

WHITE WING

100 YEARS

JANUARY 2023

MESSENGER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY



21 DAYS OF PRAYER

RECONCILING THE WORLD TO CHRIST

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING • GOD HAS DONE IT
THE DIVINE RHYTHM OF PRAYER



**ACCREDITED
MINISTRY
DEVELOPMENT**



Learn. Grow. Serve.

*CONTINUE YOUR ACADEMIC JOURNEY
THROUGH OUR EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS*



- Certificate in Ministry and Theological Studies
- Master of Arts in Church Ministries (MACM)
- Master of Divinity (MDiv)
- Master of Theological Studies
 - Pentecostal Theology (MTS-PT)
 - Biblical Studies (MTS-BS)
- Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (MACMHC)
- Doctor of Ministry

In order to benefit from scholarship, must apply through amdcoqop.org
You may also contact us via email at amd@coqop.org.

Spirit & Life
SEMINARY

A CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY INSTITUTION

Scholarship With Spirit

**Study
Anywhere**

All of our courses are available online in English and Spanish.
Enroll today!

slsem.org



Certificate in Ministry and Theological Studies

**Spring Semester Session 2
Begins March 20, 2023**



Spirit and Life Seminary 3800 Keith St NW Cleveland TN 37312



WHITE WING MESSENGER

WE BELIEVE in the Holy Trinity—one God, eternally existing in Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe in one God, the Father, creator of heaven and earth, of all things seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. All things were made through Him and for Him. He is true God and true man. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered, died, was buried, and on the third day He rose from the dead. He ascended to the right hand of the Father, and He will return to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who eternally proceeds from the Father. He is Teacher, Comforter, Helper, and Giver of spiritual gifts. Through Him the saving and sanctifying works of Jesus Christ are applied to the life of believers. He is the empowering presence of God in the life of the Christian and the church. The Father has sent His Son to baptize with the Holy Spirit. Speaking in tongues and bearing the fruit of the Spirit are New Testament signs of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

We believe that salvation is by grace through faith in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross and that He died in our place. The believer's sins are forgiven by the shedding of His blood. We believe that healing of mind, body, soul, and spirit is available to the believer through the blood of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. We believe in one baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that the grace of God brings forgiveness and reconciliation to those who repent, as well as transformation in holiness, enabling them to live a Christ-like life. Sanctification is both a definite work of grace and a lifelong process of change in the believer brought by the blood of Jesus, the Word of God, and the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

We believe in one holy, universal church, composed of all true believers in Jesus Christ, offering fellowship and calling for service to men and women of all races, nations, cultures, and languages. We believe in the spiritual and ultimate visible unity of the church.

We believe that the Bible—both Old and New Testaments—is the inspired Word of God. The Bible is God's revelation of Himself and His will to humankind, sufficient for instruction in salvation and daily Christian living. The Bible is the Christian's rule of faith and practice.

We believe that God will ultimately reconcile all things in heaven and earth in Christ. Therefore, we look forward to new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Executive Editor/Publisher:

Tim Coalter

Managing Editor: Marsha Robinson

Editorial Assistant: Roxanne Corbett

Graphic Designer: DeWayne Hamby

About the Church of God of Prophecy

The Church of God of Prophecy is a vibrant, worldwide body of believers, united in worship, working hand-in-hand to share God's love and a message of hope to the brokenhearted. The organization has more than a million members and more than 10,000 ministers, worshipping in more than 10,000 churches or missions in 135 nations of the world.

Church of God of Prophecy Core Values

- Prayer
- The Harvest
- Leadership Development
- Biblical Stewardship
- Service

Vision Statement

Reconciling the world to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit

Mission Statement

The Church of God of Prophecy is a Christ-exalting, holiness, Spirit-filled, all-nations, disciple-making, church-planting movement with passion for Christian union.

General Presbytery:

Tim Coalter: Presiding Bishop

Brian Sutton: North America

Clayton Endecott: Europe/CIS/Middle East

Benjamin Feliz: Mexico/Central America/

Spanish-speaking Caribbean

Clayton Martin: Caribbean/Atlantic

Ocean Islands

James Kolawole: Africa

Tim McCaleb: Asia/Australia/Oceania

Gabriel E. Vidal: South America

White Wing Messenger (ISSN 0043-5007) (USPS 683-020) is published monthly as the official publication of the Church of God of Prophecy, 3720 Keith St. NW, Cleveland, TN. Send all materials for publication to Editorial Department; PO Box 2910, Cleveland, TN 37320-2910; e-mail: editorial@cocogop.org; fax: (423) 559-5151. For subscription rates, visit www.cogop.org; call (423) 559-5540; e-mail: subscriptions@cocogop.org. Subscription rate: \$18.00 per year, payable to White Wing Messenger by check, draft, or money order. Periodical postage paid at Cleveland, TN 37311 and at additional mail office. Donations for the White Wing Messenger may be sent to the above address. All Scripture references are from the King James Version unless otherwise indicated. POSTMASTER: Send address change to White Wing Messenger, PO Box 2910, Cleveland, TN 37320-2910. Please submit all material to the White Wing Messenger; Managing Editor; P. O. Box 2910; Cleveland, TN 37320-2910; phone (423) 559-5320; e-mail us at Editorial@cocogop.org.

FEATURES

- 6** The Divine Rhythm of Prayer
Bishop Brian Sutton, DMin
- 9** Prayer Essentials
Sharnell Delmohammed
- 10** God Has Done It
Bishop Adrian Varlack, Sr.
- 12** At the Strange Altar
Simon Rock
- 14** Pray Without Ceasing
Bishop Redias Nkundabera
- 19** The Importance of Intercessory Prayer
Bishop K.P. Jaison MDiv

DEPARTMENTS

- 20** Tribute to Debbie Stockham
- 22** Global Missions
Cathy Payne, DMin
- 26** AMD Pray: The Best Is Yet to Come
Debbie Freeman
- 28** Living in the Light of Reconciliation
Stetson Harper
- 30** In His Presence

COLUMNS

- 4** Facing Forward
Great Expectations
Presiding Bishop Tim Coalter
- 31** A Look at Proverbs 31
Marsha Robinson

Visit us online—whitewingmessenger.net

MEMBER The White Wing Messenger is a member of the Evangelical Press Association



FACING FORWARD

Great Expectations

The Church of God of Prophecy is once again joining believers around the world in 21 days of prayer to begin the new year. When the church first began this initiative many years ago, it was fresh and exciting. Much like the dancing, tingling fizz of a newly opened soda, the days of prayer awakened a sizzling, refreshing thirst for more of God. This was certainly true of the church I pastored a number of years ago. As the local congregation immersed itself in this season of prayer and fasting, there was an increase in almost everything. The altar became more fruitful, attendance climbed, tithing and giving broke all records, membership increased, and a miraculous healing was witnessed.

The 21 days of prayer has had a positive impact on many within this movement, yet there is an inherent risk that this initiative might lose its fizz and grow flat, much like a can of soda that has been left open for an extended period of time. So what are the options if prayer has lost its freshness in the context of your local ministry? Should you cease to engage in this global prayer effort? God forbid! If your well of anointing and inspiration to pray has run dry, don't abandon the well. Dig deeper! When the well is dry, the incentive to journey to the well diminishes because there is no longer an expectation of a cool, refreshing drink of water. I want to challenge you to dig deeper, and as you dig, do so with great expectation.

Recently, during my personal devotion, I was captivated by David's words in Psalm 5:3 (NLT): "Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly." Perhaps your expectation is waning because the answer to your earnest prayer has not yet been realized. Don't lose faith. The writer of Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." This is where hope resides, in the unseen; for hope that is seen is not hope (Romans 8:24). "Without faith," the writer of Hebrews goes on to say, "it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6 NKJV).

What are your expectations when you pray? At the conclusion of Daniel's 21 days of mourning and

fasting, the hand of an angel touched him and said, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and **I have come because of your words**" (Daniel 10:12 NKJV).

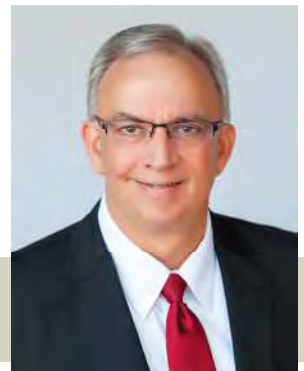
When Hezekiah became deathly ill, the prophet Isaiah visited him with a grim word from the Lord, telling him to set his affairs in order because he was going to die. There was nothing Hezekiah could do but pray. He turned his face to the wall and pleaded with the Lord. He broke down and wept bitterly. In response to his effectual fervent prayer, God responded, saying, "**I have heard your prayer** and seen your tears. I will heal you, and three days from now you will get out of bed and go to the Temple of the Lord. I will add fifteen years to your life" (2 Kings 20:5, 6 NLT).

God responds when his people pray, so pray with great expectation. Jesus assured the father who brought his possessed son to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes" (Mark 9:23 NKJV). Dig a little deeper, and you will find an abundant supply of living water in the well.

Many will remember the late Bishop E. L. Jones who lifted the faith of many as he sang:

*Prayer-bells of heaven,
O how sweetly they ring,
Bearing our message unto Jesus the King;
When you are burdened down
with trouble and care,
Ring on, and on, for
God will answer your prayer.*

Perhaps it would do us well to dust that song off once again and sing with great expectation. Ring on, and on, for God **WILL** answer your prayer.



Bishop Tim Coalter
Church of God of Prophecy
Presiding Bishop

CONNECTIONS

Update on Church in Guinea Conakry

Work continues to advance on the National Church/ Offices for the Church of God of Prophecy in Guinea Conakry. The work has gone far, and we are at the point of finishing this portion of the building by placing the final beam that ties and holds the walls together before the roofing.



The estimated costs have increased dramatically since 2016-2017 for the completion of the building, but I am fighting to keep my word that it will be completed. The building will be set for roofing. We are using strong metallic roofing sheets of 0.70 mm thick that will last up to 50 years.



Additionally, reports are coming in from Guinea Bissau that we need to put up any kind of structure on the empty plot of land or fines will be levied on us by the city council. Please join us in faith and prayer for the provision to meet this need. Thanks be to God who gave us the grace to pray and not worry.

—Peter Koyea
National Bishop, Guinea Conakry



The Divine Rhythm

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things” (Philippians 4:6-8 NIV).

The apostle Paul’s incredible encouragement to the Philippians, to pray in every situation, is an invitation. Recognizing we are prone to be anxious, Paul admonishes us to come to Jesus. When we come to Jesus in prayer, we are able to empty ourselves of anxiety, fear, doubt, or worry. We don’t pour these anxieties into a hole and bury them. We surrender them to Jesus. When we surrender them to Jesus, he is not passive. He acts. He transforms our anxiety into peace, displacing our fear and empowering us with faith. It is a divine rhythm, a metered exchange between two friends.

Anxiety works in opposition to faith and often derails the work God wants to do through us. Each time God offers an opportunity to walk in faith, the enemy of our soul presents all the reasons we should not. The choice is then ours. Will we trust God or respond to fear? Our proximity to a problem often leads us to overestimate its magnitude, while underestimating the power of God. Anxiety can happen when we view our circumstances without looking through the lens of faith. Paul’s invitation is for us to release our anxiety to Jesus and submit our petitions to him.

Though anxiety has always been with us, it may be more prevalent now than ever. Anxiety compounds itself; fear feeds on fear. Our thoughts can drive anxiety, which can bring on attacks of panic. Therefore, Paul builds on the thought of verses 6 and 7 with his admonishment to think about the things which are “excellent and praiseworthy” in verse 8. When we enter prayer as conversation and communion with God, his presence provides assurance, and we can exchange anxiety for faith. Our very mindset can be transformed.



Rhythm of Prayer

It is often said by those who pray, "Prayer is hard work." Some even believe it is taxing labor. In prayer, we shoulder the burdens of other people, acknowledge our own burdens, and bring those burdens to God. That is work indeed. And even though the work of prayer involves burdens, it should not be burdensome. Prayer is relational. It is the divine rhythm of speaking and listening, surrendering and receiving, submitting and resting. The work of prayer is beautiful work when we co-labor with Jesus.

There is a newer trend in our world called, "contactless delivery." We can order food, clothing, or just about any product without any human interaction. We submit bank information or a credit card, and we get something delivered to our door with little or no human interaction. The global pandemic pressed society into this transactional norm. The wonder of prayer is not that we can get what we ask for without personal interaction, but that we can commune with the creator of the universe, who unfailingly loves us. Prayer is never contactless delivery.

The personal and relational nature of being with Jesus in the divine rhythm of prayer compels us to discover his goodness. When we submit our cares to Christ in prayer, we can abide with him in the process. To surrender a need to Jesus is to touch him and be touched by him.

BEING IN CHRIST IS NOT ASSURANCE THAT WE WILL NEVER GO THROUGH STRUGGLES, FAILURES, DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES, OR EVEN TRIALS. HOWEVER, WE ARE INVITED INTO THE DIVINE RHYTHM OF PRAYER SO WE MAY EXPERIENCE THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH TRANSCENDS ALL UNDERSTANDING.

In our world filled with anxiety, uncertainty, and fear, Jesus offers us more than a transaction. Prayer is not transactional, it is relational. In the rhythm of prayer, we experience God's fullness. We are not checking off prayer as a list to God. I don't make my submission to him and hope for a response or favorable outcome. Yes, we must often wait, but we never wait alone. The one who has the answer is there with us waiting too. He is waiting with us, as we stay in

the moment of faith. He is waiting with us, because he is not off somewhere trying to figure out how to get us what we want. He is waiting with us, so we



Bishop Dr. Brian Sutton serves the Church of God of Prophecy as North America Ministries' general presbyter. He administrates 26 state/regional bishops who connect directly with over 1700 local congregations throughout Canada, the United States, and Bermuda. He and his wife Renee have two children, one son-in-law, and two wonderful granddaughters.

BISHOP BRIAN SUTTON, DMIN | NORTH AMERICA GENERAL PRESBYTER

The Divine Rhythm of Prayer

(Continued)

can understand his timing is perfect for us. That's how we develop trust in him. That's why prayer is relational.

As we pray, we enter conversation and communion with God, and Jesus invites us to be with him. He is calling even now. He sees our need, and it does not cause him to pause. It drives him even more to invite us to him. His hands are stretched to us, offering us to take his hand in ours, inviting us to give to him our requests, wishing to give us his peace.

Before we read Paul's admonishment in Philippians 4, we pass through Philippians 2, where Paul highlights the nature of the life of Jesus. He encourages us to model our relationships with the "same mindset as Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5 NIV). Jesus spent his ministry in an emptying lifestyle, humbling (emptying) himself in obedience. In/through his humility and obedience, he is exalted to "The highest place, and given a name above every name" (Philippians 2:9). It is a lifestyle of emptying and filling.

We cannot receive God's fullness unless and until we have given him our emptiness. This is the divine rhythm of prayer. This is the lifestyle modeled by Jesus. In prayer, we enter with Christ into the waiting for his will by surrendering the anxiety that prevents us from waiting. In the divine rhythm of

prayer, we enter the posture of surrendering our all, so he may fill us with the peace that will "guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." The peace of God reverberates from the divine rhythm of prayer. To speak to God, and listen to his voice, is the divine rhythm of prayer.

The process of surrendering our anxiety and care to Jesus allows us to receive God's fullness.

How incredible the peace of God, which transcends all understanding!

What does that mean? It means the peace that God gives his children is implausible, when viewed in the

natural. It seems impossible that someone could experience the peace of God while their world was crashing down around them, but they can and do.

Being in Christ is not assurance that we will never go through struggles, failures, difficult circumstances, or even trials. However, we are invited into the divine rhythm of prayer so we may experience the peace of God, which transcends all understanding. By communing with our Heavenly Father, we exchange our fear for faith. This faith is a divine gift that he places in us, through prayer. As you submit your requests to God, may the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with faith to walk in his will, experience his peace, and more fully know the love of Christ.

**WE CANNOT RECEIVE
GOD'S FULLNESS
UNLESS AND UNTIL WE
HAVE GIVEN HIM OUR
EMPTINESS.**

PRAYER ESSENTIALS:

Why Prayer Is Important

In a world where it seems like everything has gone awry: effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, skyrocketing gas prices, talks of recession on every news station, war and rumors of war abound. Many people may be wondering if there is any purpose in prayer, or if it is a thing of the past. Why pray, if nothing seems to change for the better, if things only seem to get worse?

I want to encourage everyone, as I've encouraged myself, that prayer is not obsolete. In fact, the more the chaos around us intensifies, the more our prayer life should intensify. Prayer is our anchor in Christ in an ever-changing, tumultuous world. Prayer has the power to stabilize us internally, giving us the promised peace that surpasses all understanding (Philippians 4:7), and it also has the power to combat external forces and transform circumstances: "Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Prayer is a weapon in spiritual warfare and should not be taken lightly. After Paul encouraged the Ephesians to put on the full armor of God, he also encouraged them to pray. Whenever doubtful thoughts about prayer creep into our minds, it is important to be aware of them and run to the Word of God for encouragement and assurance.

HERE IS A LIST OF FIVE PRAYER ESSENTIALS:

1

WE PRAY BECAUSE JESUS PRAYED. As Christians, we are followers of Jesus Christ. Jesus is our example of how to live while on earth. Therefore, we must emulate Christ in order to be Christlike. Jesus prayed, so we ought to pray. "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed" (Mark 1:35).

2

BE ENCOURAGED, GOD RESPONDS TO PRAYER. Our heavenly Father invites us to pray. We are invited to come boldly before the throne of grace with our requests and petitions (Hebrews 4:16). The fact that God expects us to pray lets us know that he is waiting to hear from us, harkening his ears to our requests. The Bible says that "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him" (1 John 5:14, 15). The question then becomes, well then how do we know God's will? Well, Paul tells us in Romans 12:2 that we should renounce worldly desires and focus our minds on the things of God, and then we will know God's will for our lives. Simply put, the more intimate time we spend with God meditating on his Word, the more we begin to understand the heart of God and his expectations of us. Our desires then begin to look like God's desires. His Word becomes the very fabric of our being, and we begin to desire to live out the Word, according to his will.

3

PRAYER PROVIDES GODLY WISDOM FOR DECISION-MAKING. We are limited in our thinking; we do not know it all and cannot know it all. In order to do things God's way, we must invite him into our everyday lives so he can direct us every step of the way. God's ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8, 9). He has hindsight, insight, and foresight. Even Jesus prayed when he had to make decisions (Luke 6:12).

4

WE PRAY TO RESIST THE DEVIL. We know that we are constant prey for the enemy. He prowls around like a lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8), and his sole purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). This is a spiritual battle; therefore, the weapons of our warfare must be spiritual (2 Corinthians 10:4). Prayer helps us to remain aligned to God's standards. It helps to build a hedge of protection around us. Prayer helps to fortify our minds, so we do not become a casualty for the enemy, giving into temptation. "Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak" (Mark 14:38).

5

WHAT SO WHEN OUR PRAYERS SEEM TO GO UNANSWERED? Keep praying. You may ask, what if I've been praying for years and my circumstances haven't changed? I haven't experienced a breakthrough, healing, or deliverance. I would encourage you to keep on praying. Don't just take my word for it but take God at his Word. One day, when Jesus was teaching his disciples about the importance of persistent prayer, Jesus shared a parable of a man shamelessly knocking on the door of his friend, asking for bread. Though the man initially refused to get out of bed and help his friend, Jesus told them that the man knocked so long his friend eventually opened the door and helped (Luke 11:5-13). A similar account tells of a persistent widow. She finally received justice from a judge even though he admitted being worn out by her constant requests. The point is, be persistent in prayer. The difference is, God will never be worn out by our requests. After all, the prayer of the righteous "availeth much" (James 5:16). "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened" (Luke 11:9, 10).



Sharnell Delmohammed recently authored the prayer journal, Pray, to encourage believers to get practical with prayer, spend intimate time with God, and commune with the Holy Spirit. Sharnell is a native Jamaican who lives in Jersey City, New Jersey, and attends the Hub Church under the leadership of Bishop Jonathan Olavarria and First Lady Noemi Olavarria. Sharnell serves as board secretary and church administrator at Hub Church. She is also a teacher for the Hub Church's "Grow" discipleship classes, as well as the young adult Bible study. Sharnell enjoys reading the Bible to understand the heart of God and loves sharing biblical insights with others. You can check out her devotionals on her "Morning Medz" blog site.

GOD HAS DONE IT

Thoughts on Reconciliation and Reunification Related to the Exaltation of Jesus of Nazareth

In

Exodus 23:20, 21, God gave Moses specific instructions about the Angel sent to accompany Israel on their journey toward the Promised Land. The nature of this Angel is depicted in God's statement in verse 21, "for my name is in him." This was one of the first indications in the Old Testament that Christ Jesus our Lord was with them in the wilderness (1 Corinthians 10:4). Fast forwarding to the New Testament, the disciples of Jesus were greatly baffled and disappointed by his death until after his resurrection. When he appeared to them as a group for the second time, Thomas, who had refused to believe the story of the resurrection, was greatly overwhelmed when Jesus reappeared in their midst and invited him to examine his crucifixion wounds with his hand. Thomas then exclaimed, "My Lord and my God," a clear admission that before him was Jehovah God, Yahweh (John 20:28). God, in Jesus Christ, has reordered the universe and set things right! He has done this in the exaltation of his Son, the Man from Nazareth who vanquished death, was made an atoning sacrifice for our sins (Hebrews 9:26), and reestablished God's purposes for man in his glorious resurrection, the first of its kind. The New Creation through the absolute victory of Jesus is on schedule (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1-7). God has achieved his purposes in, and for his Son, and for humanity, despite all diabolical and human rebellions and opposition.

Here's one way to characterize Christ's victory and exaltation: Our Lord Jesus Christ in his manhood has been exalted to become fully divine and given the name Yahweh (Philippians 2:6-11). He is therefore the only Man who could also legitimately be called Deity and, consequently, worthy of worship. Jesus our Lord is not just a "partaker" or "sharer," in some sense, of the divine nature as we shall be, but is fully and wholly divine in both his Son-ships, Son of God and

Son of Man. Accordingly, any appearances of tension in his incarnation between the human Jesus and the preexistent Son of God have now fully disappeared. This Man, offered as a sacrifice for our sins, has been reconciled to God and has been given the full Godhood status of the name in his second Sonship: fully God; fully Man; fully the exalted Man-God, Jesus Christ the Lord, the God-Man, Yahweh, Adonai!

He now reigns until all his enemies and all principalities and powers are under his feet (Hebrews 2:8, 9). Again, God has gloriously and victoriously achieved his purposes: There is today, at this very moment (and for over two thousand years), a Man, a victorious Earthman,

Jesus of Nazareth, seated at God's right hand, in full realization of God's grand, original design for humanity.

This grand accomplishment presents us, as it has the church throughout the ages, with some definite challenges. It has become quite common among us and among other Christian writers and scholars to use the phrase "unity in diversity." It is a good phrase; it sounds good and feels good when we use it. It is also very challenging when looked at biblically and in the light of our reconciled oneness in Christ. Unity in diversity confronts

each of us and all of us with the question, "Now that I have come to Christ, what am I to do with who I have been, and with what was and is so important to me and about me?" Let me answer this way: Since the full weight of New Testament teaching is that we are all one in Christ, "one new man [humanity]" (Ephesians 2:15), "a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17), "all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28), we cannot escape dealing with our many differences. The conditions of life in this world continue to re-emphasize our differences. But the demand of Scripture and the call of the Holy Spirit is for us to tackle our journey to nothingness and our choice of preferring one another, with intentionality. Two things are clear: 1) God through Christ has already accomplished our unity as one new humanity. He is now bringing all things into subjection to Christ. 2) The

THIS MAN FROM HEAVEN, JESUS OF NAZARETH, STEPPED INTO THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL OF THE RUSHING TIDE OF SIN AND DEATH (OUR DILEMMA) AND VICTORIOUSLY ARRESTED ITS FLOW AND, IN RESURRECTION, TURNED THE TIDE TO A MIGHTY UPWARD ASCENT TOWARDS GOD FOR ALL WHO WOULD BELIEVE IN HIM.



Bishop Adrian L. Varlack, Sr. began his Christian walk at the age of 14 in a revival on the island of Aneгада in the British Virgin Islands. In 1972, he was ordained a bishop in the Church of God of Prophecy and appointed to serve at the International Offices. He would serve under international appointment in various capacities for 50 years. Bishop Varlack wrote several books for the purpose of ensuring that the Church of God of Prophecy story is never forgotten. Brother A retired from full time International Offices work in 2022 and was honored with a tribute service during which the Adrian L. Varlack, Sr. Library and Archives was commissioned at the IO.

BISHOP ADRIAN L. VARLACK, SR. | CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE

diversity and cultural dominance of our old human nature no longer fits us or becomes us as new creatures in Christ. We must “put off,” in our relationships with one another (and do so consistently and repeatedly), all that by birth and heritage distinguishes or separates us as races, ethnicities, nations, inferior or superior, upper class, middle class, or lower class. We must deliberately and intentionally “put on” the new man, the new mindset that reflects the image of Christ who is fully in the image of God (Hebrews 1:1-4), the full embodiment and reflection of Yahweh, the Almighty, our trinitarian God! We are to “grow up” into him (Christ) in all things (Ephesians 4:15) and to present our bodies as living sacrifices so that we cease being conformed to this world as our minds are renewed (Romans 12:1, 2).

Our Lord Jesus Christ, because of his grand obedience and complete humiliation, has been catapulted by God in a kind of rebound to the highest of all places in the heavenlies, both in this age and in the one to come, the right hand of God Almighty. There he is seated as Lord and Ruler, the fully legitimate God-Man in every sense of the term. He is preeminent in all things and in every which way; he is seated far above principalities and powers and every name that is named (Ephesians 1:18-23; Philippians 2:6-11). Again, God has achieved what he set out to do from the very beginning of creation, that is, to elevate the earthman that he had designed in his image and in his likeness, to be joint ruler with his beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. This Man from heaven, Jesus of Nazareth, stepped into the downward spiral of the rushing tide of sin and death (our dilemma) and victoriously arrested its flow and, in resurrection, turned the tide to a mighty upward ascent towards God for all who would believe in him. “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall be made alive” (1 Corinthians 15:22).

The new humanity of which we are a part is pure, sinless, immortal, colorless, non-racial, non-ethnic, classless, genderless, undivided, heavenly based, eternally healthy, and permanent. We will have full capacity for embodiment or disembodiment, and we will be without variance or change, without the need for improvement or diminution. This is not just planned; it has already been realized and effected in Jesus Christ, our Lord (1 Corinthians 15:23, 24). What a challenge lies before us! What an incredibly attractive goal! But can we truly think in these terms? Indeed, we must! Reunification must become the practical reality of the church’s existence as it must be for each of us, the members of the body of Christ.

God has done it, folks; God has done it! Reconciliation and Reunification are accomplished realities the incredible beauty of which will be seen when all opposition to Christ within the church, without the church, in the world, and throughout the universe, will have been successfully and completely put down and God’s glorious kingdom emerges. Paul’s summary is worth repeating: “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all” (1 Corinthians 15:22-28).

SOURCES CONSULTED ON THE SUBJECTS RECONCILIATION AND ATONEMENT:

Books

Angels, Michael S. Heiser (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018).
Church Dogmatics Vol IV 3.1, The Doctrine of Reconciliation, Karl Barth, Editors G. W. Bromiley & T. F. Torrance (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2010).
God’s Way of Reconciliation—An Exposition of Ephesians 2, D. Martin Lloyd-Jones (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1972).
Out of Egypt, Scripture and Hermeneutics Series Vol 5, Editors Craig Bartholomew, Mary Healy, et al. (University of Gloucestershire and British and Foreign Bible Society; in USA by Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2004).
Pauline Christology—An Exegetical Theological Study (paperback), Gordon D. Fee (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013).
Salvation Belongs to Our God, Christopher J. H. Wright (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2007).
The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross, 3rd Edition, Leon Morris (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1965).

Dictionaries

Baker’s Dictionary of Theology, Paperback Edition, Editor in Chief Everett F. Harrison, Associate Editor Geoffrey W. Bromiley, Consulting Editor Carl F. H. Henry (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1960, 1988).
Holman’s Bible Dictionary, General Editor Trent C. Butler, PhD, Contributing Editors Marsha A. Ellis Smith, PhD, et al. (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 1991).
Vines Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, W. E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, William White Jr. (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc., 1984, 1996).
Wydiffe Bible Encyclopedia, Editors: Charles F. Pfeiffer, Howard F. Vos, John Rea (Chicago: Moody Bible Institute, 1975).

Other Sources

New English Translation of the Septuagint, Editors Albert Pietersman and Benjamin G. Wright (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007).
New Geneva Study Bible (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1995).



AT THE STRANGE ALTAR

At every important junction in my life, prayer was present. When I gave my life to Christ at the age of 20, I did so by the prompting of the Spirit, surrendering my life to my Creator in a prayer of repentance and dedication. Not long afterward, two faithful brothers laid their hands on me by the unction of the Spirit, prayed for me, and I received the blessed baptism of the Holy Spirit. As I began to understand that my new Master would have me be baptized, I made a public confession of faith and, after resurrecting out of my symbolic tomb unto new life, my new brothers and sisters prayed that the Lord would guide me and keep me. When I took an oath to enter a lifelong covenant with my wife, the church prayed. When my children were dedicated to the Lord, the church prayed. When God set me apart for ministry, the church prayed. I hope that on the day when Jesus calls me home and I am laid to rest, the prayer of the saints will accompany me to heaven. We, as the people of God, are a people of prayer. It is not something we do; it is who we are.

As the Church of God of Prophecy, we have made prayer our first core value. In our recent publication concerning the core values, we learn that “prayer is the primary foundation for all that we do as the Church of God of Prophecy.” Further, we recognize that “prayer touches everything, informs all activities, empowers all ministry and service, and permeates the work from beginning to end.”

While there is no intention of a hierarchy within our core values, we know instinctively that prayer must be first. The harvest will not be brought in without prayer. Leaders will not be developed without it. Resources will not be used diligently in its absence, and service will lack its intended witness to the gospel. If we won't pray, we will not succeed.



Simon Rock is one of the pastors of the Erlangen, Germany COGOP. He holds an MA in Biblical Studies from Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee. He is married to Mutave Rock and has two daughters, Cara and Talitha. Pastor Simon is passionate about leading people into the deeper things of God.

SIMON ROCK | ERLANGEN, GERMANY

It is our stated goal as the Church of God of Prophecy to reconcile the world to Christ. Since our beginnings, we have insisted that God loves, values, and cares for every single person. The Great Commission cannot be fulfilled until all have heard. In all of this, we come to the altar of God in prayer time and time again. The author of Hebrews informs us that “we have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat” (Hebrews 13:10 NKJV). While there was at that time an earthly temple with an earthly altar, the author of Hebrews points us to a deeper mystery. He reveals to us that “we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man” (8:1, 2 ESV). A full reading of Hebrews reveals that this high priest is no other than Jesus himself, who entered the Holy of Holies of the eternal temple in heaven by his own blood and has become a high priest forever. Jesus is supreme to any human high priest on earth, since “they serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things” (v. 5 ESV). In other words, the worship at the tabernacle, later temple, that we find in the Old and New Testaments was never more than a shadow of what was taking place in the heavenly temple. “For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf” (9:24 ESV).

This heavenly altar is rather peculiar, however. Pentecostal theologian Wolfgang Vondey states, “The full gospel always leads to the altar, the transformation at the altar, a release from the altar, and ultimately a return to the altar.” In other words, it is the place of surrender that the gospel leads us to when we come to yield our lives to God. It is the place of transformation, where we are sanctified, baptized by the Spirit, and healed. It is the place where we tarry and wait for the power from on high, while allowing the Spirit of our King, who will soon return, to minister to us. When we are finally released from the altar, we know in our hearts that we will return. We need the filling of the Spirit time and time again. What makes

this altar so strange is the fact that it is not a physical place. The heavenly altar is transient. It manifests its heavenly reality wherever God’s people join in prayer. Even if just one saint prays, it makes an appearance. It has always astonished me how this altar can emerge into our reality and be a place of transformation and then just vanish afterward. We as Pentecostals know that the manifestation of the altar of God is not bound to any one location. When earth and heaven connect, the altar may appear in a warehouse. At a subway station. On a street corner in the rain. In a hospital in the dead of night. Just to vanish after the faithful have been released from the altar. Anyone who has ever come to a place where God’s Spirit was poured out mightily a day after the meeting will know this strangeness. “Here I stood yesterday, weeping at the altar, when heaven and earth connected. Today it is but an ordinary place.” How strange and wonderful this transient, eternal altar is.

IF WE ARE SEEKING TO RECONCILE THE WORLD TO CHRIST BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS CAN ONLY HAPPEN AS PEOPLE COME TO THIS STRANGE, TRANSIENT ALTAR OF JESUS, OUR HIGH PRIEST.

If we are seeking to reconcile the world to Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we understand that this can only happen as people come to this strange, transient altar of Jesus, our High Priest. One of our forerunners, A.J. Tomlinson, understood this well. He noted that “strange as it may seem,

nevertheless, the eternal salvation of the lost depends on God’s people at a throne of grace. It is in answer to prevailing prayer that power is given to move the lost to accept Christ.” He perceived this when he remarked, “How marvelous the power the church may wield at the throne of grace to move the ‘Lord of the harvest to send forth more laborers into the vineyard. ...’ The gathering of the harvest depends on prayer. How solemn the thought. How almost overwhelming the responsibility.”

My brother, my sister in Christ: As we enter this year of 2023, I want to encourage you to know that you have access to a heavenly altar at which Jesus intercedes for you. For the sake of the world and yourself, make use of this great privilege. Wherever you stand, sit, kneel, or lie down to pray, the altar becomes manifest to give you access to the power of the Spirit to be transformed and then go to invite others to the altar in his power, as we follow our mandate to reconcile the world to Christ.



Without Ceasing

Prayer is the means of communicating with the Most High God. That alone should motivate us to pray. Prayer is more than just talking, and God is more than just a passive listener. Prayer that touches God is the source of everything a Christian will need in this journey. We live by prayer. Prayer is not part of our life; it is a lifestyle.

I believe Jesus came in the form of man to redeem mankind; he came to accomplish salvation for all who will believe. Jesus also came to be an example to us of how we can live a life of obedience to God, in harmony with others, abstaining and putting to death our fleshly desires, and always in communion with God. All of those things are necessary for us to live a lifestyle of effective prayer. When Jesus Christ walked here on this on earth, there was not a day that ended without him having been to the mountain to pray. And he is still praying for us, and we should always be praying to him. We cannot keep the power of God flowing through our lives and ministries without keeping the flame of prayer ablaze. Prayer is the fire that fuels the power of God in our lives.

The Bible tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to pray without ceasing. There is nothing that should interrupt or impede the flow of prayer pouring forth from our hearts and our lips. In one of the best books about prayer, *With Christ in the School of Prayer*, Andrew Murray wrote, "Pray without ceasing is the earthly manifestation of heaven come down to us, the foretaste of the life where they rest not day or night in the song of worship and adoration."

When we commit ourselves to pray, we have the assurance of answers to those prayers as the Bible says in Mark 11:24 (AMPC), "For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will

[get it]." The key point here is having trust in God and remembering that faith is our evidence, our confidence, in receiving things not seen. Verse 25 of that same chapter tells us one of the conditions we must have before we offer our oblations to our merciful God: We must keep a forgiving heart in gratitude for the mercy we have been shown. Prayer starts from within our hearts so we must keep our hearts right. Let us never forget that the assurance of answered prayer is based on our prayer being offered in accordance with the will of God. Being thankful is the will of God.


Prayer is a spiritual act because the Bible tells us that the Spirit of God in us helps us pray as we ought to. Some gifts of the Spirit will always depend on our prayer life. We must be consistent in prayer. If we look at our history, prayer was one of the most important things to the saints in the old church. It enabled them to stay together in love by praying for each other. It enabled them to spread the gospel. And it also enabled God's power to manifest, strengthen, and comfort them.

If we want to learn how to pray, let us learn from Jesus. He will not only teach us how to pray, but he himself will pray within us through his Spirit that lives in us. He will pray for us as he promised to always intercede for us.

Prayer is the air we breathe, our very source of spiritual life. Therefore, brothers and sisters, together let us commit ourselves to prayer and bring revival in our nations.

–Bishop Redias Nkundabera
Rwanda, Burundi Regional Bishop



A photograph of two men in a dark setting, one with his hands clasped in prayer and the other with his hand on the first man's shoulder, suggesting a moment of spiritual support or prayer.

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

RECONCILING THE WORLD TO CHRIST

DETACHABLE PRAYER BOOKLET TO USE
DURING 21 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING
JANUARY 2-22, 2023

Members, congregations, and prayer groups can join our “21 Days of Prayer and Fasting” through daily prayer guides and weekly prayer bulletins from January 2-22, 2023.

Week One Prayer Focus: January 2-8, 2023
Core Value Target: Prayer and Service
Global Family Targets: Africa, Asia, Europe/CIS/ Middle East

Week Two Prayer Focus: January 9-15
Core Value Target: The Harvest and Stewardship
Global Family Targets: North America, Caribbean

Week Three Prayer Focus: January 16-22
Core Value Target: Leadership Development
Global Family Targets: Central and South America

Visit cogop.org/prayer for downloadable prayer guides, promotional materials, videos, and more information about the “Night of Prayer” simulcast.

WEEK ONE

January 2-8, 2023 • Core Value Target: Prayer and Service

Global Family Targets: Africa, Asia, Europe/CIS/Middle East

Jesus said, “My house will be called a house of prayer” (Matthew 21:13 NIV). Scripture tells us that the early church was “devoted to prayer” (Acts 1:14; 2:42; 6:4). It is the desire of the Father that every church today be the same. Becoming a people devoted to prayer requires more than programs and good intentions. It requires a faithful, intentional obedience in seeking the Father daily. This week, we invite you to join us daily as we petition to the Father that our churches would be “houses of prayer,” and that as individuals we would be devoted to prayer.

WEEK ONE PRAYER DIRECTIVES

- Thank the Father for his ability and readiness to give, guide, and answer us in response to our prayers (Matthew 7:7, 8).
- Confess for yourself or your church any lack of devotion to prayer. Ask God to help your church and its leaders be devoted to or “diligently occupied with” prayer (Colossians 4:2; Acts 1:14; Acts 2:42; Acts 6:4).
- Ask God to help your church family pray as the needs arise and to cover everything in prayer (Ephesians 6:8).
- Ask God to make you alert to needs in your church family and to “keep on praying continually” for all members of your church family (Ephesians 6:8).
- Ask the Father to help you and your church to pray as Jesus urged you to pray—continually asking, seeking, and knocking (Matthew 7:7, 8).
- Pray for power and wisdom to know the “greater things” the Father wants you and your church to do for him (John 14:12–14).
- Ask the Father to help you see beyond personal needs and to focus on Kingdom concerns (John 14:12–14).
- Pray that your church will pray faithfully and powerfully for your city, community, nation, and leaders (1 Timothy 2:1, 2).
- Pray for your pastor and ministry leaders (Romans 15:30).
- Pray that the “heart’s desire” of your church would be to pray for the unsaved and that he would give your church practical opportunities to reach out to your community (Romans 10:1; 1 Timothy 2:1, 3, 4).

PRAYING FOR OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

Join with us in lifting up the nations of Africa, Asia, and Europe/CIS/Middle East. These nations include:

Africa

Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burundi
Burkina Faso
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Congo Brazzaville
Democratic Republic of Congo
Djibouti
Ethiopia
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea Bissau

Guinea Conakry
Guinea-Equatorial
Ivory Coast
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Malawi
Mali
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Sudan
Swaziland
Tanzania
Togo

Uganda
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Asia, Australia, and Oceania

Australia
Eastern Asia
Fiji Islands
Hawaii
India
Indonesia
Kiribati
Japan
Malaysia
Myanmar
Nepal
New Zealand
Pakistan

Philippines
Rabi Islands
Samoan Islands
Singapore
South Korea
Sri Lanka
Thailand
Tuvalu

Europe/CIS/ Middle East

Austria
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Belgium
Bulgaria
Czech Republic
Cyprus
Egypt

Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Israel
Italy
The Netherlands
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
Spain
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain

For the Church of God of Prophecy, “the harvest” has been the call heard consistently since 1994, which was a re-alignment to our call when this Movement was birthed. We praise God that we are an international body in 135 nations, with over 12,000 preaching points, planting two new churches every day, and participating with God to see a thousand people saved daily. This week, we unite our prayers to ask God for continued favor and blessing as we remain faithful to his call to “Go!”

WEEK TWO PRAYER DIRECTIVES

- Praise God for Jesus Christ who came to seek and save those who are lost (Luke 15:1–31; 19:9, 10).
- Give thanks for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the power of God for salvation to all who believe (Romans 1:16).
- Recall your personal testimony of salvation, and thank God for his deliverance (Psalm 40:1–3).
- Ask God to send forth laborers into the harvest (Matthew 9:37, 38).
- Ask God to reveal to us, both individually and corporately, believers where he is working so that we may focus our efforts more effectively (John 6:44; 17:3, 15).
- Ask the Father to raise up excellent, anointed ministries for the young harvest of children and youth (Matthew 19:14; Acts 2:17).
- Intercede for unsaved individuals you know personally, and claim the following promises for them (John 14:6; Romans 10:9–11; Matthew 18:18).
- Pray for God’s Kingdom to come, and his will to be done in individuals’ hearts, families, cities, nations, and the world, even as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:9–13; Daniel 4:34, 35).
- Pray for God’s direction and discernment in our global church-planting efforts (Mark 16:15).
- Ask God to grant access for the Gospel through open heavens, open minds, open hearts, and open doors (Isaiah 45:8; Acts 26:17, 18; 2 Corinthians 4:6; Colossians 4:2, 3).
- Pray that grace be the basis of all stewardship and a matter of the heart (1 Peter 4:10).
- Pray that tithing and giving leads to whole-life stewardship, including time, talent, health, and family (Luke 20:25; 21:4; Malachi 3:12).
- Pray that children and youth will learn biblical stewardship from their parents and leaders (Matthew 7:24; Colossians 1:27, 28; 2:7; 1 Peter 5:2, 10).
- Pray that people with the spiritual gift of giving will acknowledge, understand, and practice their gift (Romans 12:6–8).
- Pray that the joy of giving becomes a reality, causing giving to go beyond being needs-based (2 Corinthians 9:7).
- Pray that a scriptural understanding of debt will break the debt bondage on families (Proverbs 21:20; 17:18; Romans 13:8).
- Pray that biblical stewardship will break the addiction of materialism, which leads to idolatry (Colossians 3:5).
- Pray that pastors and members will receive revelation that we tithe to Jesus, not our pastor (Hebrews 7:8–10).

PRAYING FOR OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

Join with us in lifting up the nations of North America and the Caribbean. These nations include:

Caribbean

Anguilla
Antigua
Aruba
Bahamas
Barbados
Barbuda
Bermuda
Bonaire
Cayman Islands
Curacao
Dominica
French Guiana
Grenada
The Grenadines
Guadeloupe
Guyana
Haiti
Jamaica

Leeward Islands

Martinique
Montserrat
Nevis
St. Kitts
St. Lucia
St. Maarten
St. Martin
St. Vincent
Suriname
Tobago
Trinidad
Turks and Caicos
Islands
Virgin Islands (U.S. & British)

North America

Alabama
Alaska

Arizona
Arkansas
California
Canada East
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
Florida
Georgia
Hawaii
Idaho
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland

Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Hampshire
New Jersey
New Mexico
New York
North Carolina
North Dakota
Northeast Region (English)
Northeast Region (Spanish)
Ohio

Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
South Carolina
South Dakota
Southeast Region
Spanish
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
West Virginia
Western Canada
Wisconsin
Wyoming

In harvest-rich locations, leadership development is essential so that the fields God has prepared can be penetrated even further. The model of Jesus affirms this. His ministry on earth did not focus on his ability to reach massive numbers of people. Jesus realized that the greatest work he could do was to develop 12 solid leaders who could, in turn, develop others, spreading the leadership strength and so multiplying harvest impact in time.

WEEK THREE PRAYER DIRECTIVES

- Give thanks to God for the global perspective and ministries of the Church of God of Prophecy (Acts 1:8).
- Ask God to strengthen church leadership and bless the efforts of churches and ministries where they minister (1 Timothy 2:1, 2).
- Ask God to send forth laborers into the harvest (Matthew 9:37, 38).
- Ask God to raise up leaders in intercession, worship, and servant ministries to help loose the bands of wickedness and prepare for the return of our Lord (Isaiah 58:6–10).
- Pray that the Father would raise up anointed leaders to serve the young harvest through children's and youth ministries (Psalm 78:4).
- Pray that men, women, boys, and girls would embrace the call of God, and our efforts to equip them for ministry would be successful (Jeremiah 1:5; 2 Peter 1:10, 11; Ephesians 4:12).
- Pray for those already engaged in ministry that the Holy Spirit will use them to equip his people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up (Ephesians 4:11–13).

PRAYING FOR OUR INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

Join with us in praying for the international ministries of the Church of God of Prophecy.

Finance and Publishing

Administrative Services
 Fields of the Wood
 Finance
 Global Missions
 Heritage Ministries
 Stewardship Resources
 White Wing Publishing House and Retail Operations

Inspirational Leadership

Communications
 Office of the General Overseer
 Prayer Ministries
 World Language

Leadership Development and Discipleship

Accredited Ministry Development
 Center for Biblical Leadership
 Children's Ministries
 Youth Ministries

PRAYING FOR OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

Join with us in lifting up the nations of Central and South America. These nations include:

Central America, Mexico, and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean

Belize
 Costa Rica
 Cuba
 Dominican Republic
 El Salvador

Guatemala
 Honduras
 México
 Nicaragua
 Panamá
 Puerto Rico

South America

Argentina

Bolivia
 Brazil
 Chile
 Colombia
 Ecuador
 Paraguay
 Perú
 Uruguay
 Venezuela

THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Numbers 12:13
So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, "Please heal her, O God, I pray!" (NKJV).

This is the prayer of Moses to God for his sister Miriam. Here Moses is interceding for his sister even though she had set herself against him.

Miriam and Aaron had openly criticized Moses because of the Ethiopian woman he had married (Numbers 12:1). So the anger of the Lord was aroused against them, and his presence departed. And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam became leprous, as white as snow (12:9, 10).

Intercessory prayer is standing in the place of another before God. There are many examples of intercessory prayer throughout the Bible:

1. Abraham's prayer for Sodom (Genesis 18:20-33).
2. Moses interceded for Israel (Exodus 32:11-13, 31-33).
3. Ezra identified with the sins of his people (Ezra 9:6-15).
4. Elijah asked God to reveal himself to the people (1 Kings 18:36-37).
5. Daniel identified with the sins of his people (Daniel 9:4-19).
6. Jesus interceded for his followers (before going to the Father) (John 17:6-26).
7. Stephen prayed for his murderers at the point of his death (Acts 7:60).
8. Paul prayed for the Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians (Ephesians 3:14-20; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-12).

God appreciates people who pray fervently for others who are facing trials. Intercessory prayer is prayer for the needs of others in an unselfish expression of love. It reflects God's own character of abundant love and mercy. It is not only a privilege, but a command. "Continue steadfastly in prayer" (Colossians 4:2). Persistence in prayer is not an option for the Christian, but an order from the Lord himself.

Moses was very humble, more than anyone on the face of the earth (Numbers 12:3). He could have been very

angry with his brother Aaron and sister Miriam. But he didn't. He had a forgiving heart. That is why he could intercede for his

sister to obtain healing from her leprosy. We are to be forgiving people: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you" (Matthew 6:14). "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do" (Colossians 3:12, 13).

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR OTHERS?

1. We must have an unselfish and forgiving heart.
2. We must have dedication.
3. We must be glad to pray for others.

When Job prayed for his friends, God heard his prayer. Not only did God heal them, but the Lord restored Job's losses and gave him twice as much as he had before (Job 42:10, 12). God answered Moses' prayer and healed Miriam. Miriam's story teaches us that we should not speak against a minister or an anointed one of God. We should not judge others. But Moses shows us a more perfect way, the way of love, forgiveness, and intercessory prayer.

Let us pray for others, individuals, families, and nations. In Ezekiel 22:30, the prophet says on behalf of God, "I looked for anyone to repair the wall and stand in the gap for me on behalf of the land, so I wouldn't have to destroy it. But I couldn't find anyone."

Are you ready? Let us start interceding for others as Moses prayed.

Cross References

Exodus 15:26; Psalm 6:2; 147:3; Isaiah 30:26; 53:5; Jeremiah 17:14; Hosea 6:1

-Bishop K.P. Jaison, MDiv
COGOP Regional Bishop, India
Email: zion.prayer21@gmail.com





A THANKFUL TRIBUTE

Debbie Stockham

Deborah Foster Stockham was born in Sanger, California. She grew up as one of ten siblings. Those five girls and five boys were raised in a pastor's home, shaping Debbie to minister as a pastor's wife for 18 years. As that pastor's wife, she joyously mothered two daughters, Amanda and Amy. God sustained Debbie through joys and tears as he brought the gifts of a wonderful son-in-law, Blake Standridge, and nine grandchildren into her life: Ethan Lawson (wife Katie); Olivia Lawson; Aidan Lawson; Camden Standridge; Landon Standridge; Kinsley Standridge; Isaac Standridge; and Ian Standridge. Debbie currently lives in Cleveland, Tennessee, where she served the Lord and the Church of God of Prophecy for more than 30 years in the International Offices, most of that time as Executive Secretary to the General Overseer. It is evident to everyone that Debbie loves God, her

family, and the Church deeply. She serves people well and with sincerity.

Proverbs 31:10 begins, "Who can find a virtuous woman? Her price is far above rubies," and lists the accomplishments of a hardworking, godly woman. The words written here are often held up as a template for how women should live. The passage is actually not directed toward women at all. It is a picture of an industrious, righteous woman with instruction to everyone else about how to treat her. Following the litany of works this woman has accomplished is a command: "Praise her for the many fine things she does. These good deeds of hers shall bring her honor and recognition from people of importance" (TLB). Appreciation for Debbie's ministry was shared recently with the editor of the *White Wing Messenger* by our current presiding bishop and two former general overseers of the Church of God of Prophecy:

"We are incredibly grateful to Sister Debbie for her contributions to the work of the Office of the General Overseer, now Presiding Bishop's Office, for all these years. Throughout the years, I have observed her serve tirelessly to ensure that the tasks of this office were met professionally and timely. It has been a ministry to her, one she approached prayerfully, faithfully, and confidentially. With grateful hearts, we applaud her tenure of service and pray blessings for this new season of life and ministry."

–Bishop Tim Coalter
Presiding Bishop
Church of God of Prophecy

"A few words to describe Debbie Stockham would be faithful, loyal, dedicated, professional, confidential, trustworthy, dependable, knowledgeable, and driven by integrity. Debbie Stockham is a person of the highest integrity. I knew when I had to be away from the office it was always in good hands. In the eight years that I was honored to serve in the Office of the General Overseer for the Church of God of Prophecy, I could not have asked for a more proficient private secretary than Debbie Stockham, and did I mention prayer warrior? When someone has been through the fire, they know how to pray for others. We all at one time or another need people that know how to pray! Debbie and her husband Bill are two of those people. My life has been blessed to know them and call them my friends."

–Bishop Sam N. Clements

"The Church of God of Prophecy has been supremely blessed to have a person like Debbie Stockham supporting the work of the Office of the Presiding Bishop for so many decades. The four bishops serving in that Office during her tenure are likewise blessed. I can testify personally to the gifts and graces she brought to my administration. There were responsibilities of the office that I never had to touch because I knew they were under the care of Debbie. Her professionalism was exceptional and her commitment to

each of us that held this responsibility was unswerving. I always knew that Debbie was covering me with her skill and care for the Office and the Church. And even greater, Debbie was a part of my personal prayer team that met consistently over the years to call for God's divine aid in every challenge and duty. Only in heaven will her impact for the good of our beloved Church be known in full. I say a big God bless you to her with great appreciation."

–Randy Howard

In her farewell to the staff and personnel of the International Offices, Debbie expressed thankfulness and a warm prayer for each person:

"For the past few years (31), this place has been my second home. I will cherish the memories I've made here. I thank you for your support and prayers over the years. These memories are ones I will never forget. It has been my privilege to serve with you here at the International Offices. The work done here at these Offices has eternal consequences. Your work matters, you matter, the Lord is so mindful of all you do. Bishop Billy Murray gave me this advice back when he asked me to work in his department: 'Pray every day and keep your eyes on Jesus.' I encourage you to do the same—it was great advice. My prayer for each of you is: 'The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace' (Numbers 6:24). I finish using Bishop Clements favorite line: **His will, nothing more, nothing less, nothing else.**"

The International Offices and the Church of God of Prophecy is very grateful for the incomparable ministry of Debbie Stockham through three decades. "The Lord bless you and keep you" is our prayer for you, also.

GLOBAL

MISSIONS MINISTRIES
CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

UPDATE: IGLESIA DE DIOS DE LA PROFECIA EN PARAGUAY

By National Bishop Ricardo Hinsbis Espinoza



With the help of the Lord, we have organized two more churches in Paraguay over the past months from August to December 2022. These churches include:

IDP- Piro´ (Capiatá area)

IDP-Reducto (Capiatá area)



God has been faithful and good to help us, and we are grateful for God's will and for the efforts of willing men who are committed to meeting the goal set by our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord commanded us to make disciples of all groups of people.



Despite the difficulties, we continue to make progress in the process to purchase land for IDP- Piro´ (Capiatá area) to provide a church foundation. Currently, those who are being reached with the gospel are gathering in the house of a few kind-hearted brothers.

With regard to IDP-Reducto, we are planning for the construction of a church building on land that has been donated to us and is being prepared.

We know that God will continue to help us to build these buildings for the two new churches.

At the same time, we are working in the ministries on evangelization and discipleship to new converts in order to train and raise up new leaders for these church fellowships. We are trusting that they will receive the vision of continuing to plant churches for the gospel to go forward and for the kingdom of God.

Thank you for your prayers in these efforts.

UPDATE: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Recently we prepared for an evangelization with the goal to take the gospel to our areas and help those who are most in need. We carried out the massive evangelistic effort by going house-to-house throughout Villar Pando (Azua). The sponsors of this event were the Christian Educational Foundation, Refuge for ambassadors, Apen Foundation, and the dating academy.



One of the activities included specific and spontaneous ministry of the gospel to more than 300 children. These children were of different ages and backgrounds.



This particular ministry was highlighted by an outdoor evangelistic worship and sharing the gospel in ministry to those in attendance. We concluded the evangelization by the distribution of food and supplies to more than 235 low-income families.

Reporter: Rafael Peña (IDP Villa Faro)

Pastors: Juan Peña López (Imac Lumbreira Celestial) and Jonathan Méndez (IDP Villa Faro)



OUTREACH FROM AZERBAIJAN

This has been a full season of ministry. We traveled to the Russian city of Yekaterinburg, where I was invited to teach classes for students who are involved in church planting. The theme of my classes centered on spiritual battle. We enjoyed hosting young ministers from various regions of the Siberian area of Russia. We enjoyed an interesting fellowship with many questions, prayers, and communication. These youth are serving engaged in establishing a mission and to go on missionary journeys. There are many ethnic groups in this region that have not been reached by the gospel, and local workers of the kingdom of God are needed there.



We also traveled to Piral village in the Gusar region to visit, encourage, and pray with a believer whose father died.



Finally, we traveled into the village of Garadaghly in the Ujar region. Our goal was to visit, communicate, and pray together. We were able to witness the gospel with an unbelieving family.

Thank you for your prayers,
Brother Jeyhun
National Mission Pastor

CONSTRUCTION WORK IN CONGO BRAZZAVILLE

Greetings, love, and gratefulness in the holy and precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are grateful for partnership with our Harvest Partner churches. We have had days of fervent prayers for all that God is doing among us.



We are currently in the middle of two construction projects building two churches. We have raised the buildings to a place where we need a total of \$17,000 to complete both projects.



We have also experienced many days of big rain that fell that has damaged a part of the roof of the national office, and the roof is now leaking. We will need \$15,000 to repair the roof and national office.



We are deeply thankful to our brothers and sisters who willingly have helped us to do that ministry work in this nation. We pray for our Almighty God to remember them at all times and bless them abundantly with His grace in the holy name of our Redeemer Jesus Christ. Once again, thank you for your kindness.

Mukendi Bitchy Jean Pierre Israël
National Overseer
Congo Brazzaville



DEBBIE FREEMAN | REGISTRAR AND STUDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR

PRAY: THE BEST IS YET TO COME

Have you ever wondered why Jesus found it important to teach his disciples to pray? Matthew 6:8 (NKJV) states, “Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.” If he already knows what I need, what’s the point? I think he needs me to know that I need him.

It’s easy for me to get into “Little Miss Fix-It” mode and try to take care of everything myself. When I bump into a problem I can’t fix, I suddenly remember that there is a God and I’m not him.

When I graduated from college in December of 1986, I started my own personal pity party because I couldn’t find a job. I finally landed a four-month assignment to finish the year for a music teacher who had to leave due to health problems. Each morning, I taught chorus at a high school (where I was afraid my students might slit the tires on my little Pontiac 1000), taught guitar at a junior high across town, and then headed back across town to another junior high to finish the day with a large group of unruly adolescents. The administrators told me there was no funding for that position in the following year’s budget. Was that really God’s answer to my prayer?

Of course, it was. God is all about timing. In May of that year, I went to Bible Training Institute. One of the instructors at Tomlinson College told me that a position was coming open for a music instructor, and he advised me to go talk to the academic dean. That turned out to be God’s answer to my prayer. My salary went down, but God taught me that he is always faithful. I was able to pay off my little Pontiac 1000 and start saving for a down payment on a house a few years down the road.

The story doesn’t end there. Five years later, Tomlinson College closed. My heart was broken. I was ready to move back to my parents’ house in Virginia. A retired Bradley County teacher told the superintendent that I needed a job. One of the music teachers in that system didn’t show up for the first three weeks of school. I became God’s answer to their prayer.

By this time, I had passed into my 30s. I was seriously hoping God’s plan was not to leave me a lonely spinster. I prayed, I dated, I got engaged—two, almost three times. Things never worked out. I wasn’t able to “fix” my situation. I finally decided to back off. I eventually got a call from a young man I had met at church. He invited me to dinner. He was different from

the others. I didn't have to work hard to impress him. He felt like family.

Two years after we married, the doctor told me my biological clock was ticking and that I needed to work on having a child if I intended to. That ended up in miscarriage. Again, God is all about timing.

A couple years later, I was with child a second time. My baby was due Christmas Day. On the day before Thanksgiving, I went for my doctor visit, they listened for a heartbeat, and they said I could go home. My husband stopped to ask if I had gained enough weight. The doctor gave me some peanut butter crackers and caffeinated soda pop. He banged a couple of spoons together to see if he could get the baby to move. Soon thereafter, I was in line for emergency surgery. They kept our son in NICU for 22 days before we were able to bring him home. (Incidentally, he just turned 20. God is faithful!)

Fast forward a couple of decades. My husband and I decided we'd like to move back to Cleveland, Tennessee, to be closer to family. We prayed to ask the Lord to work things out for us to do so if that was his will. My husband found out that he could work from home with the same company he had been working for in Atlanta for the past 20 years, so we felt it was a go. We bid on a house. It fell through. We bid three more times. They all fell through. My "Little Miss Fix-It" had to just pull back and wait AGAIN!

We saw two houses we thought might work for us.

From the pictures and written description I had seen online, I had my heart set on one of them. We drove up to Cleveland to look at the houses. Someone bought the one I had my heart set on before we made it to town. We walked in the other house and were amazed. Pretty soon, we closed on that house. God's plan is always so much better than mine. I agree with the apostle Paul when he said, "My God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory (Philippians 4:19 NASB).

Then there's the job thing again. I filled out applications, went on job interviews, "pounded the pavement" as they say. Nothing. I decided it was time to pull back yet again. If God wanted me to have a job, he'd give me one. A friend told me he knew a principal in town who needed four teachers and couldn't find any. I thought this surely was the lead I needed. The next day, I got a call for an interview at a local university. Wow! How can you beat that? I texted a friend with the good news. My friend wrote back, "The best is yet to come." While I was waiting to do a Zoom interview for the university, someone rang the doorbell at our house. They told me Spirit and Life Seminary needed a registrar and that I should apply for the job. I was taken aback. I didn't even know the Church of God of Prophecy had a school to train our ministry. Did I mention God's timing is impeccable?

God does know the desires of our hearts and the needs we have before we even ask. But when I pray and then pull back to get out of the way, he amazes me with how much he loves me and how much I need him.

GOD'S PLAN IS ALWAYS SO MUCH BETTER THAN MINE. I AGREE WITH THE APOSTLE PAUL WHEN HE SAID, "MY GOD WILL SUPPLY ALL YOUR NEEDS ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY"

(PHILIPPIANS 4:19 NASB)

Debbie served as an academic advisor and music instructor at Tomlinson College from 1987 to 1992. She then taught music in Bradley County Schools before marrying her husband Dennis and moving to Alabama, where she served as an academic advisor at Calhoun Community College. Debbie later moved to metro Atlanta and taught music and special education students in Gwinnett County Public Schools for almost 20 years. She loves to play piano and has enjoyed working with several church choirs on her journey back to Cleveland, Tennessee, where she is excited to serve at Spirit and Life Seminary.



LIVING IN THE LIGHT OF RECONCILIATION

If we are to be a people that are to reconcile the world to Christ, then we must live our lives as those who have already been reconciled to Christ. We live in the understanding that God has brought us, through Jesus and his sacrifice, into a right relationship with God the Father. If we have not experienced that reconciliation between our sinful nature and the divinity of God, then we cannot be vessels by which the Holy Spirit reconciles others to himself. So if we are to be those who reconcile the world to Christ, we must first live in the understanding that we ourselves have been reconciled.

We then live in the understanding of what Christ has done for us. We live in the understanding of what Christ has brought us out of. We live in the understanding of what Christ has taken us into. Yet we do not live under the condemnation of who we once were. If we have been reconciled to Christ then that means that there was a time and season in our life where we were not reconciled to Christ. This was a result of our actions and choices—the sin living within us. It is only by the

grace of God that we have been reconciled to Christ. The understanding that follows is that if I am to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and extend grace to a lost world, I must live in the remembrance of what God brought me out of.

Paul says in Romans 8:1, “So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.” Satan has no authority to lord over my head who I once was, because I have been made one with Christ Jesus. Now I can walk in the royal priesthood that Christ has called all believers to, and reconcile the world to him. Nevertheless, the issue sometimes exists within the church that we forget where God has brought us from. So when we look at where the world is, we are hesitant to extend grace. We must fight against the pull to desire the world to be “clean” before they have been reconciled. If we are to be active in the ministry of reconciliation, we must remember that we have a responsibility to go to where people are at, meet them in whatever situation they are in, and extend the message of reconciliation.



Stetson Harper is the Youth Ministries director for the Church of God of Prophecy Great Lakes Region. He grew up in a COGOP ministry family and is a frequent guest speaker at churches and conventions. He is an elementary school teacher with a passion for reaching his generation, upcoming generations, and emerging leaders with the powerful truths found in the Word of God.

STETSON HARPER | GREAT LAKES REGION

The Ministry of Reconciliation

When we have engaged in the ministry of reconciling the world to Christ (right relationship has been brought about between a lost soul and Jesus), then we must realize that the ministry of reconciliation has only just begun. The completion of the “sinner’s prayer” is often viewed as the culmination for the ministry of reconciliation, yet it is really just the beginning. The apostle Paul speaks of Jesus reconciling the world to himself in 2 Corinthians 5:19, but notice that the apostle also states that, “He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.”

In light of scripture as a whole, we must understand that this message of reconciliation begins in relationship with Christ, but that it is worked out continuously through the reconciling of relationships among believers. Ephesians 4:32 says, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” The apostle Paul is again speaking about the ministry of reconciliation, but he is talking about it in light of human relationships. One cannot fully be living in the glory of reconciliation unless forgiveness has been extended to others and reconciliation among individuals has been achieved.

The world is living in the reality of broken homes, shattered relationships, heated political lines, and messages of hate and division that are being spread about by every news outlet. Being made right in the eyes of God is not the end of the story for those who call on the name of Jesus. It is an invitation to restore and reconcile all that has been broken and lost by the devastation brought about by sin. If the church is to truly be an institution that carries the message of reconciliation, then we must engage in the task of guiding new believers through the process of extending forgiveness and being reconciled to their human relationships.

IF THE CHURCH IS TO TRULY BE AN INSTITUTION THAT CARRIES THE MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION, THEN WE MUST ENGAGE IN THE TASK OF GUIDING NEW BELIEVERS THROUGH THE PROCESS OF EXTENDING FORGIVENESS AND BEING RECONCILED TO THEIR HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS.

Reconciling Teenagers to Christ

The demographic that has perhaps been most severely impacted by the lack of reconciliation are teenagers. Teenagers are regularly exposed to brokenness on levels that adults do not even imagine. They deal with the loss of their parents’ marriage, without having any say in the matter. Young adults are pitted against each other in the midst of every political election, hearing messages that demean individuals because of their vote. Children are labeled as homophobic and bigoted if they disagree with the sexual perversion that has seeped its way into classrooms all across America.

These are but a few of the examples of how our youth have been steeped in a society that wants nothing to do with reconciliation.

It must be of utmost importance to the church to bring about the message and ministry of reconciliation to this group of people with as much passion and vigor as humanly possible. The church cannot afford to view youth ministry as an “extracurricular” ministry that can be tacked on when all of the other line items on the budget have been seen to. Churches across the world must make it a priority to bring about the ministry

of reconciliation to young people. We must swing wide our doors, reinvent our methodology of ministry, engage in the uncomfortable, and meet young people exactly where they are.

It was Jesus who said, ““Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children” (Matthew 19:14). This command was not simply instructing the disciples to not prevent young people from coming to Christ, it was an urgent declaration that the church must be intentionally engaged in bringing children and youth to Jesus so that they might be reconciled to him. Following that, the church teaches those very same youth how to reconcile their earthly relationships by the power of the Holy Spirit.

HERITAGE MINISTRIES



— IN HIS PRESENCE —

— MINISTERS —

Ida C. Staten Barrett

Gastonia, North Carolina
August 1, 2022
Licensed minister for 39 years

Ida J. Berry

Davenport, Iowa
September 27, 2022
Licensed minister for 38 years

Victor M. Cabral

Casa Grande, Arizona
September 3, 2022
Licensed minister for 21 years

Norald T. Coakley

Eleuthera, Bahamas
July 23, 2022
Licensed minister for nine years

Maria Consepuiz Cruz

Kodiak, Alaska
August 23, 2022
Licensed minister for one month

Costas Homondzlis

Greece
August 29, 2022
Licensed minister for 32 years

Churendel Nivillac

Rotterdam, Netherlands
August 29, 2022
Licensed minister for 11 years

Rufus Rogers

Royal Palm Beach, Florida
October 23, 2022
Licensed minister for 62 years

Leon Schneider

Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
September 24, 2022
Licensed minister for 66 years

Lornal Paul Wilchcombe

Grand Bahama, Bahamas
July 12, 2022
Licensed minister for 44 years

John Wilson, Sr.

Angier, North Carolina
August 21, 2022
Licensed minister for 30 years

Alva Don Yancey

Evening Shade, Arkansas
August 24, 2022
Licensed minister for 43 years



HELP US PROCLAIM
GOD'S FAITHFULNESS!

VISIT COGOP.ORG – click on “DONATE” then select “QUICK GIVE” and select “FIELDS OF THE WOOD” from the drop-down list, or make your check or money order payable to Church of God of Prophecy and mail it to P.O. Box 2970 Cleveland, TN 37320-2970.



MARSHA ROBINSON | EDITOR

MESSAGES

A Look at Proverbs 31

Years ago, women's devotional books and some sermons began focusing on Proverbs 31:10-31 as a template for how Christian women should conduct themselves. Being a "Proverbs 31 woman" became a thing. Mugs, T-shirts, conferences were marked by the phrase. A woman was told she needed to be sewing, buying fields, rising before daylight, cooking, and a litany of other tasks.

Proverbs 31 was not written to women. It was written by a man to men. Solomon took the instruction of his mother so seriously he called the telling of it an "oracle," a word directly from God.

His mother told him to look for a hardworking woman. A trustworthy woman. A brave woman. A smart woman. His mother also told him how he should treat her.

Read it again with new eyes. The only commands given in the entire chapter are given to the man. He is told to not chase ruinous women, to keep from alcohol, to "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." What would happen if he spoke up for his wife? What if he judged every situation between them fairly? Defended her against all critics?

Such love and help from him would empower his wife to be that woman who rises in the morning to provide for the household, who plants the vineyard, who receives profit for trade, and who feeds the poor. Not the other way around.

Then at the end of the description of that strong, godly woman is the instruction to "Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate." All of that to the man. It would be interesting to hear a sermon on Proverbs 31 man.

Here's the thing: men and women are incapable of being this perfect. Listen. Read it again—one more time—with this revolutionary perspective: Jesus is the perfect husband, and this virtuous woman is the church, the bride of Christ. She is so loved and defended and trusted by Christ that she is empowered to do exploits.

The church will do Christ good and not evil all the days of her life.

The church works willingly with her hands.

The church goes to great lengths to bring spiritual nourishment to those who need it.

The church rises while it is yet night because she is all over the world!

The church considers a field (a place of ministry), invests in it, and plants a vineyard so that new wine can flow out.

The church girds herself with strength and strengthens her arms.

The church perceives that what she has to offer is good! She shines the light night and day!

The church creates garments of praise.

The church stretches out her hand to the poor; Yes! She reaches her hands straight out, not down, to the needy.

The church is not afraid of changing seasons, or coldness, or famine, or nakedness because she knows that God provides and clothes her in his scarlet blood.

Strength and honor are **the church's** vestments; **the church** shall rejoice in time to come.

The church speaks wisdom and kindness.

The church governs her household well and is not inactive.

The people who have been birthed out of her stand up and declare that **the church** is a blessing; Jesus praises the church!

Many of God's works are full of virtue, but **the church** excels them all! Hallelujah!

Two thoughts: Proverbs 31 in the natural was written to men. It is good instruction but not meant to be an unbearable burden to men or women. Proverbs 31 in the Spirit was written about the relationship between Jesus and the church.

We are all the church, together, not separately. But that's a subject unto itself. Go free from the burden of perfectionism and workaholism and striving in your marriage. Live in the grace and favor of God. We please him when we work together.



WHITE WING

MESSENGER

THE WHOLE MESSAGE

FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

Better Hurry as Time is Short and There is
But Little Time to Work

WITH SOMEBODY AS YOU GO

Call attention to a young man
as he called this "theistic" for
many, his look was his "family"
name. He was converted in
early childhood but late to make
a useful man in the world. He
came with his feet well and was
used to read in drawing his dis-
ciple to the Father. He was
all and well with which he
was an aggressive appearance
to a very fine man. They
were from his home, he made a
good impression among his
people and he was a very

They will find themselves going
on with work for Jesus whether
they are full of zeal as they
should be or not. It is not my
will for any body to get so
distant about the Lord's work that
they will simply hear the air.
That indicates some may
but it is my desire to stir
you up and while I can do this
probably some day I will
catch the true meaning of
salvation and the same will
and getting down to
business I can do it all and
all that you had better hurry at

Mighty Outflow of Heavenly Blessings--Angels Seen Hov-
ering Over--Fellowship and Love Prevailed

A CENTURY OF CONNECTING THE CHURCH of GOD of PROPHECY

WHITE WING

MESSENGER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

100 YEARS