was once again challenged and man thought he could derail the plan God had for His people. The factions started to rise up and claim this and that to confuse the Covenant People of God, The Church of God. Many breaks occurred within the Body of Christ which could have taken the Church down but God would send His post and some Holy Ghost anointed preacher would declare the TRUTH of God’s Word and things would level off. These events happened on a regular basis for far too long a time until the major split of 1923, when the People of God were divided into two different groups which subscribed to the same

general rules. It was here that the members had to decide which group represented them the best and then go with that group. There wasn’t a great deal of difference between them at that time as they accused each other and stormed off to court to settle their differences. There is not enough time for this message to take us down that road so we must move on with the main theme of this message; God will deliver a post when the proper time comes.

Over the next 10 years men struggled and sought the help of God to determine the proper course of action and to know where the Church had gone and exactly why. Then God looked and saw the dilemma and He sent us a post to help us clear up the matter. You see He will not leave us without help if we will receive it when He sends it. During the General Assembly of 1933 after much discussion and turmoil regarding all of this splitting and hard knocks, loss of property, loss of members, families and friends something happened to bring about peace. God dedicated a flag that had been prepared for the purpose of identity and to calm the storm that was going on throughout The Church of God. Please keep in mind that they did not have computers to contend with during these times so they were dependent on the written message. When the flag was presented, the Holy Ghost took over and the flag which had come to the assembly with a formal dedication planned received a Holy

Ghost dedication. God had given a flag, dedicated the flag and posted it as a divine post to all who question THE CHURCH OF GOD. This flag cannot be changed, redesigned, replaced, ignored or put away by The Church of God because it is given by God for a sign just as the rainbow was given by God for a sign unto Him and for us. The flag is a sign for God of His Covenant People and the covenant He has with us just as the bow was and is a sign to Him today.

And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth. Genesis 9:14-17

It is my belief that when God looks down to the earth, He sees the event that happened on that day during the assembly of 1933 and He sees what He has given us to display until He comes for His Bride, The Church of God. When He sees it, He remembers those who have fallen as they worked to preserve and maintain His house, many of them working through sickness and other problems that would have stopped most anyone from their service. The Church of God has been faithful for many years and has carried the flag with great

pride and faith in our God.

So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD. As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever. Isaiah 59:19-21

The standard (flag) has been lifted against him (the enemy) and we have no reason to fear or think further about him and what he can do to us because Jesus is our refuge and strength. God has prepared the way and as He looks at the flag, he remembers what has been done. He sees the flag just as he sees the rainbow; it is a reminder of what He has done on our behalf. Some will say, "Well it doesn't appear in the heavens, on earth or anyplace else without some man putting it there." Many have reported seeing it in various places where it was not physically displayed so I wouldn't be so sure about all of this if I were you. The flag was given at a time when the enemy was having a time with the Church until God brought it out during the assembly. It has played a prominent role in the Church since that time until the past few years when it has been rolled up and put in many closets not to be seen anymore. God isn't finished with it but some men are and it will be to their shame. He is

expecting it to be flown and displayed proudly by our people until we are finished on earth and called away by Him. Please keep in mind that the bow is not seen until God's light is displayed through the clouds and then it becomes visible. The flag is much the same, until the light from God illuminates it there is little hope of one seeing it for anything but just a colored piece of cloth with little or no meaning. Then when God's light shines through the true meaning and message becomes very clear and easy to understand. Yes, the flag has deep spiritual meaning that can only be understood when the light of God gives it that glow and divine meaning.

Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah. That thy beloved may be delivered; save with thy right hand, and hear me. God hath spoken in his holiness; I will rejoice, I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth. Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine; Ephraim also is the strength of mine head; Judah is my lawgiver; Moab is my washpot; over Edom will I cast out my shoe: Philistia, triumph thou because of me. Who will bring me into the strong city? who will lead me into Edom? Wilt not thou, O God, which hadst cast us off? and thou, O God, which didst not go out with our armies? Give us help from trouble: for vain is the help of man. Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies. Psalms 60:4-12

Our enemies shall not triumph over us but shall fall down as we march into their streets and pathways as God's children full of faith and power given us by

God. Man's help is not enough, it is vain but the help of God is needed that we might do valiantly as we tread down our enemies in His strength. We must call on God and depend on Him to see us through now just as we have done in the past! He is still helping those who do and will never leave us or forsake us, according to His Word. When David faced the giant, he did not face him in his own power but in the power of the Lord who had called him. It was not the weapon of power, the slingshot, but it was the power of the Lord that took down the giant. There are many giants out here today, but none of them are a match for the power of God. His banner over us reminds us of this each time we go into the world to live and to fight that He is with us as we go. There will be a battle, but we are scheduled to win! Don't allow the enemy to dampen your spirit because of the low numbers, remember we are not to count and evaluate our army by size. They thought David was sick or crazy with a slingshot and a pocket with only five rocks, but it only took ONE with the power of God directing it and striking a death blow. We must remember that our warfare is not carnal and keep the faith for the victory.

Here are some of the scriptures introducing the flag to the assembly in 1933 as it was unveiled to the General Assembly by Bishop A. J. Tomlinson:

And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly:
Isaiah 5:26

Thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people: and

they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders.
Isaiah 49:22

Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people.
Isaiah 62:10

Here are the closing remarks by the General Overseer, Bishop A. J. Tomlinson to the Assembly:

"I am herewith introducing this flag and its design for consideration by the Assembly. In order to get the subject before the Assembly properly the Questions and Subjects committee should consider it and bring this subject before the Assembly in proper order. If a better and more appropriate design can be found it will be satisfactory to me. But I really think the time has come for the Church to have a flag with a design of its own, and which cannot be duplicated by any other institution or government. Hurrah for the flag! Three cheers for the red, white, blue and purple!"

It is great to have a flag, but not just any flag, the one that has been given by the hand of God. The flag cannot be duplicated, redesigned or put into operation by the hand of man. The flag that has been given is the one that we were supposed to keep and honor until the Lord comes for us and I will have no other. I feel like saying hurrah for the flag and three cheers for the red, white, blue and purple just as Bishop Tomlinson. In these last days it will come back to our cars, home windows, and other places where people can once again see it and

know who we are just as they did in the olden days. Unlike some product made by man which often gets new trademarks assigned to them, the flag must remain unchanged with the same design and colors.

Yes, God will use this same flag in these last days to gather His people together into ONE just as His Word says He will. If you don't believe that, I am sorry, but just watch and see His glory come down upon those who will listen to His voice. He is about to make it happen so watch the clouds and His light as it shines through them to form the post from Heaven to His people in the form of a flag which is still relevant and meaningful to His Holy People. He has not forgotten and we should not forget because the hour is late and He is soon coming. Oh, that we might gather ourselves together around Him as He has told us so many time to do and see His plan. I am not interested in man's plan, only God's plan. In the heat of the battle I want to see His plan unfold and victory come at last for The Church of God which He purchased with His own blood. Don't lose the vision for the Bible Church just because so many have left the plan, stand tall and report for duty under the only flag that He has given. He has ONE flag but man has many flags and they are confusing as you examine the design. Some are saying that one of the new flags have more white surface in them and that represents more purity but I say the white represents purity and the amount of threads that are white still represent purity. He covered it all with the first flag, the trademarked one, the one He set in order and the one He intends for us to use until He comes

for us.

There is no need to attempt to improve something that God has given. We only need to improve our lives until our walk matches what God has given whether it is by symbolism or by His Word. The flag is finished; it needs nothing but Holy men and women to carry it on the battlefield. There will be a battle and we can count on that but we are the winners! I have made up my mind regarding the flag, the Church and all those things related. They all belong to God and I am just a small part by His grace. When men fail and turn from following Him and attempt to lead us all away from the truth we must refuse to go after them and just stand. Victory is coming and the head of it is Jesus Christ and we are covered by His blood, represented by the red color in the flag.

Have you read the post by Jesus Christ, the virgin born Son of God? He has given it to His Church, THE CHURCH OF GOD, the flag is that post. □

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

**This is to Notify
our Local Churches
WE HAVE CLOSED OUR
ONLINE BOOK STORE**

SPECIAL PRAYER:

- Sister Cathy Elder would like to Thank each of you for your prayers for her husband Harry D. Elder and to ask that you continue to do so...
- Pray for Bro & Sis. Hillard Foster.
- Pray for Bro Carl's Mother in the Philippines.
- Bro & Sister Bradshaw who has lost their daughter.

"A WONDERFUL 50TH CELEBRATION"



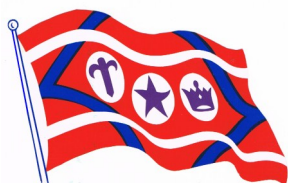
It started out just as any other ordinary day in April with the sun and warm weather, birds singing and everything just wonderful but things do change and sometimes quickly. The family had scheduled pictures to be taken by a photographer near our home so off we all went to get pictures done. The photo shoot was about finished and someone suggested we go back to our home town for lunch. That sure sounded good to me so off we went for food, still things seemed very normal.

When we approached the restaurant and entered into the dining area, I saw some of our family that had travelled a long way to be there and I knew at this point things were getting interesting. Once inside the room it was easy to tell things had been planned by the family and there were many guests there to greet us for the occasion. Our children were all there who had planned this event to help us celebrate 50 years of marriage and celebrate we did. There were gifts, pictures, a slide show of our life together and some exciting tales by some as we ate and had a wonderful time together.

Our three children, Bryan, Craig and Regina, had planned to send us off for a week of vacation to the mountains of Tennessee where they had rented us a cabin in Pigeon Forge. It was a delightful trip with prepaid tickets to see some wonderful sights and enjoy ourselves there in the hills for a few days. It was the most wonderful time of our life as we thought about all the years together while having our children with us in the home as we went through some tough times. We thought how great our God is to give us all these years together with such a wonderful family. Our Church family has meant a great deal to us also and we must not forget them as we think back on all of it and give God praise. □

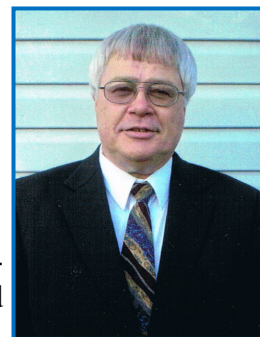


John & Elizabeth Wilkins
**50 YEARS
TOGETHER AS ONE**



SYMBOL OF GOD'S FAVOR OR OUR GOD?

~Pastor John Pultz~



*And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived. **Numbers 21:4-9***

God sent fiery poisonous serpents among the people to punish them and correct them, for their sin against Him and Moses. The brass serpent was a type of Christ, our Savior.

*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. **John 3:14,15***

Any who had been bitten could look upon the serpent of brass to be healed and live, not die. But as is often the case with men, they misused the purpose for which God had given them the serpent, over a period of time. We must remember that God had told them: *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God... **Exodus 20:4,5a***

To the natural mind it would seem that God had contradicted himself in telling Moses to make the serpent of brass, but not to the spiritual mind. This serpent had a twofold purpose: It was for the healing of those who had been bitten by the instrument of God's punishment (wrath), the fiery serpent, and it was an Old Testament type and shadow of the coming Savior, the Son of God, Jesus Christ who would bring eternal

life to all who look to Him for deliverance from God's wrath and punishment for sin.

Just as man seems to almost always do away with the intended purposes for which God gives us something, the Israelites misused this brass serpent. It was over 900 years later, when Hezekiah was King of Judah, and the threat of the fiery serpents was all but a distant memory, the people had made a god out of this symbol of deliverance, rather than worshipping God, the Deliverer: "He (Hezekiah) removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan." **2 Kings 18:4**

As our Flag Day approaches, we need to remind ourselves of what The Church of God flag is and what it represents:

- The **Red** represents the blood of Christ, shed for our forgiveness of sins and for our healing. (Represents, not is the blood of Christ)
- The **White** represents purity and holiness. (Represents, not is purity and holiness)
- The **Blue** represents truth. (Represents, not is truth)
- The **Purple** represents Royalty or Kingship. (Represents, not is royalty or kingship)

Why am I pointing this out? Anyone can wave the flag and say they are The Church of God, but that doesn't make them The Church of God. The flag is representative of God's holy people, **NOT** a people made holy because they have the flag in their possession!

For many years now, the Holy Ghost has called for us to "humble" ourselves and "hearken to His words", to "gather around Me" and to "walk diligently with Me". The Lord has also said, through the Holy Ghost, that "many seek Me in tears from their heart, but they do not obey Me when I answer them, because they have settled it in their hearts that they are right and they will not hear My truth".

Why would we not hear the Lord's answer to our cries, when He has told us several times that if we "cry unto Me and I will answer you"? It is because we have not done what the Lord told us to do many, many years ago: "You must get rid of your preconceived ideas and notions (opinions)". I'm not talking about sound,

doctrine, I'm talking about what some have added to or taken away from the doctrine of holiness unto the Lord. We don't have to look too far into the past to see the times when we erred to the left or to the right, if we are honest to ourselves. We have run ahead, when we should have waited. We have tarried when the Lord has said to run with all your might. If we can humble ourselves to Him, then He will show us where we err and where to hold fast. The Lord, through the Holy Ghost has said: "My people are in great error. The enemy devours them and they know it not, because they think with the mind of the world and the mind of men" He's not talking about others, He said "My people".

Many of us have been present when the Holy Ghost has said, on several occasions: "This is the last time that I am calling My people together...I am coming very, very soon." There is no time left for arrogance, for pride, for self-righteousness or for a holier-than-thou attitude. These are signs of hard heartedness and being "stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears." These are things that keep us from hearing and understanding God's answer to our tearful cries from our hearts, because those who are stiffnecked "do always resist the Holy Ghost". None of us want to be hard hearted or stiffnecked, but I'm afraid that we are, more times than we want to admit. We need to heed what the Lord has told us several times and humble ourselves before Him, to pour ourselves out as water before the Lord until there is not one iota of pride or arrogance left in us. Then we will hear and understand what He is speaking to us. If we think we know everything as we should, then to quote Paul, we "*knoweth nothing yet as he (we) ought to know*".

Just as God warned Israel, then after the kingdom split Israel and Judah, for many years to humble themselves and repent and hearken to His prophets and obey His word or be punished; So He has warned His Church, for many years, to humble ourselves, to get rid of our preconceived ideas and opinions, to hearken to Him and to walk diligently with Him. If we are not hearkening, humbling, trusting, believing and obeying Him, then the time is drawing nigh that we will be like Judah and Israel: "*...until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.*"

2 Chronicles 36:16b

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

I remember when Bro. Wade Phillips was holding the first "Heritage" meetings in Pigeon Forge, TN. During the last session, the Lord gave us an admonition and a warning, through the Holy Ghost. I am only repeating the parts of the message that summed up the whole of the message: "Gather around Me, my children,

I have not brought you this far to leave you to fall by the wayside (repeated 3 times in the message as I recall)...Soften your hearts". Instead of gathering around Him and softening our hearts, I have seen just the opposite among God's people. Why? Could it be that we have not softened our hearts and that many have tried to "help" God's plan rather than hearing and waiting for Him to help us understand? If Abram and Sara had not tried to help God's plan, then Ishmael would not have been born and we would not have Islam taking over the world today, persecuting God's New Testament people, just as they have persecuted God's Old Testament chosen people, the Jews. The best that man can do outside of the direct leading of the Holy Ghost, is only to add confusion to God's people. When we are in too big of a hurry to wait on the Lord and to hear and UNDERSTAND what the Spirit is saying, then we are just confounding God's perfect will for us. Hard and stiffnecked hearts that want to obey God and walk in holiness, **BUT** have settled it in their own hearts that they are right, will not hear God's truth. The Holy Ghost has said: "Those who say they are the ones and there is no other, will not hear my truth".

If you see the flag as the presence of God, then the flag has become a brass serpent to you. It has become a stumbling block, instead of a symbol REPRESENTING God's favor and blessing: "*Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth.*" **Psalms 60:4**

Anyone can wave the flag and declare to be The Church of God, but that doesn't make it so. If your understanding of the flag is correct, then God's favor will be upon you for walking humbly, meekly and reverently in holiness with the Lord. Then the flag will fulfill its true purpose of letting others see it as a SIGN of God's favor and blessing on a people who obey and hearken to their God.

Many are fearful of the flag being taken away. Do we think that our God's arm is shortened so that He can no longer deliver us and recover anything the enemy takes away from us? Time and again Israel was displaced and their lands and possessions taken from them, only to be recovered by the Lord, when they humbled themselves and hearkened unto Him. With the exception of John, we believe that all of the apostles were killed for their testimony, did that mean they were no longer a part of God's Church or no longer His children? NO! We have to stop fretting and fearing what might happen and look to the Lord and no one nor anything else, for guidance and help. How many times must the Lord admonish and rebuke us before we understand His call for us to HUMBLE ourselves and HEARKEN to what He is saying to us?

In the 2011 International Assembly a message was being preached about the flag and us defending it at all costs. God abruptly interrupted the sermon with a message through the Holy Ghost, which apparently went right over the heads of most of us in attendance. While the sermon was about defending and fighting for the flag, the Holy Ghost interrupted to say that “The battle is Mine, I will fight for you. Fear not, trust Me”. If we had understood what God had just said and the reason that He interrupted that sermon, then that sermon would have never been finished and we would have humbled ourselves and worshipped the Lord giving Him thanks, because He had just told us that we didn’t have to fight for His flag, because the battle was His and He would fight the battle for us. But that’s not what happened. The sermon continued and afterwards we went on our merry way completely missing the whole reason of that Holy Ghost message! We thought we were really pleasing God because He had spoken to us, but we did not hear what He said. Why? Because we had already settled it in our hearts how we thought it should be, so we only heard what we wanted to hear, not what God actually said.

How many times do we completely miss the mark and fail to hear what God is really saying because we are not doing what the Holy Ghost said to do more than twenty years ago: “You must get rid of your PRE-CONCEIVED ideas and notions (opinions)”? During the 2013 International Assembly, how many heard the Holy Ghost say the following:

“Am I not your Father? Am I not your God? Are you not My children? Have I not poured out My blessings upon you? Have I not protected you against the enemy? Will I not fail you? I shall not fail, sayeth the Lord of Hosts. Yea, know me by My name, I am the Lord of Hosts. I will prepare the way before you and it shall be prepared with blessings. Blessing upon blessing, for I am the Lord of Hosts. I AM, yea I AM, sayeth the I AM. Fear not. I am with you, you shall be fine. Yea, you shall be protected. Yea, you shall be well fed. For I am the Lord of hosts and all is mine, sayeth God. Yea, your God, your God. I am your God. Fear not My children, Yea, you have nothing to fear.”

If that is all you heard, then you missed the whole point of the message, because you only heard what fit into your mindset, your preconceived opinions. Here is what was really said: **“Come My children, look unto Me. Am I not your Father? Am I not your God? Are you not My children? Have I not poured out My blessings upon you?**

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

When we study the whole message, we see that none of the good applies, unless we **LOOK** to God, **HUMBLE** ourselves to Him, **HEARKEN** and **LISTEN** to everything He says, and **WALK DILIGENTLY** with Him and **TRUST** Him. Only then does this message apply to you or me! We need to humbly ask the Lord to reveal His mind unto us. If we persist in thinking with the ways of man the ways of the world, we will never understand what the Lord is telling us. The red on the Church flag represents the blood of Christ which He shed to purchase our salvation and to make us His holy vessels. If we don’t understand that He has much more to reveal to us in these last days, then we are among those who think they have everything just right and don’t want anyone to tell them different, not even the Lord of Hosts, through the Holy Ghost. I don’t want to be one of those of whom the Lord has said “THEY WILL NOT HEAR MY TRUTH”. Do you want to be in that number?

The flag of The Church of God is like anything else from God, if we don’t obey Him, trust Him and diligently walk in humbleness with Him, then He has every right to take it from us and give it to a people who will. Is the flag a symbol from God to remind you of what He requires?

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do

justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? **Micah 6:8**

If it is, then you know that God will fight our battles and we will never be alone. Besides, we are covered by His skirt of ownership and protection and none can withstand the Almighty God! But, if you put too much attention on the flag itself, rather than what it represents

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. **1 Peter 2:9-10**, then the flag may just have become like the brass serpent of Hezekiah's day, to you, instead of what God intended to be.

Let us all humble ourselves before God and honestly seek His help in humbling ourselves unto Him and diligently seek after His heart and His mind. This is the only way we will hear and understand everything He says, rather than just what we want to hear.

"For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world." **1 Corinthians 11:31-32.** □

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Christian Freedom Isn't Free

By Edgar Foster

*I looked upon a Christian Flag
and thought of what it means,
A Savior offering untold pain
So He could set me free.*

*I thought about the blood that fell,
The Stripes He humbly bore,
I thought about the crown of thorns
Upon His brow He wore.*

*I thought about the wind swept hill
Where the King of Glory died.
And there He beat the devil
When He was crucified.*

*No my souls freedom wasn't free,
It cost the Savior dear.
He left all heavens bliss,
So he could draw me near.*

*It cost the face of The Father
To be turned away that day.
And all the scorn that He endured,
My debt of Sin to pay.*

*The blood the pain, the sin and
shame,
He fully took for me.
He gave His life, it cost Him All,
No! my freedom isn't free!*

*So, Since He paid my debt for me,
A ransom so cherished and True,
I'll live my life for Him each day.
It's the Least that I can do.*

Submitted by Dolores Yost
South Carolina

Why the "Arise, Shine"?

**God's Purposes
Never Come To Naught**

**Seventieth Anniversary
To Be Observed
on June 13**

White Wing Messenger June 2, 1973

A BRIEF REVIEW

I suppose that most of our tens of thousands of Church of God members have heard or read the historical account of the Church's restoration in these last days. Every minister should be able to relate the story, and every member should be interested in knowing just why the Church of God of the Bible is functioning as it is away down here in the latter part of the Twentieth Century. It is my feeling that the event should be rehearsed in our churches or conventions, or wherever services are going on at the time of the Seventieth Anniversary of the "Arise, Shine," on June 13. Since that date comes in the middle of the week this year, it may be more effective to have some sort of special commemoration on the preceding Sunday, June 10. At any rate, if we really believe in the Church of God, this part of her story should not be slighted.

Though I want to give the most of this message to God's purpose in bringing His Church back into operation again, I would like to whet the appetites of any who do not know of the events leading up to this major fulfillment of prophecy seventy years ago.

The early Church had departed from God's theocratic order with the acceptance of the Nicean Creed in June, A. D. 325. As far as the Church is concerned, that was the beginning of the period known as the Dark Ages. For the next 1578 years there was plenty of "religious" activity throughout the world, but not until June 13, 1903 did the Bible Church figure in any of these activities, because she was covered over by the debris of false doctrine and the government and practices of men.

The writings of the prophets are rife with predictions of the Church's apostasy, followed by its return at some later time. Some of them may not

have understood their own words, since their mouths and pens were used by the Holy Ghost to speak and record the very words of God. It is possible that those prophets thought their words were limited to Israel and Judah, since both kingdoms had forsaken the Lord; and were eventually taken captive by alien powers. And many who read the prophets today are still of that opinion. What they fail to see is that, when the Jews rejected their Messiah, they caused themselves to be cut off temporarily from the plan of God, but the plan itself was not changed. For, from the foundation of the world, the Church had had its place in that plan.

Christ set His Church in order, then, after training the apostles and committing to them the doctrine and principles of the Church. He left it here with authority to fulfill its mission before Israel can come back fully into her own. In the meantime, hundreds of the prophecies and promises which seem to have been for Israel have turned out to be for the Church. This can hardly be denied when we see the program being carried out before our very eyes; and especially when we find ourselves on that program as chosen of God.

Since the ultimate goal marked out in the New Testament for the Church to reach was not attained in the early days, it is an evident fact that the Church had to return to finish its work. Just as there was a set moment for the Church to go into apostasy according to prophecy, so was there a set

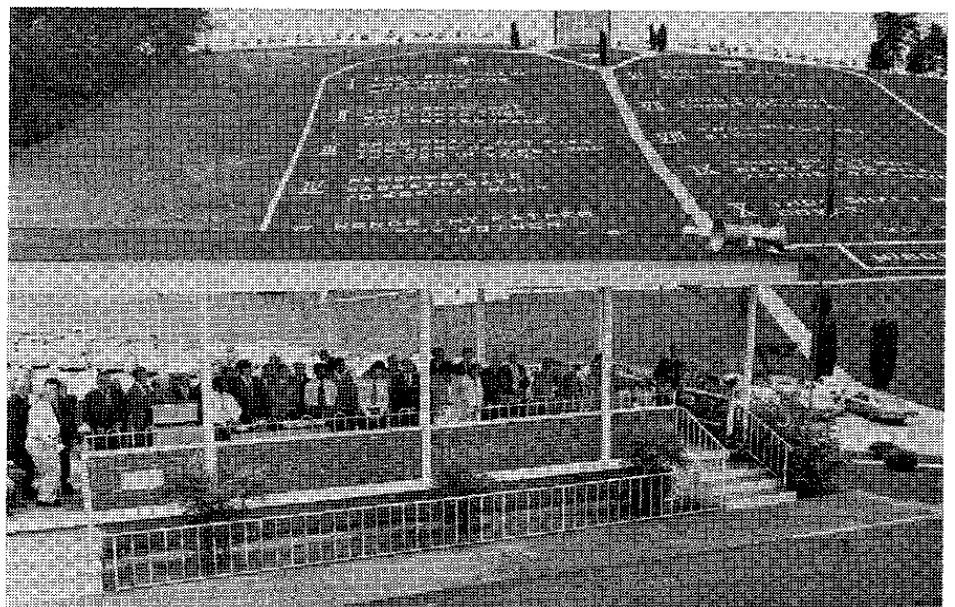
moment for it to come forth and take up its original mission according to prophecy. June 13, 1903 was that set time.

A SMALL BEGINNING

The beginning in these last days was small, just as it was at the time of the original beginning about A. D. 28. But God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform. There was nothing spectacular about what took place in the Fields of the Wood in 1903, so far as the world or the religious world were concerned. But in the eyes of the Almighty it was one of the high points in the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. The Church, "the apple of His eye," arose from her crouched position and began functioning as in the days of the apostles.

The Lord had to have a small body of people who would commit themselves by covenant to accept the whole Bible rightly divided as the Word of God, with the New Testament as their only rule of faith and practice. He had found such a people in the mountain section of North Carolina and Tennessee, and had been moving in their midst for a number of years, preparing them for that which was soon to come. And it may not be altogether without significance that the man to whom he would restore the divine revelation of the Bible Church was not found among them until about three years before the momentous meeting was to be called. This man, A. J. Tomlinson, had been searching for the Bible Church

(Please turn page)



View of a typical June 13th service in the Open Air Pavilion

as revealed in the Scriptures with the same or even greater fervor than the mountain group, and the Lord saw that he was in his place at the appointed time.

WHY A RESTORATION?

Now, why did all of this have to happen as it did? Surely it was because the time had come for the Dark Ages to expire, and for the Church of God to begin the finishing stages of its work, outlined before the foundation of the world. Jesus had positively declared, "... upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:18) The gates of hell had done their best, as can be seen from the great "falling away" in A. D. 325, referred to by the Apostle Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:3. But at their best they could not, and did not, prevail—no more so than they had prevailed against Christ, the Head of the Church, when He was laid in Joseph's new tomb following His infamous trial and crucifixion.

The early Church had compromised to the point of a complete departure from theocratic government and had "fallen away"; but the prophecy had now been ultimately fulfilled—"For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer." (Isa. 54:7, 8)

The Lord was only fulfilling His divine purpose for the Church when He brought to pass His faithful Word, "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." (Isa. 60:1) "Arise" indicates that the Church had been down, but that it would get up and finish its work. "Shine" indicates that it had not been in a position or condition to be the light of the world that Jesus had declared it to be, but that it would once again be that light.

Why did this have to happen? Why did the Church have to be restored? Because God is faithful, and He would not forget His covenant. All nations of the earth are to be blessed through God's chosen people, and that had not yet been done. All the children of God that are scattered abroad must be perfected and made ready for Christ to present unto Himself, a glorious Church without spot, wrinkle, blemish, or any such thing, and that had not been done.

Since there was so much yet to be done to fulfill the original purpose of God for His Church, why should it

seem amazing that He should restore the vision and revelation in these last days, and set the perfection processes in motion once again? We have had seventy years already in these last days to work at the commission. Much has been accomplished—undoubtedly more in the eyes of the Lord than appears on the surface. But the work is not done yet. However, it will be done before the Lord comes in the clouds of heaven. Paul, the great Church apostle, knew that he was a debtor to all men, as far as the gospel was concerned. But it was not Paul alone who worked on the indebtedness. He made it very clear that this was a Church obligation. Since we are that same Church—members of the same body with Paul and the others—we, too, are debtors to all men to get this last-days message to them.

ALL THE WORK MUST BE DONE

My father spoke and wrote very positively about the necessity of having the work all done before the Lord comes. Those who think there is nothing left to do but watch and wait just do not know the Scriptures. They think that the wickedness of the people will be the signal for the rapture of the saints. Actually, this is only one of the signs of the times. In Noah's day the wickedness was great, and it was because of this wickedness that God declared He would destroy man. But He did not send the flood until the ark was ready and the righteous were safe inside. Wickedness is great today also; but the Church is not ready. Since it must be ready (and she must make herself ready), the wicked will continue to do wickedly until the Church is perfected and caught away. At this present time it is our job to persuade men to forsake their wicked ways, to humble themselves, and come aboard the ark of safety.

Let others say that Jesus may come at any moment, if they will. He may come for individuals by way of death, and it is better that they be stirred up to be ready than, like some, to say that there will be no Second Coming of Christ. But Paul told the people of his day who were prematurely looking for this glorious event, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first." (2 Thess. 2:3) In the early Church era, Christ could not come because that "falling away" had not taken place. That is behind us now, but the same apostle has told us about the other requirements for the Church to be ready. Again I say, let others say that nothing remains to be done before the Lord comes; but let us, the Church of God, come to the unity of

the faith in our preaching this subject and all of the doctrine, and keep working at that which we know must yet be done.

The Lord will not delay His coming beyond the set time, and it is true that no man knows the day or the hour. But we do know the Word of God. We have pledged ourselves to believe and practice it, rightly divided. Therefore, let us not be deceived by any means, but let us do all we can to enlighten others as to the truth. Be assured of this; the Church will make herself ready, but you or I, as individuals, could be deceived and not be ready.

As the Lord said through the prophet, "Thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." As the darkness increases in other areas, the Church's light must shine brighter and brighter. Only truth is light. The Church of the living God is the pillar and ground of the truth.

THE BANNER OF TRUTH

And this brings me to the thought of our Church of God Flag. June 13 has been declared Church of God Flag Day because of the significance of the date in Church history. Along with the celebration of the "Arise, Shine," we should honor the flag for what it represents.

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

Isaiah 59:19 reads, "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him."

The Church arose in these last days on the ground of truth. That small band of seekers after truth had the fear of God. They were slow to commit themselves because they were determined to accept nothing but Bible truth. They underwent great persecutions, both before and after the revelation came on June 13. The gates or powers of hell were beating against the Church when it went down in A. D. 325, and they renewed their assault when it became evident that she was back in operation.

After a few years, the enemy once more made a furious attack on theocratic government. It came "like a flood," but the Church was spared, by the grace of God. Those who took their stand for the truth, suffering the loss of all else in order to preserve the faith, did so in the fear of the Lord.

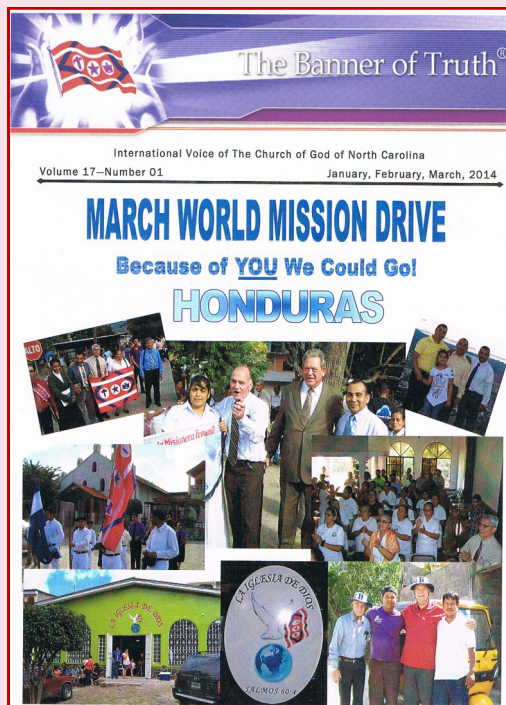
After a few years—sufficient to prove their stand—God gave His Church the banner, or standard. It is a distinguishing ensign, given of God to be displayed because of the truth from which we would not depart. Where the flag flies, no one has to be in doubt. And since the Lord gave it to be displayed,

I don't believe He is pleased if we keep it too much in the background.

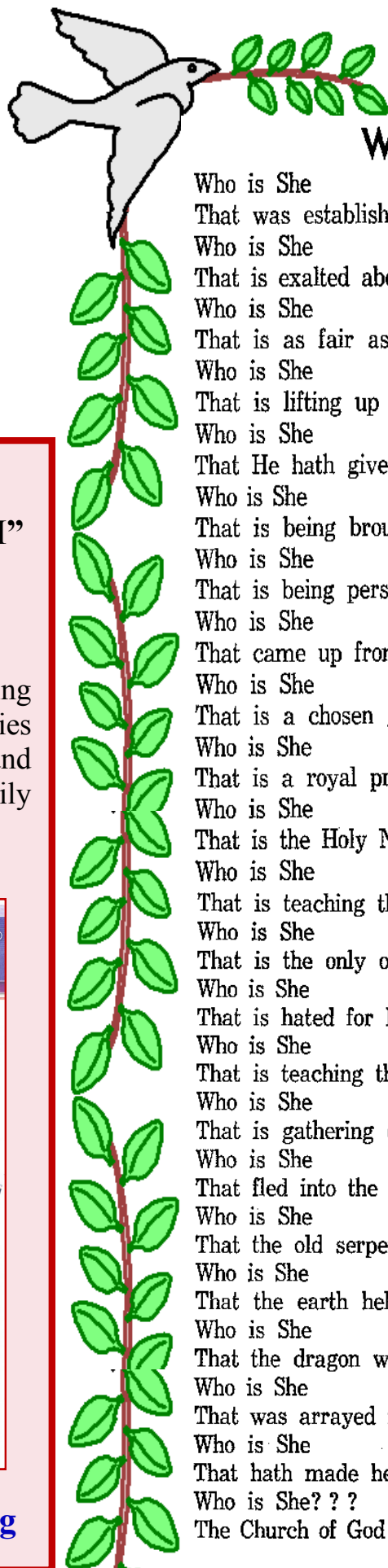
Everything about this flag stands for Christ and His Church. Christ, who is the truth, is represented when the flag is flown. If we are not ashamed of Christ, we should not be too quiet about the flag of His holy nation. Let's display the banner, and lift it up to the ends of the earth while we finish the work. Amen! □

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"THE BANNER OF TRUTH"
on our Website
or**

Receive a paper copy by sending \$20.00 U.S.A., \$30.00 Countries (annually) along with your name and address. Why not send your family and friends a copy today?



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Who Is She?

Who is She
That was established in the top of the mountain?
Who is She
That is exalted above the hills?
Who is She
That is as fair as the sun at noonday?
Who is She
That is lifting up the standard?
Who is She
That He hath given an ensign or banner?
Who is She
That is being brought before rulers?
Who is She
That is being persecuted for righteousness sake?
Who is She
That came up from the wilderness?
Who is She
That is a chosen generation?
Who is She
That is a royal priesthood?
Who is She
That is the Holy Nation?
Who is She
That is teaching the all things?
Who is She
That is the only one of her mother?
Who is She
That is hated for His name's sake?
Who is She
That is teaching them to observe all things?
Who is She
That is gathering out the stones?
Who is She
That fled into the wilderness?
Who is She
That the old serpent cast out a flood after?
Who is She
That the earth helped?
Who is She
That the dragon was wroth with?
Who is She
That was arrayed in fine linen?
Who is She
That hath made herself ready?
Who is She?? ?
The Church of God of prophecy!!!

H. M. Meredith, Pulaski, Va.

TROUBLE **in the** **LAND**

Any of us who read or listen to the news these days are aware of the fact that there is "trouble in the land." And it seems to me that the same can be said of almost every country in the world. Conditions may not be the same everywhere, but in one form or another trouble is plaguing the nations.

We are often reminded by our good ministers about the things that are to happen in the last days. Jesus left us a warning of troublesome times in the world before His return, but although the troubles exist, He says to us, "See that ye be not troubled." (Matt. 24:6) He tells us that many things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

Of course, the rumors of wars, and wars themselves, are not new to us; but He continues: "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." Yes, these things are "sorrows" to the people experiencing them, but evidently there are much worse things ahead for those who do not take heed to the warnings while the troubles are bearable.

Famines, pestilences, and earthquakes have been known here and there to all generations of people, as history will show. But have we not noticed the prevalence of all of these in recent years? Some countries have experienced famines and hunger time and again because of the prevailing weather or economic conditions common to their land. But today, places where times are prosperous and the land has always been highly productive are faced with shortages of various kinds.

Think of the many floods in our own United States of America in the last few months. Millions of acres of good soil have been kept out of production un-

SIGNS OF THE TIMES ARE EVERYWHERE

Those Who Are Ready Need Not Be Troubled

White Wing Messenger July 28, 1973

seasonably by these flood-waters. Then, consider the late frosts and freezes which cut back the fruit crops much deeper into the South than normal. Economic problems are seriously affecting the "law of supply and demand." We are facing a serious shortage of foodstuffs because the producers cannot afford to supply them under existing circumstances. After just a few weeks, or at the most a few months, of these conditions the effects are already being felt. Nobody can be sure of what lies ahead within the next year or two.

Yet Jesus continues to say, "See that ye be not troubled . . . All these are the beginning of sorrows."

Luke gives us some more of our Lord's words, the description of which becomes more and more visible almost by the day:

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

"Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken." (Luke 21:25, 26)

Many have tried to interpret all of these signs and happenings, but no private interpretation seems to apply to all, or in all places. They are best understood in their own time, and as we see their fulfillment and experience their effects. In fact, some of our Lord's predictions are now so plain that little interpretation is required. But to His own, again He says:

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh."

"The beginning of sorrows"—"when these things begin to come to pass"—"be ye not troubled"—"your redemption draweth nigh." Hallelujah! O what a hope He has given us! Yet so many seem not to understand. They are fearful and perplexed. Their hearts fail them with dread of what they fear they must go through. Some even find the strain too great physically and die before their time. Still the promise is there—"Look up, and lift up your heads."

I suppose it would be possible to be-

come very disturbed, reading the newspapers, listening to the radio, and viewing television, if one did not know the Lord. Some might feel that it would be better not to hear and know so much about world conditions; that it would save much anxiety over things that cannot well be helped. But there is another way to look at the situation. While many of the conditions themselves are prophetic, and apparently will grow worse instead of better, the Lord will not let the end come upon this world without its people being sufficiently warned and given opportunity to escape.

We who have made our peace with God and are striving daily for a closer walk with Him must set the example by our "looking up" attitude. We cannot afford to let the same things depress us that depress the lost. We have no reason to do so. Like the children of Israel in the church in the wilderness, we who have hope must keep saying to the "serpent-bitten" ones, "LOOK AND LIVE!" By our "Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith," we will cause others to look also. We may not be able to supply the famine-stricken countries with food. In fact, if the trend continues, we may find ourselves with little to spare. But we can share with them the Bread of Life—the true manna from heaven.

We cannot deny that the world's population is frightened today. Its entertainers go all-out to keep people laughing in an effort to alleviate some of the stress of heart and mind. But in the quiet moments, the fear and perplexity returns with even greater force. When the mirth dies down for a while, there is the news of still more famines, pestilences, and destruction. Tornadoes have been numbered in the hundreds this past year. Homes have been destroyed, leaving many at a loss to know how to start over. Thousands, already debt-laden, seek loans to get them out of a hard place. Laughter produced by revelry and worldly pleasure is not very effective when all is said and done.

Saints and sinners alike have to learn to face reality. The present-day troubles, and forebodings of tribulation, are far from imaginary. We just don't wake up and find them gone. They are with us because of the mismanagement and

(Please turn page)

misconduct of men. And they are with us because the foreknowledge of God knew what was in man, and what he would do to the good world that was given him.

But above all the din of revelry—yes, and the groaning and lamentation of the suffering ones—comes the voice of thunder, "REPENT YE, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND!" Or, it may be the still, small voice of the tender Shepherd—"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matt. 11:28-30)

The children of God can laugh for joy; and when the spirit turns to more sober things, our hope is still there. There is no let-down such as the lost ones must feel when their merry-making is over. We have found our rest in the Lord. We have our burdens and trials, but they are not nearly so heavy since we got in the yoke with Jesus. Hallelujah! The rest we experience in our souls makes every other burden lighter.

It seems that the alert is being given, and all the warning signals are up for the whole world to see. This world is in trouble; this cannot be denied. But there is still a little time. We must tell the fearful ones that the time must be used in the right way. There is cause for fear on the part of the lost, but they who fear the Lord, and call upon His name, will find the way of escape.

"And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.

"But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him." (Luke 12:4, 5)

Let us give close attention to a final word of warning, for we do have to meet our Lord's conditions:

"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

"For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." (Luke 21:34-36) □

Sunday School



International Sunday School Director
Polly Murphy

The Sunday School Superintendent must be a consecrated Christian. He or She should be a leader rather than a driver. If you lead, people will follow. If you drive, people will rebel. You must have great patience and pray daily. Luke 21:19 reads *In your patience possess ye your souls.*

We must have patience. In Romans 15:4 *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

The scripture also talks about patience and learning that thru the scriptures we have hope and comfort. You must know how to work with people; not everyone does things like you.

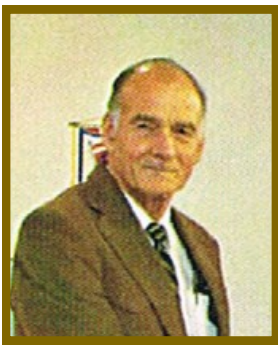
We must have a vision in Proverbs 29:18 *Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.* If we don't show a passion for seeing souls won to Christ, we will perish.

"Know the Word of God"!

"Longfellow's RX for a long happy life". The famous poet, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, was once asked how he managed a long happy life. Pointing to an apple tree, the writer remarked, "The secret of the apple tree is that it grows a little new wood each year." That's what we all should try to do, no matter what age we are. It is important to continue to grow spiritually each day, each month, each year. Such spiritual growth requires constant Bible study. Why not start growing a little "New Wood" now, by reading at least one chapter from the Bible each day. You will be blessed for it.

In Psalms 119: 1-2 *Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.* People will know if you are well versed in the Scriptures.

A teacher also must be a consecrated dedicated Christian. You must love your students, use various teaching methods, an object lesson or tell a story related to the lesson or relate to things that are going on around you etc. Most of all make it exciting for the age group you teach. For a lot of children this is the only time they will hear about Jesus and His Church. "Make it count". We are dealing with precious souls; let's win them for Christ. Our goal is to save as many as we can. Work, Work, Work. Pray, Pray, Pray. Fast, Fast, Fast. God bless. □



Bible Training Institute

~Keith Murphy~
International BTI Director



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

This year, just before our National Convention, with the help of the Lord, we will be having BTI Second Term and BTI Third Term. As you know it's all scripture based. It's not just to gain knowledge but to gain spiritual understanding of The Church of God.

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

It is easy for us to let our minds wonder and to let our guard down with so many distractions around us. So often we think just going to church is enough! But it's not. Satan is out to put The Church of God to sleep by any means possible. Prepare yourselves for the battles ahead for they are coming. If you are in The Church of God, you are called out. Whatever your calling may be, whether it be Pastor, singer, or janitor. Are we not one body fitly joined together? No matter what your calling is, continue in the Word through the Spirit that gives Life to your soul.

Getting back to BTI, it helps us to better understand the helps in the Church, such as Government, Doctrine, Pastoral, to name a few.

I would like to say something about Brother Clark. He will be greatly missed by all this year in BTI. As many of you know he went to be with the Lord January 01, 2014. Not only was he a great teacher, but he had an enduring love for God's Word. Most of all he was my friend, as is Sister Clark to my wife and I.

This year BTI will be August 26, through September 2, 2014 at the Walnut Ridge, AR Local Church. Tuition is \$60.00.

We will have prayer half hour (1/2) before we start class. Our scripture reading theme each morning will be **Isaiah 58:6-8** *Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and*

that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward.

Hope to see you there.

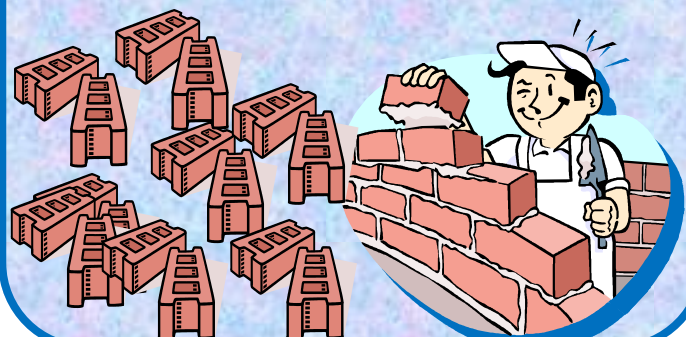
God Bless you. □

SPECIAL THANKS...

To "ALL" who are Participating in the **Brick Plan (\$50.00) each month.**

**PRAY and SUPPORT IT
EVERY MONTH.**

**HEADQUARTERS APPRECIATES
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(910) 891-5010

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

Fax: (910) 891-5693

I hereby make application for admission to Bible Training Institute 2014.

2nd Term ☐

3rd Term ☐

Name in Full: _____

Last

First

Middle

Maiden

Address: _____ Phone: () _____

Age: _____ (Students must be at least 16 years of age by enrollment date of School they will be attending).

Name of Nearest Relative _____

Phone () _____ Address _____

Check the following which applies to you. Male ☐ Female ☐ Married ☐ Single ☐ Other _____

Are you Saved? Yes ☐ No ☐ Sanctified? Yes ☐ No ☐ Have the Holy Ghost? Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you a member of The Church of God of NC? Yes ☐ No ☐ Where? _____

For what special work are you preparing? _____

If a minister, what license do you hold? _____

If in the ministry, in which state are you presently working? _____

Are you physically and mentally able to take this course? _____

Education: Elementary _____ years, High School _____ years, College _____ years.
(no certain amount of education is required, but you should be able to read and write).

I hereby pledge myself to be loyal to all the rules as outlined by Bible Training Institute.

Applicant's signature: _____

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