

Voice of ZION

February 2019

Surging Ahead in 2019



“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” Phil. 3.14

Editorials . . .

Rejoice in the Lord!

“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again, I say, Rejoice” (Phil. 4.8).

Notice first in the passage in which we find this verse, that the apostle Paul links rejoicing in the Lord with truth, justice, holiness [purity] and spiritual strength. *“Stand fast in the Lord”* (v. 1) is thus the same as saying, “Stand fast in what is true, just, and holy”. This is his primary admonition for the precious saints in the church at Philippi; who were his *“joy and crown”* and *“dearly beloved”*. Like the apostle John, he gloried in them to whom he ministered and rejoiced that they were steadfast in the faith---in the government, discipline, and practices of the church---and were *“walking in the truth”* (2 Jn. 4; 3 Jn. 4). There is no greater joy and satisfaction for a spiritual leader than to know his “children” and fellow brethren are spiritually-minded, steadfast in the faith, and rejoicing together in the Lord.

Second, the apostle links rejoicing with delightful meditations about the Lord and life in general. He thus admonishes,

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true [genuine], whatsoever things are honest [noble], whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure [holy], whatsoever things are lovely [pleasing], whatsoever things are of good report [admirable]; if there be any virtue [goodness], and if there be any praise[worthiness], think on these things” (v. 8).

Now observe carefully, this passage is not suggesting that we bury our heads in the sand, so to speak, and ignore the ugly and distasteful things in life round about us, including unpleasantries that sometimes surface in the church; for in many other places Paul admonishes us to deal with unruly brethren and unpleasant situations in the church; it is our duty and responsibility (1 Cor. 5.1-13; 11.16; 2 Thess. 3.14; 1 Tim. 5.20; 2 Jn. 10; et al). In fact, we are instructed by the Lord and the apostles to “rebuke”, “mark and avoid”, and “reject” contentious and unruly [unmanageable] men and women, and those who cause dissensions and divisions (Rom. 16.17; 1 Cor. 11.16; 1 Tim. 5.20; Titus 3.10). But, here, the apostle is counseling us to focus our minds on what is sincere and genuine, noble and just, and holy and decent, and to walk accordingly. We must indeed deal with difficult situations and seek to resolve them according to the government and discipline of the church (Mt. 16.18-19; 18.15-20; Jn. 20.23; 1 Cor. 5.1-13; Heb. 13.7, 17; 3 Jn. 9-10): but *not dwell* on ugly and unpleasant things. Why? Because *“The Lord is at hand”* (v. 5). Let us then rather *“[Delight ourselves in the Lord, and He will give us the desires of our hearts]”*.

Emergency Dollars/VOZ Subscriptions

We appreciate our faithful and diligent ministers and members [and friends of the church] who are so conscientious about their responsibilities and financial obligations. We encourage every member to pay their Emergency Dollars [\$12 per member per year], and to be a subscriber to our church paper, the *Voice of Zion* magazine [\$25.00 per year]. Also, we encourage as many as possible [“who have a willing heart”] to join *SYNC* [“Subscribe Your Neighbor Club”]. These “helps” in the church run on the calendar year---January 1st--December 31st. Remember the apostle’s words, *“But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing”* (Gal. 4.18).

Brethren, beloved, let us bear in mind always the apostle’s inspired admonition: *“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not”* (Gal. 6.9; 2 Thess. 3.13).

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

Presiding Bishop’s Annual Address 2018

Introduction, Sections I and II.....4-7, 15,16

Update from the Director of Education and Media Ministries.....8-9

Anton Burdette

Field Reports.....10-13



Editor in Chief/Publisher: Wade H. Phillips
Layout and Design: Marie Crook
Printer: Voice of Zion Publishing House,
Cleveland, TN

The *Voice of Zion* is the official publication of Zion Assembly Church of God. The purpose of the paper is to provide a channel through which the inspiration of the Spirit can flow to and from the field; to evangelize the lost; to disciple believers; to feed and nourish the church in the Word of God; to enhance fellowship between the members and ministers throughout the world.

Subscription Rate: \$25.00 per year.
Send subscription requests or materials for publication along with your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address to:

Voice of Zion,
P.O. Box 2398,
Cleveland TN 37320-2398
Telephone: 423-476-3337
zionchurch11@bellsouth.net

“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine . . .” Ex. 19.5

Presiding Bishop's Annual Address

delivered in the 15th Annual General Assembly on September 8, 2018

Note: *The Introduction and Sections I and II are featured in this issue; Section V was featured in the September issue of the paper; and Sections III, IV, and VI will appear in the March issue.*

Introduction

One of the primary aims in choosing “**Pressing Forward**” as the theme for this Assembly is to keep us mindful of the original charter for Zion Assembly; namely, to restore the distinct identity and prophetic vision of the church of the Bible; so that we, in turn, can fulfill her mission in the world. For we knew in April 2004 [even as we know now] that the authority of the church is tied to her prophetic identity: so much so that if her prophetic identity is lost or covered over by darkness, the authority of the church proportionately fades away into the same darkness. This darkness, in turn, engulfs the doctrine, government, discipline, and very life of the church. We have seen this scenario played out in church history on many occasions, both by examples in the Old Testament and in the early centuries of the New Testament church; and more recently in our own experience in our former fellowship.

On the other hand, when the church comes forth from the darkness by the power and glory of Christ, ***“and His glory [is seen upon Her]”*** (Is. 60.1-3), her authority also returns, commensurate with His evident glory, His *shekinah*; and in turn the doctrine, government, discipline and life of the church begin to be restored and reestablished.

It was with this understanding in mind that we tried to reason with our brethren in our former fellowship in the 1980s and right on up to 2004, warning and pleading with them, often in tears, to reconsider their thinking regarding the misguided ideas they were advocating and adopting, including the compromises and radical changes in regard to the church’s government, teachings, and discipline. But our pleas fell on deaf ears, for the leaders had hardened their hearts even against the very counsel of the Holy Spirit himself (cf. Acts 7.51; Gal. 3.1-3; Heb. 3.7-10; 2 Tim. 4.3).

But it should be pointed out that neither did many who joined Zion Assembly in April 2004 grasp the fundamental reasons for our actions at that time; and many since then have covenanted with us but have not been truly converted to our faith and the prophetic vision of the church. Even now many believe we reorganized merely to reestablish the biblical view of divorce and remarriage and plainness in dress and outward appearance and a few other doctrines and practices traditionally held sacred and considered important. As it turned out, we discovered that most within our tradition of the faith did not have a true “vision of the church”: that is, a sound understanding of the nature and principles of the church of the Bible. Comparatively few in fact have comprehended that the most serious casualties of the “falling away” that took place between 1980 and 2004 was the very government and authority of the church. For these attributes represent the very core of the church as Christ’s *ekklesia*---the “called out” and duly ordained assembly of God; which is authorized, gifted and empowered to evangelize the nations and to teach, govern, and discipline God’s people (Mt. 16.18-19; 18. 15-20; Mk. 13.34; Lu. 19-12-13, 17; Jn. 20.23; Acts 1.13-26; 6.1-7; 15.1-16.5; 1Cor. 5.1-13; et al). It was with this understanding of the word *ekklesia* in mind that Jesus declared, ***“Upon this rock I will build my [ekklesia].”*** Theocratic government and authority are therefore primary pillars of God’s church; the doctrine, discipline, ministry and mission of the church derive their authority, proper function, and effect from these two primary pillars. (See Section V for a further explanation of the term, *ekklesia*).

It is this prophetic vision of the church---a “vision” cast by the Old Testament prophets and Jesus and the apostles in the New Testament---that we have been laboring since 2004 to form in the minds and hearts of our people. This is no more or less than the very aim of the apostle Paul in his ministry in the New Testament, namely, to teach and encourage the saints to ***“continue in the faith, grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel”*** (Col. 1.23); indeed, it was the primary aim of the council

at Jerusalem in Acts 15; namely, that the *“decrees [dogmas]”* agreed upon in that sacred assembly (Acts 15.28), and *“ordained of the apostles and elders”* be circulated and delivered everywhere so that *“the churches were established in the faith”* (16.4-5). I don’t believe it is too much to say that we too, like the apostle Paul, have been *“travailing in birth”* until this vision of the church is born again in the hearts of our people; and they are truly converted to the faith, government, discipline, and global mission of the church.

A Right View of the church is vitally important

Our deep convictions about the “church message” are based on the prominence that Jesus and the apostles placed upon the church: for they taught that the Father sent the Son into the world to set His church in order, to purchase it with His own blood, and to proclaim His truth to the ends of the earth (Lu. 6.12-16; Jn. 17.1-26; Acts 20.28; Eph. 1.14). The church then, after all, is the Father’s mediator instrument to reconcile the world to Himself! (Jn. 17.3-26; 2 Cor. 3.1-6; 5.18-20; Eph. 1.3-6).

The church and *“the faith”* go together. The church’s authority, ministries, doctrine, and discipline are in fact indispensable gifts to govern and guide God’s people until they are united together into *“one fold”* and made *“rapture ready”* (Jn. 10.16; 17.20-23; Eph. 4.11-16; 5.26-32).

It is our purpose, therefore, to plant the seed of the church in the hearts and minds of believers throughout the world and to awaken in them an ecclesiological consciousness, that is, to create an awareness in them of the church of the Bible and its divine mission. For it is evident that comparatively few Christians today have given much serious thought to the nature and characteristics of the church as it is revealed in the Bible: the church we see so plainly operating in the Scriptures. This then is our peculiar burden in Zion Assembly. Others share with us a burden for the lost and many are zealous for basic evangelism, but few indeed have a biblical vision of the church and thus accordingly fail to understand that the vision of the church is connected with the fulfillment of the Great Commission: that the latter cannot be realized without the former. May the Lord help us, therefore, to be faithful stewards of this glorious message; and stir within us the zeal to carry it to the ends of the earth!

Section I

Who is He? . . . Who is She?

Jesus commissioned the church to go into all the world---to every nation---with a two-fold message:

primarily, the message of repentance to a lost world, and secondarily, the full Gospel message to fellow believers---that is, the *“all things whatsoever”* message that Jesus taught and commanded to be observed (Mt. 28.20). This two-fold message necessarily includes the government, authority, teachings, discipline, and mission of the Gospel church (cf. Mt. 4.4; 16.18-19; 18.17-18; Mk. 8.38; Jn. 14.26; 15.15; 16.12-15; 20.23; Acts 15.1-16.5; 20.27; Eph. 4.11-16; 1 Tim. 3.15; 2 Tim. 3.14-16).

This two-fold message may be seen in the apostle Paul’s concluding words to the church at Ephesus regarding the mystery of marriage (Eph. 5.22-32). After giving instructions to the husband and wife, he then compares the sacred union to Christ and the church, saying, *“This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church”*. Observe carefully his words *“Christ AND the church”*. The apostle thus makes it plain that our message and ministry is incomplete if it does not include the revelation of the church, the body of Christ, as well as the revelation of Christ himself. Let us then be faithful always to *“speak concerning Christ AND the church!”*

“Who is He?”

Two of the most important and intriguing questions ever presented to men were posed by Jesus. The first was put to the Pharisees: *“What think ye of Christ?”* (Mt. 22.41-46). The second

was put to His disciples: *“Whom do men say that I the Son of Man Am?”* (Mt. 16.13-19). It is difficult for us who are *born again* to imagine how puzzling these questions were when they were first asked: for indeed *“darkness [had covered] the earth, and gross [deep] darkness the people”* (Is. 60.2). The world was blinded by sin and Satan and thus *“comprehended not”* the glory and power of the Gospel in Christ (Jn. 1.5; 2 Cor. 4.4). The initial answer returned by the Pharisees shows that they had no special revelation of the deity of Jesus and His power to forgive sin and transform sinners into saints. Many assumed that He was no more than *“the carpenter’s son”* (Mt. 13.55); others that He was *“the son of David”*, that is, no more than a man and the natural heir to the throne of King David (Mt. 22.42). Others thought no more of Him than



the unbelieving Gentiles; some accusing Him of being *Beelzebub* (Gr. *Beelzebul*), the prince of demons who stood opposed to the true God (Mt. 10.25; 12.24; Lu. 11.15-19). Some even accused Him of being the vilest of blasphemers, passing Himself off as the Son of God to cover the fact that He was in their warped imagination born of fornication, born a bastard (cf. Jn. 8.31-44).

The majority today, including Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and cults like Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons believe Jesus was a good man, even a prophet, the messiah, or a guru: but they don't believe He is Almighty God and equal with the Father; nor that He is the *"only begotten Son"* of the Father.

Jesus' Profound Declaration

But God's true church believes and proclaims, like Peter, that He is *"the Son of the Living God"*; and, like Thomas, that He is in fact *"Lord"* and *"God"* (Jn. 20.28). In fact, these profound responses to Jesus' question--- *"Whom do men say that I the Son of Man Am?"* identify the very foundation upon which God's true church stands. The revelation of His deity is the *"rock"* upon which the church is built; it is the *"rock of revelatory confession"* (Mt. 16.15-18; 1 Cor. 1.1-24). Thus, Jesus' profound declaration, *"Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed this to thee, but My Father which is in heaven: and upon this rock I will build My church!"*

Jesus' further comment that the *"gates of hell shall not prevail against [the church]"* is the assurance that though the church may stumble, "fall away" and go into darkness, it will finally come forth in glory and power! His declaration is therefore a prophecy: a prophecy predicting the fall of the church and her resurrection and final triumph! The assurance that the *"gates of hell shall not prevail against [the church]"* does not necessarily, however, apply to all of us here right now in this Assembly; nor does it imply that once we are in grace that we will always remain in grace; in fact, it rather signifies that God from the beginning foresaw in His prescient mind all who would freely choose to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil by the grace of God, and endure in their faith and testimony to the end; for He foresaw *"from the foundation of the world"* all who would of their own freewill faithfully endure and be presented to Christ *"without spot, or wrinkle, or any such*

thing" (Mt. 24.12-14; Eph. 1.3-14; 5.27; Rom. 8.28; 2 Thess. 2.13-14; 2 Tim. 1.9-12). Therefore, He foreordained [predestinated] men's destinies from eternity on the ground of His foreknowledge, not vice versa as the Calvinists teach; that is, He did not foreknow because He had decreed or foreordained, rather He foreordained or decreed because He foreknew from eternity who would believe in Him and obey and serve Him to the end (Mt. 24.13-14; 1 Pet. 1.13-25; 2 Pet. 1.5-11; Rev. 22.17). It is thus that we sing, "Will you be among the Bride, or will you not" (cf. "When the Church of God Arises", *Glorious Hymns*, p. 528).

Obviously then, the church is of utmost importance not only for the government and discipline [the perfection] of God's people but as the special instrument to fulfill God's primary plan for redemption---to evangelize the unsaved!

"Who is She?"

It is appropriate to ask, therefore, not only *"Who is He?"* but *"Who is she?"* Thus, the prophet:

"Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?" (Song 6.10), and again, *"Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved?"* (8.5). For the church is united together not only in Christ's person (Jn. 15.1-7; 17.20-23; 2 Cor. 5.17) but yoked with Him in ministry and mission (Mt. 11.29-30; 28.18-20; Eph. 4.1-16).

Just as sinners need to know who the Bridegroom is, so Christians caught in the chaos of denominationalism and independency need to know who and what the church is. As the saints under the Old Covenant wandered and were scattered upon every mountain and hill, so God's people today have *"wandered . . . [and been] scattered upon all the face of the earth"* (Ezek. 34.6; see also Jer. 10.21; 23.2-5; 30.1; 31.10; Ezek. 11.16-17; 34.12; Jn. 10.16; 17.20-23; Eph. 2.11-22; 3.6; et al.) They must be taught that Christ has a *"fold"*, a *"building"*, a *"house"*, a *"city"*, a *"garner"*, a *"storehouse"*, a *"restingplace"* to unite together His scattered people in one *"holy nation"*, one visible *body of Christ!*

The church is thus a *"a peculiar people"*, a special corporation of believers distinguished from all other peoples in the earth (Ex. 19.5-8; Deut. 4.20; 7.6; 14.2, 21; 26.18; 1 Kg. 8.53; Ps. 135.4; Titus 2.14; 1 Pet. 2.9; et al.). Certainly, God's church is not just another run-of-the-mill

denomination or independent ministry man-handled to suit the whims and greed and pride of men.

The myth of an invisible, mystical body of Christ is plainly exposed by the revelation of the church in the Bible; for everywhere in the narratives of the Scriptures, the church is shown to be a body of believers visibly connected and operating under one government and discipline, and laboring together to fulfill the same global mission. Further, the glorious end-time prophecies of the church depict her always as a “bride” foreordained to be exalted to heaven and presented to Christ **“arrayed in fine linen, clean and white”**. Thus, the prophetic benediction by that heavenly multitude in the Apocalypse, **“Blessed are they which are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb”** (Rev. 19.7-9).

God’s church looks different, acts different, walks different, and thinks different from common peoples and common churches in the world. She is special, peculiar! **“Ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto Me above all people [nations] . . . that are upon the face of the earth”** (Ex. 19.5; Deut. 7.6; 14.2). See, just as Christ is a special treasure unto us (Mt. 13.44-45) so, she is a special treasure [inheritance/possession] to Him! **“That we should be to the praise of His glory . . .”** (Eph. 1.12-14)

She is endowed with supernatural Gifts and Abilities

The church is transformed by God’s grace and power into a holy vessel. She is often caught up into glory and **“made [to] sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus!”** (Eph. 1.3-4; 2.6). Eternity and Heaven are in her soul! She is presently being changed **“from glory to glory”** into the glorious image of Christ (2 Cor. 3.18). As such, she is in spiritual union with Him: and, in that state of spirituality and disciplined consecration, she is **“unmovable”** and **“inseparable”** from Him (Jn. 10.27-29; Rom. 8.35-39; 1 Cor. 15.58; Jude 19-24).

The intimate Union between Christ and the Church

The church is exalted in the prophetic Scriptures. The prophet Isaiah was moved by a vision of the church and wrote under the inspiration of the Spirit, saying,

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow into it” (Is. 2.2).

How could the church not be exalted? in view of her glorious union with Christ, being betrothed to Him as His bride and body---**“flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone”!** And in view of the prophecies that depict her

exaltation in glory (Eph. 5.27; Rev. 19.7-9; 21.2-3, 9-11). The members’ intimate union with Christ and with one another exalts the church **“above all people”** on the face of the earth (Ex. 19.5; Deut. 7.6; 14.2; Ps. 135.4; Jn. 17.6-26). She is a **“holy nation”** set apart from all other nations in the world! Now observe; the church is depicted throughout the Scriptures as the very counterpart of Christ. This point cannot be overemphasized, for the ascended Christ, who now occupies the heavenly throne with the Father in glory, works His perfect will on earth through the Holy Ghost and the instrumentality of His church (Mk. 13.34; 2 Cor. 3. 2-3; 5.18-20). It is true that Christ is the source of the church’s energy and strength, but, at the same time, she is His body---His hands, feet, eyes, ears, and vocal cords (Rom. 12.4-13; 1 Cor. 12-31; Eph. 4.4-16). Christ and the church are **“laborers together”**, and the ministers and members are **“joint-heirs with Christ”**, and will soon be **“glorified together”** with Him in the Rapture (Jn. 14.1-3; 17.24-25; Rom. 8.17; 1 Thess. 4.17-18).

We have elsewhere spoken and written of the almost endless metaphors, symbolic titles, types, and comparisons that depict the profound union between Christ and the church. The church is in fact revealed as the very counterpart of Christ: for example, Bridegroom/bride; Shepherd/fold; King/queen; Prince of Peace/city of peace; Adam/Eve; Isaac/Rebecca; Boaz/Ruth, etc. (For a more exhaustive list of comparisons, see Annual Address, 13th General Assembly, *Assembly Minutes*, 2016, pp. 60-61)

The church is often depicted in identical terms with Christ to more explicitly show their intimate covenant union. Thus, He is a Jew and part Gentile, she is Jewish and part Gentile; He is the Light, she is the Light; He is the Seed, she is the seed [Gal. 3.16, 29; Rev.12.13-17]; He is the Lamb, she is the sheep; He has Dove’s eyes, she is His undefiled Dove; He is “all fair”, she is “all fair”; He is the Temple, she is the Temple; He is a Living Stone, she is ‘Lively Stones’ [1 Pet. 2.4-5]; He is the Arm of the Lord, she is the Arm of the Lord; He is Salvation, she is Salvation [Is. 49.4-6]; He is the Messenger, she is the messenger; He is the Voice, she is the voice [Rev. 18.23; Jer. 7.34; 16.9]; He is exalted, she is exalted; He reigns, she reigns; He judges, she judges [1 Cor. 5.12-13; 6.1-3]; He embodies God [Col. 2.9], she embodies God [1 Cor. 6.19-20; 2 Cor. 3.3]; He is crucified, she is crucified [Rom. 6.6; Gal. 2.20; 5.24; 66.14]; He is resurrected, she is resurrected [Rom. 6.4-5; Col. 3.1]; He ascended, and so she will ascend! [1 Thess. 4.16-17]; indeed, even now we are **“made to sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus!”** [Eph. 1.3; 2.6]

See how profound our union with Christ is, that it is depicted in the intimacy of marriage! Just as **“Adam knew his wife”** so Christ and the church intimately know each other! We share the throne of God together as a king and queen in the Kingdom of God (Ps. 45.9-15). And we are laborers together with God! Thus, we are said to be

Update From the Director of Education and Media Ministries



“Go . . . Teach [Disciple] All Nations”
---Jesus

Anton Burnette

Director of Education and Media Ministries

As we look upon the world’s landscape, there is much uncertainty and upheaval. But nevertheless, the mission of God’s church remains the same, “*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.*” We are instructed to teach the nations to observe all that Christ has commanded. Zion Assembly is uniquely set apart to fulfill her prophetic destiny in the world. To accomplish the great commission, we must use all that we have at our disposal.

At our International Ministries Complex in Cleveland, we are working daily to accomplish this grand goal. God has positioned workers within the church who labor tirelessly to reach the lost with the Gospel and to reach other Christians with the vision of the church. The following is an update of some of the progress we have made since the General Assembly in September 2018.

Bible College Update

Zion Assembly Bible College and Seminary is beginning to take applications and launching this month our first online course. This is a pre-launch of the college, meaning that we are starting the work of educating ministers, members and other believers on the most pressing issues of our day. Our first course is *The Bible Church*, based on the book by the same name by our Presiding Bishop. I will be the instructor, and the course is available completely online. The course consists of the following:

- Video lectures
- Assigned readings
- Discussion
- Written assignments based on the reading and the student’s own research
- Quizzes and examinations

The workload of the course is similar to the academic rigor of an Associate Degree level course.

We are granting academic credit for the course towards future degree plans. These plans will be announced once we settle finally on academic and accrediting qualifications. The course, *The Bible Church*, will give us the opportunity to test our online system and gauge student response.

We are in the formation stages of the formal launch of our Bible college. We are making each decision methodical and thoughtfully toward making a profound impact on the world through this institution of the church. We are researching and starting the process of getting authorized by the state of Tennessee to grant degrees and looking into all accreditation options. We are building the technological infrastructure to be able to effectively instruct students globally and on campus in Cleveland.

We have waived all application fees and have reduced the introductory fee for this course.

Go to zionassemblybiblecollege.com for details.

Media Updates

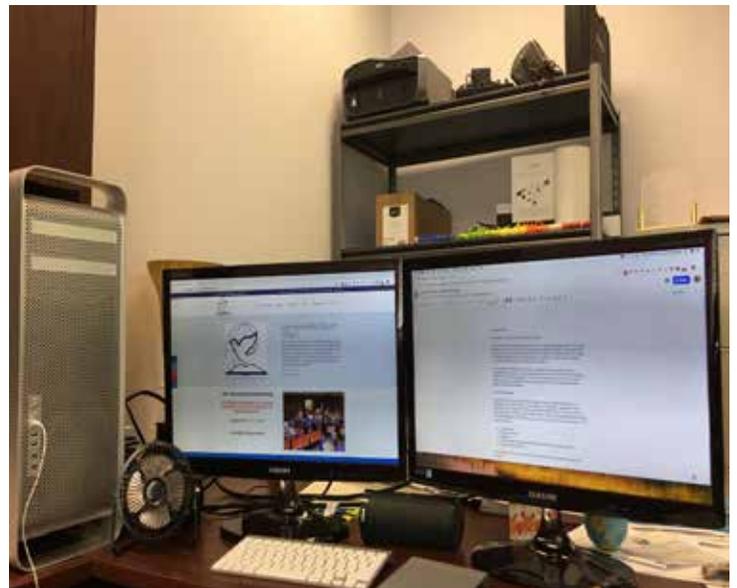
We have updated our streaming hardware and software. This will allow us to have an improved presentation for all events that we stream online including the General Assembly. We plan on having several streaming events throughout the year. We also will be able to stream to several sites at once (including Youtube, Facebook and Vimeo), making it easier for viewers to watch and share.

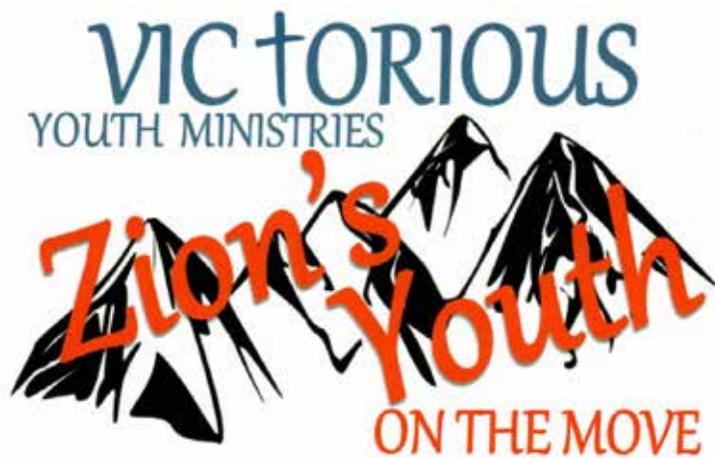
We have been reviewing our video archives at headquarters and plan to start publishing powerful sermons and events from our history. These will be available free of charge to viewers online.

We will be implementing a more robust online and mobile offering system making it easier to give online. This will make it easier for you to contribute.

The *Voice of Zion* is going to be available online and you will be able to sign up to receive an e-version to your email that you can share with others by email and social media. Subscribers, however, will still receive their hard copy of the *Voice of Zion* in the mail.

As you can see, we have ambitious goals for the church. These goals are based on our desire to fulfill the divine commission given by Christ to His church. We are living in one of the most exciting times of Christian history. The church will emerge victoriously over every foe and will be presented to Christ without spot or wrinkle. She will disciple the nations and see the other sheep (kingdom Christians) come together into one-fold. God's people will be one; for Jesus prayed for it! The church will accomplish her prophetic destiny. You can be part of it. Stand with us as a member and supporter of these noble aims and prophetic destinies.





ARGENTINA

NATIONAL YOUTH CONVENTION

Argentina National Youth Convention was held on December 8-9, 2019/. The theme was, "I will show the path of life", taken from Psalm 16.11 *"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."* Said convention was held in the city of Centenario, Province of Neuquen, at a school where we were given a place to enjoy this spiritual feast. Taking advantage of the space provided, we turned this convention into a retreat for young people and families. Those who attended came from the cities and villages of Zapala City, Cinco Saltos,

Tricao Malal, and Centenario. A total of 42 people attended of which 25 were youth.



On Saturday, we started with a set of presentations in which we played guessing games to allow us to learn each other's names and a little about each other. Bible Games were planned for the afternoon and rewards were given to each participant. During the evening service we enjoyed



the worship and the message preached by the pastor of Zapala. In the service the brethren reported how many participants had registered in the retreat and then two more families came in. After the service we were all singing along with praise choruses.



The Sunday morning service started at 10 am. It was a service of great blessings, the Holy Spirit manifested himself in a powerful way in young people and adults. Although this event was directed toward young people many marriages were strengthened. The national overseer presented the Certificate of Ministry to Brother Carlos Cortes, and together with the congregation the Ministers present cried out for God's blessing.

The Sunday morning service started at 10 am. It was a service of great blessings, the Holy Spirit manifested himself in a powerful way in young people and adults. Although this event was directed toward young people many marriages were strengthened. The national overseer presented the Certificate of Ministry to Brother Carlos Cortes, and together with the congregation the Ministers present cried out for God's blessing.

Noemi Alarcon, *reporter*
Argentina National Youth Secretary

Nicaragua

Bishop Freddy Garcia is another one of our talented and faithful overseers; he goes about like Jesus, “doing good and healing [those] who oppressed by the devil”. He has a faithful staff of workers [shown in the picture below], who are steadily making progress in this beautiful Central American nation.



Celebration of the Children's Ministry



Meeting with the Ministers and Board of Directors. New Year's Eve



Report of Memory Jandura

Note: The Mission Department provided the means for Sister Jandura, from Zimbabwe, to attend the convention in Tanzania in November 2018. She traveled by bus five days there and five days back home.

Dear Servants of God and International Staff:

Greetings to you in the name of Almighty God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ!

I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks to the Lord for what He did for us recently in the meeting in Tanzania. Surely the Lord is good and His mercies endure forever! The convention was wonderful, for which we give God all the glory.

Thank God for the International offices and Bishop Wade H. Phillips and all the great men and women of God who are praying and standing with us in the mission fields; particularly in helping us to bring people to salvation and sending servants to us from headquarters to give support and minister to us.

Thank you for sending our precious brother and great man of God, Brother Daron Miller, to us in Africa. It really was God's plan for him to be with us. He has real compassion and commitment for souls in Africa and the Lord used him to deliver the Word of God to us in season. He preached sound doctrine and uplifting messages and gave us good counsel through the Holy Spirit. Glory to God in the highest!

May God bless you, Bishop Phillips and the international staff, for supporting us financially and in prayer. Our great God is loving and great! He does what no man can do; His work is perfect and in order; He is faithful and just. He is glorious in holiness. Hallelujah!

May God bless Bishop David Gomba, the overseer of Tanzania and mission representative for Zimbabwe: for his great love and commitment to build all the Zion Assembly churches that he has in Tanzania. Everything that I witnessed in Tanzania, including the love and order of Bishop Gomba's family, the order of the convention and the pastors and leaders and ministry were inspiring. May God be praised forever! I learned a lot about the Lord and the church and servanthood by observing Brother Gomba in his role as overseer and pastor. He is filled with the love of God; is hospitable, caring and servant to all. He manifestly has Jesus Christ and the care His people in his heart.

Again, thank you for sending Brother Miller and providing support for me to experience this glorious meeting in Tanzania. This country is far away from my home in Zimbabwe. It took me 5 days by bus to reach there. The journey was so long and difficult. But by God's grace and encouragement from Brother Miller, I made it. The Lord covered and protected me all the way---to and fro! May the Lord be praised forever and all of our people in Zion Assembly everywhere be blessed and uplifted. May the Lord help us to fulfill our mission in the world---to all nations and provide for all of our needs in the name of Jesus Christ Hallelujah!

Sincerely in His service,
Memory D. Jandura
Church Minister, Zimbabwe.

Malawi/Mozambique

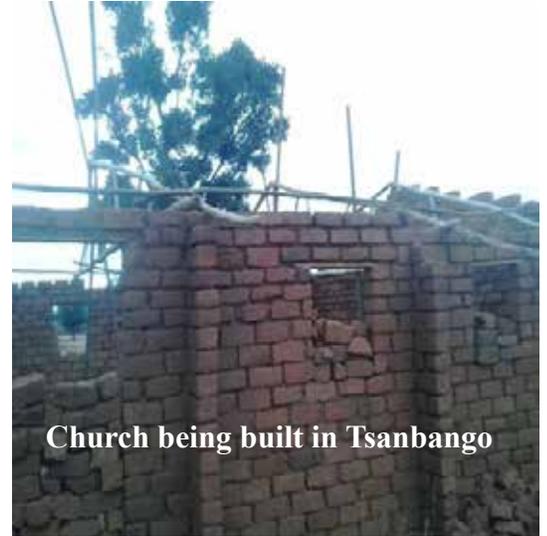
Report from Overseer Dzuwa

We appreciate the fine work that so many of our national overseers, mission representatives, pastors and field workers are doing around the world. Bishop Maliele Dzuwa [overseer in the Southeast African nations of Malawi and Mozambique] and the brethren who labor with him in the Gospel are typical. Brother Maliele reports that Zion Assembly now has 102 churches in Malawi and 42 in Mozambique, and the work is strong and settled. Praise the Lord!

Brother Maliele sends greetings to the brethren here in the United States, wishes to convey thanks for all the material assistance he has received and for the prayers for the work in Malawi and Mozambique. Especially he is grateful to all who have prayed for his wife in recent weeks. She has been stricken with a sickness and not yet fully recovered.



General Conference in 2019.



Church being built in Tsanbango



Church in Nathenje



Church Convention at Dedza District. Door to door services.



Children in the church at Tsanbango. They came to sing as a choir



Bishop Dzuwa preaching at the Dedza District Convention

Continued from p. 7

His salvation to the ends of the earth! (Is. 49.1-6). We are the Light of the World. We bring conviction and do the convincing of sin through anointed proclamation of the Gospel! (Jn. 16.7-9). We convert and save sinners [Jas. 5.19-20]; we heal the sick [Mt. 10.8; Jas. 5.14-16]. But you say we are only human. Well, Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are [that is, he was human], but **“he prayed . . .”** That’s the whole point: when the Holy Ghost indwells a believer and the anointing is upon him, he becomes more than human. Don’t say, therefore, well, we are only human: for God uses humans to do supernatural things! We have been divinely commissioned and empowered to **“heal the sick, cleanse lepers, raise the dead, and cast out devils!”** (Mt. 10.8). Jesus said, **“. . . and nothing shall be impossible to you!”** (Mt. 17.20; Lu. 1.37). For if you have faith, you can **“say to this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done [or will come to pass]”** (Mt. 17.20; 21.21). I like the translation that says, **“Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall [move]!”** Move mountains! Kill giants! Raise the dead!

The Prophetic Vision

This then is what we call the “vision” of the church. And how thrilling it is! For it is a prophetic vision which God moved upon holy men of old to write down in Scripture. The whole glorious revelation of Christ and the church is now **“made known to us”** (Eph. 1.9): and we are called and commissioned to go to every nation on earth to proclaim and teach it, and to disciple believers in the **“all things whatsoever”** that Christ commanded, which includes laboring to reconcile all of God’s people in one, visible body of Christ (Jn. 10.16; 11.49-25; 17.20-23; (2 Cor. 5.18-20; Eph. 1.10; 2.11-19; 4.4-6, 11-15; see also Is. 60.1-5; et al).

Section II

Pressing Forward in the Holy Ghost

It seems we are now poised by God’s gracious providences to surge ahead in the coming months and years. The Holy Ghost has blest and prospered the church and positioned us in recent years to ride the swell of the great waves of God’s glory onto the shores of Beulah Land. Anticipating this mighty move forward, the prophet wrote,

“Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord. Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thy habitations: spare not,

lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles and make the desolate cities to be inhabited” (Is. 54.1-3).

We are further encouraged by the inspired utterance of the apostle Paul, in which he prophesied that the forward advance of the church will proceed until **“. . . we all, with open face beholding as in a glass [mirror] the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord”** (2 Cor. 3.18).

It is because we are now on the precipice of glorious prophetic fulfillments that we might well expect strong resistance from our archenemy and the demonic forces under his authority and direction (Eph. 6.10-12). Certainly, we should expect no less than what Nehemiah experienced in his day, and Daniel in his, as well as other prophetic restoration movements ordained by the Lord. These prophets were opposed mightily by demonic forces couched in political and religious agendas and crafty schemes for filthy lucre and positional power. We must fix our minds and stir ourselves to go forward against all resistance in the forms of slander and false accusations, the spirit of discouragement, and all manner of tricks and wicked designs of the enemy. For we are forewarned in the prophetic Word that in these last days we will be greatly tried and tested by the spirit of antichrist; yet, praise the Lord! we are assured in the same breath of prophecy, **“But the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits. And those of the people who understand shall instruct many”** (Dan. 11.31-33).

The very idea of “pressing” denotes opposition. We are pressing against something; namely,

- 1) Sinful forces in high places; 2) Ignorance/poverty; 3) Darkness/human oppression/depression; 4) Religious, social, political chaos/antichrist; 5) Lukewarmness/discouragement/indifference; 6) Evil [sickness/death/war/pestilences]; 7) Demonic forces

Yet despite all resistance and opposition, we are in the same prophetic breath assured by Jesus of a special empowerment by the Holy Ghost to enable us **“to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy”** (Lu. 10.19). As we engage ourselves in battle, we can surely depend on God’s glorious power to surge through our souls enabling us to overcome Satan and his demonic hordes.

It was so with the prophet Daniel: that when he fell into a trance and received that “great vision” from the Lord, and became drained of his natural strength, having fasted for many days, and laying prostrate on his face: that suddenly he felt **“an hand [touch him], which set [him]**

upon [his] knees and the palms of [his] hands.” Then the angel of the Lord (perhaps the preincarnate Lord himself) said, **“Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words [I have heard your prayers]”** (Dan. 10.10-12). At that moment, the Lord dispatched Michael, one of the archangels and head of His angelic army, to rebuke the powers of hell and rescue His prophet and encourage His people to go forward in the restoration of the church, the city of God, to fulfill her mission in the world (vv. 13-21).

This is precisely what it will take for Zion Assembly to succeed tjb oday, namely, the Holy Ghost and a holy determination in our ministers and people to **“fight the good fight of faith!”** The Psalmist prophesied, **“Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power”** (Ps. 110.3). And Jesus said, **“The violent [will take the kingdom of God by force]”** (Mt. 11.12).

Recall His encouraging words, that as we **“Go”** at His command to evangelize the nations, He promises, **“And lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the world!”** (Mt. 28.20)

How many times do we read in the book of Judges **“Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon him”** or a similar phrase. It was true with Othniel, Gideon, and Jephthah. On more than one occasion it was said of Samson that **“the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him”** enabling him to slay lions, slaughter Philistines, tear down the great entrance gate into the pagan city of Gaza, bar and all; and later in his dying moment pulled down the temple of Dagon with his bare hands. It was the same with David against a bear, a lion, and Goliath---**“the Spirit of the Lord came upon him”**.

Be assured brethren, when the quickening power of the Holy Ghost comes upon you, at that moment you become more than human: for you are under the anointing of the Holy Ghost and empowered with supernatural energy: and endowed with spiritual gifts and graces. Under the anointing of the Spirit, you transcend human limitations. You become invincible, unmovable, unconquerable!

Never lose sight, brethren, of the prophetic vision---**“Write the vision, make it plain”** for God’s church is going somewhere. We are Zion on the Move! God has given us assurances, and we have great expectations of glorious things ahead.

We are making plans for a harvest of souls and expect a great inflow of **“other sheep”** into the fold. For God has promised it! Yes, there is a **“set time”**,

prophetically, that His sheep will hear His voice, and He, with our assistance, will bring them into the fold (Jn. 10.16; and cp. Ps. 102.13; see also Gen. 17.21; 21.2; Ex. 9.5; Job 14.13). We are **“laborers together with God”** to evangelize the world and bring together His people into one body of Christ. In fact, the church, His body, serves as His vocal cords and His hands and feet to do His work in this world (1 Cor. 12.12-31).

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace . . . [and] salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth” (Is. 52.7).

We are going into places with the Good News of forgiveness and deliverance: places where there are no churches . . . where the people are in sin and darkness

and many are possessed with demons. We must be empowered, convinced of our message and mission, committed, determined, excited and exuberant with a contagious enthusiasm for our God and His church.

The apostle Paul quotes the prophet Isaiah’s words, **“How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and**

bring glad tidings of good things” (Rom. 10.15). Feet in and of themselves are not beautiful. In fact, feet don’t preach. But the feet of preachers are beautiful because they take the messengers to the mountains and hills and valleys to proclaim the Good News. Their feet are beautiful because they are anointed! Feet don’t preach but they carry the preachers to the cities and nations so they can preach. That’s the meaning of beautiful feet. Neither are preachers beautiful in and of themselves, but as messengers and angels of the Lord they are beautiful: for they bring with them the beautiful message of salvation!

The Conquering Spirit

Finally, brethren, recall the courage and vision of Joshua and Caleb, the two faithful witnesses in the **“church in the wilderness”**. When others were reluctant to go forward and were overcome with a spirit of fear because of the appearance of “giants” in the land, these two anointed leaders had “another spirit”, a courageous, conquering spirit. Caleb said, **“Let us go up at once and possess [the land]; for we are well able to overcome it”** (Numb. 13.30-31). God give us an army of men like Joshua and Caleb!



Voice of Zion
P.O. Box 2398
Cleveland, TN 37320-2398

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 5
CLEVELAND TN

Upcoming Events

Ladies Retreat

March 1-3

Black Fox Lodge, Pigeon Forge TN

School of Ministry

California

April 7-12

Cleveland

May 5-17