

England National Convention 10th – 12th July 2015

The Church of God in England convened its 61st National Convention on the 10th-12th of July 2015. Our theme was, **"...for the battle is not yours, but God's."** We were blessed to have in our midst General Headquarters Representative: Bishop Kevin Werkheiser and his wife, Sister Connie Werkheiser.

Friday night

The convention opened with a warm welcome from our National overseer: Bishop Philip Bennett. First on program was Brother Stuart Brown with the BTI and CPMA boosts. Brother Stuart mentioned that BTI may be coming to England for the very first time next year. He also reported that all the churches were 100% in their CPMA memberships. The Evangelism boost and message by Brother Jason Prince then followed. The title of his message was **"The devil vs. God"** taken from Revelation 12.

Saturday morning

We opened with Sister Victoria Bennett leading a concert prayer and wonderful singing by our Worship Leaders. The bible pledge was then led by Brother Patrick Clarke followed by the Flag pledge by Brother Nigel Davis. Pastor Beverly Anderson then proceeded with the WMB program. In her message, Sister Anderson stated that in these last days the battle will become fiercer and it is no surprise why sometimes we find it so difficult to pray. We were encouraged to read our bibles as Satan knows what our weapons against him are and he wants us to be inefficient.

The next session opened with congregational singing by Handsworth church. During this session we had the ABM boost by Sister Wilhelmina Brown and a timely message on divine healing by Evangelist Armenia Taylor-Harrison. The healing line was directed by Pastor Ray Prince, as all those with needs came forward to be anointed with oil and prayed for. A testimony of healing has been included below in this report.

A new boost added to the convention program this year was the Men's Retreat boost by Brother Justin. The brothers have testified of the unity and blessings they experience from this event.

The last session of the day was opened in prayer by Sister Lorna Parchment. We were blessed with a message from Sister Cynthia Opoku entitled, **"I come to thee in the name of the Lord of Hosts"** taken from 1 Samuel 17:45. Sister Opoku spoke about the importance of names as individuals and how the name of the Lord of hosts is unlike any other name. In His name we are able to fight any Goliath that stands in our way! Brother Justin Clarke also spoke on the title **"...we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image..."** Brother Justin spoke of the boldness of the three Hebrew boys in Daniel chapter 3. He presented a mirror to remind us that God sees beyond what we see. The evening came to a close with a wonderful VLB march and program. Sister Claudine Brown spoke about the need for spiritual de-cluttering. She used big empty boxes as visuals to warn us about the things in our hearts and minds that can be taking up too much space and are in the way of God's prosperity for our lives and the Church. The evening then came to a close as the altar was opened and many made their way forward to seek God's face.

Sunday morning

The last session of convention opened with singing from the Long Lane church. The Sunday school programme led by Sister Jennifer Thompson included a march and presentations. We had special singing from the children of London's church after which they made known what they enjoy the most in Sunday School. Handsworth's children also presented what they had learnt and special singing. Little Naomi Muirhead blessed us as she boldly sang **"Bless the Lord with Me."** The children from Druids Heath sang and recite what they had learnt during the year. De'lano Prince recited the books of the Old Testament followed by Jaden Williams with all the books of the New Testament. Samuel and Ella Prince then accurately quoted the Lord's Prayer. Sister Kathleen Hamilton from the Long Lane church recapped all the things she had learnt in Sunday School throughout the year. It was said that Sister Kathleen is faithful in her attendance to Sunday School in spite of her being the only pupil in her age group. We are very happy to see what God is doing in the life of our children.

Our National Overseer's address was based on the convention theme following which Bishop Kevin Werkheiser preached from the book of Numbers, chapter 13. He encouraged us to stand up boldly and possess the land, as The Church of God is well able to do it in Jesus' name!

During the appointments our National Overseer thanked Sister Jacqueline Browne for her work as the National Choir Director as she was shortly to relocate to the beautiful island of Saint Vincent. Brother Justin Clarke was appointed to the newly created position of National Men's Retreat Director.

We thank the Father, Son and Holy Ghost for a great convention this year. We had fantastic auxiliary, camp/retreat boosts and messages. We pray that God will bless every church as we all trust the God that fights our battle!

Below are a few testimonies from this year's National convention.

Sister Antonette Mwila

"Tobias our baby boy was starting to develop dry patchy skin on his forehead and eyebrows. We were praying it wasn't eczema. He went through the healing line at National Convention with his dad. Who else can better look after his own than God? The dry skin has cleared up and we have a happy, joyous little boy."

Sister Beverly Anderson

"National Convention was a beautiful reminder for me to be encouraged that the battle, whatever it may be, is not mine, it is the Lord's. As long as I keep close to Him and have a personal relationship with him I won't have to fear what the Devil may come with. There were so many messages that were a blessing to me, so much to digest but Brother Justin's demonstration with the mirror was one that stuck with me. I want to see things the way God sees things. I want to see things with spiritual eyes, not with my physical earthly eyes. As Ephesians 6:12 states, "**...we wrestle not against flesh and blood...**" This requires me to get deeper into the Word and to know God completely."

Sister Brenda Prince – National Reporter