

The Church of God [England] 56th National Convention

9th to 11th July 2010

Our Convention started with some congregational singing after which our National Overseer welcomed all present, extending special greetings to our General Headquarters Representative, Sister Jackie Zimmerman and Sister Vicky Smith, the wife of our General Overseer. Brother Bennett then declared the Convention open for business. The theme for the Convention was "For such a time as this" taken from Esther 4:14. The night's scripture was read by Sister Victoria Rowe from Esther 4:1-14 after which Sister Eloise Whitter lead us in a congregational prayer. Sister Cynthia Opoku preached a good message on the topic: *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith..."* This was followed by Brother Ray Prince directing a wonderful *Church of Prophecy Marker Association* and *Bible Training Institute* programme. This culminated with an alter service where we were encouraged to seek more of God's presence.

Our Saturday session started with congregational prayer and a scripture reading by Brother Rikki Prince from 2 Thessalonians 2:1 - 12. Deacon Cranston Harrison and Brother Stuart Brown did the Bible and Flag pledges respectively. Sister Wilhelmina Brown moderated the Assembly Band Movement programme and preached a good message on the separation of the wheat and the chaff in the purification process of the church. Sister Karen Richards did a boost for our national magazine, "The Chronicle." Pastor Frances Prince preached an outstanding message entitled, *"Men with an understanding of the times."* Her text was taken from 1 Chronicles 12:32. Our Overseer boosted the Church's website and encouraged us to use it emphasizing its link with our international website. After special singing from Sister Vicky Smith, Sister Zimmerman preached a message on the work of the Assembly Band Movement auxiliary.

After lunch the Handsworth church led us in some congregational singing followed by prayer lead by Sister Olive Buchanan. Sister Claudia led a lively Women's Missionary Band Programme which was followed by a message on Divine Healing by Evangelist Taylor – Harrison. The healing line was directed by Deacon Samuel Prince and saw many members of the church going through the line as they were anointed and prayed for by the ministers. Only heaven will be able to declare the full extent of all that took place. We had reports on the activities of the churches in Long Lane and London followed by reports from the National Treasurer and the National Finance and Appropriation Committee.

After the break we had further reports from the churches in Druids Heath and Handsworth. After some wonderful singing from the Druids Heath choir, Sister Angela Clarke preached on the topic, *"This know also that in the last days perilous*

times shall come” taking her scripture from 2 Timothy 3:1. The rest of the evening was left to Sister Claudine Brown and the Victory Leaders Band (VLB). As the VLB’s marched around the building they were joined by one lady who came as a visitor. She got a flag and joined enthusiastically in the march and was further compelled to go up on the rostrum to give a testimony encouraging our youth to keep up the good work.

On Sunday, the last day of the feast we were lead into congregational singing and prayer by the Long Lane church followed by Brother Jason Prince. The morning’s scripture was read from 2 Timothy 3:1 – 17 by Sister Duncan from London. The Sunday school programme was directed by Pastor Beverley Anderson who did a wonderful job. After some angelic singing by the National Choir, our National Overseer gave his annual address. He highlighted various aspects of our “Advice to Members” including church attendance, modesty in our attire and tithing and giving. Sister Vicky Smith again blessed the convention with some wonderful singing after which Sister Zimmerman preached the final message. She emphasized on the value of a single soul and how we should do all in our power to save the lost.

Finally our Overseer thanked everyone for the part they played in making the convention a success and made the appointments for the new convention year. All too quickly our convention had come and gone for another year.