

Ministers Convention – 10th November 2007

Our annual Ministers Convention was held on 10th November 2007 at Kings Heath and Moseley Baptist Church, Birmingham. The theme was **'The Power of Prayer'**. In addition to the 68 people who attended, we were mightily blessed to have General World Missions and BTI Director, Bishop Herman Ard, from the United States of America with us. He brought with him greetings from our dear General Overseer and the assurance that he is praying for us. We thank God that the most esteemed guest at our convention was the Holy Spirit who was welcomed as soon as the convention started, and whose presence was prayed down well in advance of the gathering. We thank God for being with us that day!

The devotion scripture was taken from **2 Chron 7 v 14**, and read **"If my people which are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land...."** Druids Heath church lead the congregation in singing **"There is Power in the Blood"** before the National Assembly Band Movement Co-ordinator Sis. Delzie Reid came forth with the ABM boost. The theme for the ABM this convention year is **"Ministering with a Right Spirit"**. Sis Delzie emphasised the need for us to feel love from one another and the importance of having God on our minds in order to attain perfect peace. It was highlighted to us that if we are 'full up' of God, nobody can rub us up the wrong way. The effectiveness of fasting in breaking down difficult situations in our lives was also brought to the fore.

Northfield Church's special song was the lively **"These are the days of Elijah."** which was followed by the Victory Leaders Band boost led by our National VLB Co-ordinator Sis. Dian Bennett. Sis Dian summarised the youth events to come - the youth have a full calendar this year! Look out for the national night of prayer, the national Bible quiz, Youth Convention, national sports day, family camp and youth evangelism events. The Church website will be updated shortly with the relevant dates. The theme for the VLB department this convention year is **"The Finish Line Racing for Glory"**. We were reminded that we truly are near the end of time and that eternity is about to begin. It is time for us to dig deep, draw on the reserves that we collate along our Christian journey and to apply them to our lives. As Christians, there is a 'kit' we should be wearing - the whole armour of God which we need, to withstand in the evil day. Simply put, If we do not have our kit on, the enemy is there waiting. Sis Dian encouraged us to hold on to our faith even in our doubts. What a blessed assurance it is that Jesus is our coach – He will give us 'pep talks' when we need them. The VLBS were reminded that Jesus doesn't coach any failures. We can make it!

The topic of Pastor Frances Prince's message was **"...And when the day of Pentecost was fully come"** taken from **Acts 2 v 1**. Pastor Prince explained that when we are on one accord, we have one and the same purpose. In that upper room on the day of Pentecost, no one was wondering 'Who will pray the longest?' 'Who can pray the best?' or 'Who will get the most blessing?'. What God had in store that day was for everyone as they were all of the same mind!

As the Church, Pastor Prince reminded us that we must be on one accord for the right thing.

Sis. Karen Richards the Assistant Editor of *The Chronicle* boosted the Church's national paper before the congregation gave unto the Lord in offering.

The topic of Bro. Lennis Muirhead's message was "**And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed...**" taken from **Acts 16 v 25**. Bro Lennis pointed out that the prison guards who took Paul and Silas captive, had misunderstood those men. Their purpose was to preach the gospel, not to bring any harm. We saw the Holy Scripture in action as it was demonstrated clearly in the account of these men that the prayer of a righteous man truly availeth much. At the quiet hour of midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God and the prison doors were opened. Praise God! Bro Lennis showed us that our midnight need not be at 12.00am. As long as we are suffering for the Gospel's sake we ought to pray and watch what God does. The victory can be found on our knees for every situation.

Our National Music Director, Bro Ray Prince explained the importance of music in worship and reminded us what **Psalms 100** tells us to do - **we ought to make a joyful noise unto the Lord!** The Church of God is abundantly blessed with talented musicians, both instrumentalists and singers alike. We were encouraged to use music correctly and to master our instruments by practicing regularly and playing skilfully to the glory of God. Look out for the upcoming National Music Day.

Pastor Sydney Dias preached that we ought to "**Pray without Ceasing**". For every situation we have, prayer should be applied. The message was taken from **1 Thess. 5v17** and **Matt 26 v 41**.

After lunch, which was provided by our favourite caterers Mr Trevor Prince and his team, the congregation heartily sang the well-known chorus '**Look what the Lord has done**' which was followed by the Bible pledge and the Flag pledge.

Pastor Beverley Anderson in her message asked us "**Is anything too hard for the Lord?**" taken from **Gen 15 v 14**. Sis Beverley showed us that it is our faith that determines how we answer this question. Abraham's fulfilled promise of a son at no less than 100 years old is a sterling example of faith in practice. Sister Beverley explained that if we trusted God to the extent that we ought to, the 'Plan B's' of our lives wouldn't be there. The very wonders of the world were simply made with God's outstretched hand. Our situations are not too hard for God! We were encouraged that God knows what he is doing and that He will lead the Church of God to victory!

Our National Women's Missionary Band Co-ordinator Sis. Claudia Prince boosted the WMB whose theme this convention year is "**Into His Harvest Fields – Fasting, Praying, Working**". Sis Claudia encouraged us to work whilst it is day because the mission field is vast and there is plenty of ground

to cover. The importance of fasting was also highlighted. There are many dying out there in sin and it is up to us to get out there and win these souls for Christ. Let it not be our excuse that we were “too busy” to work for God.

Handsworth Church led the congregation in singing “**Blessed Jesus Hold my Hand**” and the power of Lord came down. Thank God for his mighty blessings.

The National Sunday School Co-ordinator Bro Clement Edmeade led the Sunday School programme whose theme this year is “**Faithful Sunday School Lighthouse Attendants**”. An example was given of a lighthouse where mist obscured the main light beam but the lower lights remained visible, meaning that ships were still able to find their way into the port. We were encouraged as members of the Church to ‘keep our lower lights burning’ as we do not know who is depending on our light to lead the way. Lets keep those lights burning saints of God.

Druids Heath Church sang the special song “**I’m going away**” before Bishop Ard delivered a message taken from **Psalms 20 v 6**. The congregation were encouraged that God is going to save his anointed and that all the forces of Hell will not destroy the Church. As long as we are faithful to the Lord, He is going to fight our battles. We were also blessed to be informed that the precious Church of God can now be found in 43 countries of the world. Recently, citizens from as far afield as Korea and Thailand have been asking their way to Zion!

The convention was even flavoured with romance this year as Bro Patrick Clarke presented his wife, the very surprised National Treasurer Sis. Angela Clarke with 17 red roses representing every year of their marriage for their wedding anniversary!

Sis. Julie, our National Co-ordinator for the Church of Prophecy Marker Association led the CPMA boost whose theme this convention year is “...**And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery...**” taken from **Ephesians 3 v 9**. Sis Julie did an effective demonstration which illustrated to us that whilst there are many members, we all form the one body - The great Church of God, and that we have to feed each other and work together in order to make it.

The National Choir got things moving with their lively rendition of “**Jesus, I wont Forget**” before our National Overseer Bro. Philip Bennett gave his address. He encouraged us to utilise the church’s web site as a tool to make the church known and to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. He encouraged the ministers and members to be diligent in reporting and time keeping referring to **I Cor. 4 v 2** and **Proverbs 22 v 29**. We were also encouraged from **Psalms 133 v 1** to foster a spirit of unity among the membership and local churches. Other topics included Christian modesty taken from **1 Timothy 2 v 9,10** and an encouragement to be totally committed to the cause of Christ. We were given a summary of events to come throughout out the

year, including quarterly District meetings (the first of which is due to take place on 29th January 2008) and also quarterly fasts.

The convention was followed by a Water Baptism for which there was one candidate for re-baptism, praise the Lord. The service ended in a special prayer for a sister from Kuwait with a terminal illness. She had requested prayer from the Church via email. We pray that the Lord has had mercy on this dear sister and we await the good news in Jesus' name!

The convention was truly a success as the Lord was with us for the duration. We look forward to a prosperous convention year in Christ, as we work for Him with vigour under the leading of the Holy Ghost!

Claudine Prince
National Reporter