



March 2018

Vision for World Outreach

*“Lift up thine eyes round about,
and see ... The abundance of the
sea shall be converted unto thee,
the forces of the Gentiles shall
come unto thee (Is. 60. 4-5).”*

*“In the vast plain to the north I have sometimes seen, in the
morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages where no
missionary has ever been.”*

---Robert Moffat

*“The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get
to Him the more intensely missionary we become.”*

---Henry Martyn

missionary

The Apostle Paul and World Missions



Wade H. Phillips
Presiding Bishop

The apostle Paul was undoubtedly the greatest missionary in history, saving for our blessed Lord himself. His three missionary journeys are in many respects unparalleled in Christian history, particularly regarding the initial growth and establishment of the church universally. He was indeed a “*chosen vessel*” of the Lord and, as such, suffered a great deal for the Gospel’s sake, and for the church in particular. In fact, his work included a special role “*to make all men see the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world [had] been hid in God . . .*” (Eph. 3.1-9)---a fellowship which is anchored in a special way in the Lord’s Zion, the church of the Bible.

Paul did not shrink from his special calling, nor from engaging in the great work that was laid out for him. After having confessed in sincere humility that he was nothing (1 Cor. 3.5-7), he nevertheless realized his special calling and revelation of God’s eternal plan: “*According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder I have laid the foundation and another builds thereon.*” Then he solemnly warns all ministers and believers to “*take heed how [we build] thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ*” (vv. 10-11). And he further warns, “*Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is*” (v. 13).

As we set our hands to labor together in this **March World Mission Drive**, let us recall these words of wisdom and admonishment from the great missionary apostle; and be reminded of our special calling and commitment in Zion Assembly: namely, that we are building not just another denomination or mundane religious institution; we are not “playing church” nor taking our calling and missionary task lightly. Indeed, we feel the weight of our calling and responsibility which the Lord has laid upon us. For Zion Assembly has been raised up by the Lord to restore His house and to labor together with the Lord until the church is perfected and our divine commission has been fulfilled (Eph. 4.11-16; 5.27; Col. 1.28; Rev. 19.7-8).

We never become weary of praising our pastors and mission workers for their labors of love to support and fund our global mission outreach. The 40,000 souls that have been saved in Zion Assembly since 2004, and the almost 100,000 members that have been added to the church, go to the account of our pastors and faithful members. These precious souls are the fruit of your labors, and the Lord has the record!

With the apostle Paul I can say without reservation, in regard to our people and the principles of sacrificial labor and liberal giving:

“ . . . brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed upon the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; Praying us with much entreaty that would receive the gift and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God” (2 Cor. 8.1-5).

Ladies’ Retreats

We have received **glowing reports on the Ladies Retreats** held in southern California and Pigeon Forge, Tennessee in February. Almost **two hundred attended** these inspirational meetings. These retreats were planned and moderated by international director, Donna Pounders, with the assistance of some faithful and dedicated co-workers. A full report of these meetings will be featured in the next issue of the paper.

In This Issue . . .

The Lord and His Work	4,15
<i>Anton Burnette</i>	
The Future of the Church	5
<i>Byron Harris</i>	
“Breaking Forth” in California South	6
<i>Joseph Steele</i>	
A ‘Treasure’ from Childhood	7
<i>Alice Jones</i>	
World Missions Outreach	8-9
Excited About Worship	10,15
<i>Kim Erwin</i>	
Tribute to Bishop Charles Fields	11,15
School of Ministry Application Form	13
Bishop and Mrs. Wade Phillips 50th Wedding Anniversary	14



Editor in Chief/Publisher: Wade H. Phillips
Layout and Design: Marie Crook
Printer: Voice of Zion Publishing Company,
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
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“And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following” (Mk. 16.20).

Excited about . . .

the Lord and His Work

Anton Burnette

Director of Education/Media Ministries

This is our day. These are our times. We are living in the greatest time in history. We are witnessing the fulfillment of biblical prophecy. We are seeing the Bride making herself ready. *“That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish”* (Eph. 5.27). Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, will soon return for His bride. But prior to this great event, we will see the church fulfill every prophecy written about her.

I love to read about Christian history. I love to read about the great revivals of the past. I love to hear about the triumphant activities of the last day’s church growing from a small group in the Appalachian Mountains to an international force. While I love to study these things, I do not desire to go back to those times. There is no better time to be a Christian than now. There is no better time to be a member of God’s church. We learn from the past and from our forefathers in the faith; but we look towards the glorious future of the church with more excitement.

I am excited about the Lord Jesus Christ. He is my Savior. He is my Sanctifier. He filled me with the Holy Ghost. At the age of 15, I knew I wanted to live my life for Him. I quickly went to work in the ministry with the goal of preaching His Word.

But after years of trying to do a work for God in the independent ministry world, I found myself disappointed and unfulfilled. I knew that something was not right. I knew that there had to be more. Although many people were declaring that to be outside of church government was freedom, I found it to be a prison---a prison that kept me from my full potential.

The Bible is right and everybody else is wrong. I knew the Bible was right, but I found that I was wrong. The organizations (and “un-organizations”) of which I had been a part, I finally realized could not be found in the Bible. The denominations that filled the landscape around me could not be found in the Bible. If you are going to take the Word of God as your guide, then you must deal with the church of the Bible. You must locate the corporate, theocratic, physical church of which Jesus Christ is the head---the church that upholds the Bible as its guide and lawbook.

A Christian cannot reach full potential on his own. Christianity offers salvation to individuals: but it is not the intention of God for a Christian to remain incongruous and detached. God desires for His people to become collectively and visibly one. Jesus prayed in

John 17, *“That they [believers] all may be one,”* and His prayer is being fulfilled. We may be sure that ultimately Christians from around the world will recognize the truth and divine government and discipline of His true church and covenant themselves to be part of His body.

A minister cannot reach his full potential in a man-made organization. This is not to say, of course, that there are not many good, sincere Christians in thousands of different ministries and local congregations in the world. They are however what may be called “kingdom saints” or “other sheep” while still on the outside God’s visible church, His divine government. Thus, we do not call into question their salvation, only the fact that they have not covenanted with the church of the Bible, and come under its authority, doctrine, and discipline. With earnestness and excitement, therefore, we encourage and admonish these believers to come out of denominationalism and independent ministries and unite with the church of the Bible.

Only as a member of God’s church can one reach his full potential spiritually and doctrinally. You must develop a “church consciousness” so your experience in the Kingdom of God may reach its full potential and divine purpose---namely, to guide and lead you to be incorporated into and assimilated in the visible church.

Now is the most exciting time of my ministry: because I’m no longer focused on me but on the proclamation of salvation to the lost and discipling believers into the full revelation of the Bible church and its government and disciple (Mt. 28.19-20; Col. 1.25-28). No longer am I trying to build up the work of one man, or any man, including myself; rather I am busy doing God’s work. I am building on the foundation that was laid before me---two thousand years ago (1 Cor. 3.9-10; Eph. 2.20). I am building the same building that Christ is building (Mt. 16.18-19; 1 Cor. 3.9-11). I am part of His church and His ministry.

We need to worship and labor in our local congregations with excitement. We need to be excited about the opportunity that God has given to us to serve, to give, to sing, to shout, and to share the glorious Gospel of our Lord. We should be excited because we have the two keys that will allow us to reach our full potential as Christians and as church members, ministers, husbands, fathers, wives, and mothers. These two keys are *purpose* and *opportunity*. We are excited because we have found our most profound purpose in the church, namely, to love the Lord *“with all*

Excited about . . .

the Future of the Church

Byron Harris

Pastor, Columbus, MS

“Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined” (Ps. 50.2).

The psalmist David here is not referring to something abstract or a mere ideal, but a spiritual fact. *“Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shall shine”*; in other words, the perfection of God’s beauty and glory will shine out from **ZION**. Praise the Lord! No better time to be a part of God’s glorious church than now: for her future is full of glistening brightness, and we are moving toward that glory. Not only is the church beautiful now in many respects, but she will be finally the very *“perfection of beauty”*. She will soon be *“a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but . . . holy and without blemish”* (Eph. 5.27). She will be in the words of Solomon: *“Fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners”* (S.S. 6.10).

God’s church will be complete, sanctified, and shining clear as the sun. For she is a city that has been placed on a high mountain for all the world to see (Mt. 5.14; Rev. 21.9-10). Isaiah describes it this way, *“And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together; they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side”* (Is. 60.3-5). God’s church will be a beautiful and bright and shining institution, so much so that people will come from great distances to see her and to be a part of her--- *“the city of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One”* (v. 14). Indeed, *“The abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee”* (v. 5).

It’s right in front of us church---just ahead. Alcoholics, drug addicts, murderers, thieves, and atheist will come to Zion and be transformed by the power of God. Times of greater revivals, manifestations of the Holy Ghost and power are just ahead. There will be revivals and Holy Ghost-filled meetings like the world has never witnessed. Church, now is the time. No better time to be in God’s church and a part of His divine plan as it unfolds toward its perfection.

But church we cannot wait for all these glorious things just to fall in our lap. We cannot wait for someone else to get the job done. It’s time for all of us to arise out of the ashes of this present world and shine with a radiant glow from heaven. *“Lord draw us to the mountain like You did Moses and let Your glory shine in the skin of our faces like You did his. God illuminate Your church and Your people with Your holy zeal and fire like as has never been seen before. Church, let’s go to the mountain like the apostle John to see “the bride, the Lamb’s wife”* (Rev. 21.9-10). Then people will say of us in these last days, as the Pharisees said of the Lord’s disciples in the New Testament, *“we perceive*

these men have been with Jesus.” Surely, we want to have such holy fire and zeal that the world around us will know that we have been in the presence of God.

In the opening pages of the *Last Great Conflict*, A.J. Tomlinson wrote,

“It is time for the true and noble soldiers to take a bolder stand. ‘Press the battle’ as a slogan or war-cry should be taken up by every lover of truth and echoed and re-echoed over every plain and hilltop until those who have had a tendency to compromise healing, tongues, the gifts of the Spirit etc. will become ashamed, ask forgiveness of their Captain, raise the red flag of war and rush into the battle with a holy zeal such as no people of past history have ever manifested.”

Praise God! It’s time to rush into the battlefield, with our banners raised high, and claim the victory in the name of Jesus! Caleb told Joshua, *“Now give me this mountain”*. In other words, ‘I can’t wait any longer, I want my inheritance NOW. I am ready to go and get it. God let that holy zeal and fire that consumed Caleb again burn deep within our souls. Caleb said, ‘I am as strong now as I was back then. I’m going to take what God has promised me’.

Saints, the world is waiting on us. Church, now is the time: it’s *“high time!”* The world is ripe for the taking. Look around, the fields are ready to be harvested. Gross darkness is covering our nation and the world; but God’s church has the light. Don’t hide your light under a bushel where it cannot be seen; put it on a candlestick so that all who are in the house will have light. God’s light will penetrate this dark and dying world. *“If God be for us, who can be against us”*. With God all things are possible. Praise God!

In the General Assembly in 1923, Brother Tomlinson said, “I stand for the Church of God just as I have taught it for years which most of you know. There is no compromise, no let down, no weakening to gain the favor of men”. In the midst of the troubles in the church in 1922-1923 that ended in a reproachful disruption, Brother Tomlinson was not about to give in or give up. He wanted his mountain. He wanted to see God’s church high and lifted-up for the world to see. He desired to see God’s government established here on earth, even if he had to lead the way on his own. *“A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in his time”* (Is. 60.22). Great and glorious things are indeed ahead for God’s church!



Excited about . . .

“Breaking Forth” in California South

Joseph Steele

Overseer, California South

There is no question in my heart that the time is here for God’s church to break out on every side in all places, not only where the church has already been planted: but in every nation and every city in the world. We live in a hungry and parched world that is waiting not only for the manifestation of the sons of God (Rom. 8.19), but for the appearance of His church. Passages such as Is. 54.2-3 remind us of this. *Enlarge the place of thy tent and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine 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.* And again, *“Surely the isles wait for me”* (v. 9). Our Presiding Bishop pointed out in a recent seminar in Cleveland that Gentiles believers will be “converted” not only to Christ but also to the church (60.5).

Accordingly, I am excited about the goodness and glory of God, but also about what He has projected in His Word and initiated in His people regarding His church. He has always had a master plan whereby the true children of God scattered abroad will be gathered together in one body, one church, with one vision, and one purpose and mission, under one government and authority, all teaching and practicing the same thing. Indeed, it is evident that He is preparing a people right now to expedite this divine plan of the ages.

More particularly, as the overseer of California South, I am excited about what is happening and going to happen in our region of the world. We are ready to implement and execute God’s plan to reach the “desolate cities,” towns, communities and neighborhoods in southern California: to convert sinners to Christ and bring believers under the government and framework of the church, the *“inhabitation of God”* (Eph. 2.19-22).

Our region has been a pioneer in the expansion of the church through initiating new home prayer meetings, planting missions and nurturing them to maturity *via* the “Mother Church” model. Two of our strongest churches were established this way--- Anaheim and Hesperia. The mother church in these instances was Rialto. This church committed a group (a team) to conduct prayer and worship services and Bible studies in these new locations once a week, sometimes more. In return, by an agreement of sorts, the receiving congregation would themselves travel to Rialto for the Sunday service every week. By this exchange the new people would learn about the order of our worship; experience the atmosphere of praise, and learn about tithing and giving for the support of the ministry and mission of the church, including fundraising. They were also taught doctrine, as well as the governmental structure of the church, including submission to the counsel and resolutions adopted by the

annual General Assembly. It was modeled for them on both a local and regional level how to train and install individuals in the service of the various departments of the church, such as Youth ministries, Missions, Women’s ministries, Men’s ministries, Sunday School, etc. In this way they were immersed not only in the visible structure of the church but in its rich and warm fellowship; and thereby they were made also to see that the church is worldwide (universal), not an independent and autonomous local congregation.

Through the oversight of a visionary and systemic-minded pastor, the new group was patiently guided along until it was strong enough to function on its own. At that point the state and general organization of the church would provide further encouragement and nurturing, immersing the local congregation still deeper in universal government and fellowship of the church. In the New Testament we see this same kind of process modeled and silhouetted over about a thirty or forty-year period, including initial contacts and evangelistic ministry and then the follow-up to *“confirm [the believers] in the faith”* (Acts 14.22; 15.40-41). We see this especially on the part of the apostle Paul and his fellow laborers in establishing and nurturing churches throughout Asia Minor and the Greco-Roman world (15.30-32; 16.4-5).

As the current overseer of California South, I count it a privilege to be involved with a region that has been a pacesetter in church growth and outreach. Yet we realize that only the surface has been scratched. The harvest lies before us. We just need to develop and implement the dynamic machinery of the church to reap this great harvest. We know of course that we need primarily and most of all the dynamic power and anointing of the Holy Spirit: His unction and direction and favor to proceed---and to succeed! Yet we do need the machinery as well.

The same weekend that I wrote this article, a Youth Rally was held in California South to re-envision and reincorporate the camping program which had not functioned for a couple of years. There is much excitement and anticipation for this new impetus. Earlier in January a Sunday School training event was also conducted on two successive weekends in two of our districts. I commend our leaders for the initiative they are taking in these respective areas of the work. We plan to develop job descriptions for each position at the local and regional levels of the church, as well as to continue training new workers to reach out and expand the work. It’s exciting that our people are ready and willing to be trained, giving themselves also to prayer and fasting. To God be the glory for the great things He is doing in and through a region still hungry for more!



Excited about . . .

A 'Treasure' from Childhood that has Lasted a Lifetime

Alice Jones

Mission Director, Cleveland, TN

When I was twelve years old my local church (Eastview, Cleveland, TN), had a Vacation Bible School (VBS). I don't remember the school's theme, but I do remember it was about being mission-minded. Our Bible lessons were about sharing Jesus with others and giving so missionaries could go preach the Gospel of Christ.

Our missionary focus was on the nation of Guatemala. We learned about the country and its people, and how a missionary there was winning people to the Lord and to the church. We also were able to talk to the missionary *via* telephone. I remember our VBS director was so moved with compassion for these people who needed to hear about Jesus.

During that VBS we were to bring our Bibles, and a friend or a family member that didn't know the Lord, and also an offering to the class. I was so excited about doing these things. Every night I would bring my Bible, a friend and an offering. At the end of the week, I won a little doll from Guatemala. I still have that doll (a childhood treasure): and I still have an excitement for missions!

That VBS sparked something in me that I have never gotten away from. The very first moment that I learned that

the church must tell the world about Jesus, I was so excited to do my part. As a young teen I grew up helping raise money for World Missions. I can remember many Saturdays spent with my mom cooking chicken and dressing and whatever else that was needed for a mission dinner. My mom was a great example teaching me that working hard always pays off. God always blessed whatever we were willing to do.

I am a firm believer that everyone can do something,

and that everyone can give something. Even the poor widow in the Bible gave two mites---all that she had (Lu. 21.1-4). What a profound thought---giving all to further the cause of Christ! Missions is the very heart of Christ. After all, isn't that the very reason He came---to save those who are lost and to *gather* all those who are saved into one body! Our commission is to make men see Christ's salvation, (Mt. 28.19-20), and to show men Her, the church---"*the fellowship of the mystery.*"

Christ is the mystery and we are the fellowship (Eph. 3.9). It's by His authority we can and will do this. We have a big job in front of us. So let's "GO BIG".

I'm excited about missions! In the Cleveland church this quarter our World Mission theme is "**GO BIG**"!



Our duty to sinners: to help them see Christ and His salvation.

GO:

B-elieve---Preach the Gospel to encourage sinners to *believe* in Christ.

I-nspire----*Inspire* them to accept Christ and believe His "all things" message.

G-row-----Help them to *grow* into maturity.

Our duty to the saints: to make them see Her---the church.

GO:

B-old-----Be *bold* in declaring the truth---the "*all things*" of God's Word.

I-gnite----Be *ignited with* passion for Christ and His church.

G-low----Be set *aglow* with the light of Christ: for we are a "*city set on a hill*".

As the world grows darker, the church will shine brighter.

I'm excited about making much of Jesus. God went Big for us, let's go Big for Him!



World Missions

Pressing Forward

Lord, grant that we may be able to say with Jesus, *“My meat is to do the will of Him who sent me, and to finish His work”* (Jn. 4.34). Hear the words of the missionary apostle, *“For we are laborers together with God”* (1 Cor. 6.9; 2 Cor. 6.1); and the words of our Lord, *“Say not ye [or ‘do you not say’], There are four months, and then cometh harvest? behold I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he who reaps receives wages and gathers fruit unto life eternal: that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together”* (Jn. 4.35-36).

“Macedonian Calls” can be heard from many regions of the world, saying, *“Come Over . . . and Help Us”* (Acts 16.9). Like the apostle Paul we have a vision for world missions: and, thus like him, we should *“immediately endeavor to go . . . assuredly gathering [concluding] that the Lord [has] called us for to preach the Gospel”* to every nation on earth (Mt. 28.19-20). The Lord has prospered and blessed America doubtlessly for this very purpose: to serve as a financial basis and launching pad for world missions. This nation has been blessed economically as no other nation on earth; it is materially rich and, therefore, biblically and spiritually obligated to share its blessings with others. Paul wrote to Timothy: *“Charge them that are rich in this world . . . that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life”* (1 Tim. 6.17-18).

Join us in prayer and “abundant labors” to raise funds to advance the kingdom of God and plant churches in every nation on earth. Amen.

Excited about . . .

WORSHIP!

Kimberly Erwin
Evangelist, Music Director
Cleveland, TN

***Zion is the place of Worship, Zion is the place of PRAISE.
Zion is where the Holy One Abides!***

What is worship? As defined by Merriam Webster, “worship is to: 1. Honor or reverence a divine being or supernatural power, and 2. Regard with great or extravagant respect, honor or devotion”. So, if we sing songs that honor our Lord and speak praises to His name, would this be considered worship? Jesus speaks of a type of worship that is in “vain.” However, Matthew 15.8-9 reads, *“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.* Similar words were also spoken by the prophet Isaiah: *“Wherefore the Lord said, forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men”* (29.13). Vain worship produces no good results and is useless. I would call it HEARTLESS! You can attend every worship service, sing aloud every song and even shout out prayers and praises, but if your HEART is far from God, you’ve done it all in vain.

True worship is the result, or product, of a right spiritual state of the heart. Jesus describes the worship which God will except, and be pleased with in John 4.23-24: *“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”*. Jesus shows that it is both necessary and essential for us to worship in SPIRIT and in TRUTH. He said in Matthew 22.37, *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”* True worship comes from a completely devoted and sincere HEART (the inward spiritual man).

God requires not only the inward, spiritual part in our worship, but TRUTH also must be in that inward part! What is that TRUTH? The revelation of who God is and His VALUE or WORTH! True worship is based on a right understanding of God’s nature, and a right evaluation of His worth. When I begin to think about the spiritual poverty I was in without God, and the redemptive

plan Christ fulfilled for me, and in me, His Value stirs up a SHOUT of PRAISE within my soul! Makes me think of the song called, “When I Think About the Lord” sung by Hillsong United:

“When I think about the Lord, How He
saved me, how He raised me,
How He filled me, with the Holy Ghost.
How He healed me, to the uttermost. When
I Think about the Lord, How He picked me
up and turned me around, How He placed
my feet on solid ground.

(Chorus) It makes me wanna’ shout,
Hallelujah, Thank you JESUS,
LORD, you’re worthy of all the glory, and
all the honor, And all the praise . . .”

Zion, God’s church, is indeed a place of worship and praise. It is where the “Holy One abides” because He inhabits the praises of His People! Psalm 22.3: *“But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel”*.

Growing up in the church, I have been blessed to be a part of congregations that were filled with “true worshippers”. I have been surrounded within my own family by saints of God that displayed the spirit of praise, even in their darkest hours. True worship is not determined by how great the music is, or if the song leader sings old hymns or contemporary songs; nor is it defined by how loud a person shouts, or how energetic they might be in displays of dancing or running and jumping. Although I can’t hardly stand still or keep quiet when I begin to think about the goodness of God, the sacrifice that Christ made, and how He Saved, Sanctified and filled me with the Holy Ghost and led me to His church. Praise the Lord! I feel the Holy Ghost stirring me at very moment, and it makes me want to SHOUT OUT PRAISES to our Lord and Savior!

Tribute to Bishop Charles Fields

Reflections on His Life and Ministry



Bishop Charles Lee Fields, Jr., our friend and brother in Christ and faithful co-worker in the ministry, was called home to be with the Lord on February 3, 2018. Brother Fields was 72 years of age. Born in Rome, Georgia on September 24, 1945, he

was living happily with his wife of almost 50 years, Brenda [Helms], in their home in Irvington, Alabama where they have lived since 1995. (Charles and Brenda were wed in July 1968). Brother Fields was at home surrounded by family and friends when the Lord said, “it’s time” and called him to Paradise. Like Joshua, he went “*the way of all flesh*”, but, as a saint of God he was taken up “*in the twinkling of an eye*” to be with the Lord in glory! In that glorious moment he experienced the reality that “*to be absent from the body [is] to be present with the Lord*”.

Charles was a gifted pianist, a talented worship and music coordinator, a fiery evangelist, and a faithful and steady pastor. He was licensed as an evangelist in our former fellowship in 1964 at eighteen years of age, and thereafter evangelized for several years in Georgia and Alabama. Then beginning in 1972 he was appointed to the following successive pastorates in Alabama: Leonard Chapel, Chickasaw, Gordo, Gadsden, Grand Bay, Ensley, Chickasaw [second time] and lastly Bayou La Batre. However, due to a “falling away” in our former fellowship in the late twentieth- and early twentieth-first century, Brother Fields and the Bayou La Batre congregation separated themselves in 2003. But, having been a devoted and trained churchman, he found himself dissatisfied with being independent, and after consulting with the Lord and his congregation felt moved to unite with Zion Assembly in May 2004 (see details below). He retired from pastoral work in 2010 due to several critical surgeries and health complications; but he nevertheless remained active in the ministry and instrumental in his local church until the day God called him home.



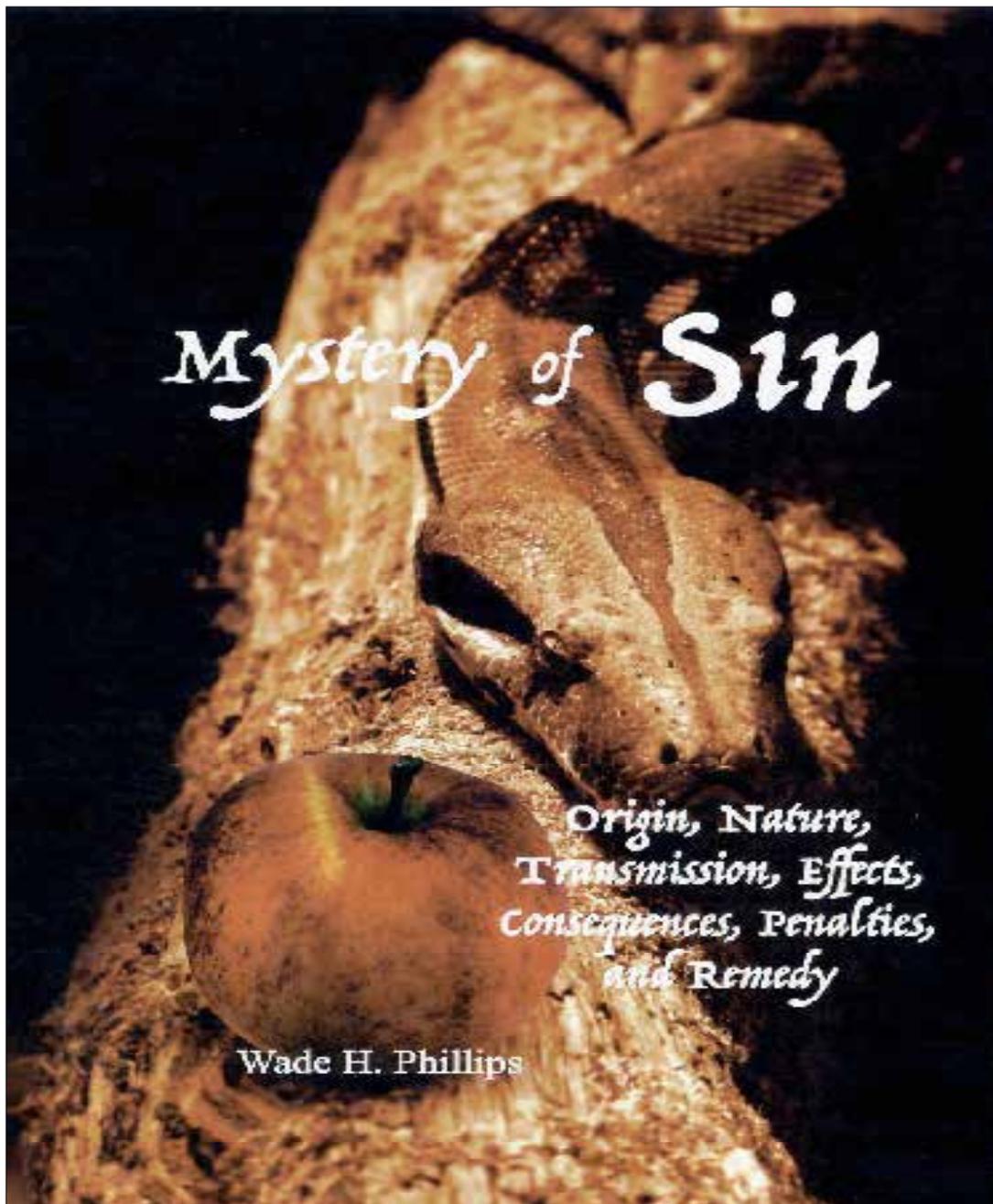
Brother Fields at the 2006 General Assembly
Cleveland, Tennessee

My first acquaintance with Brother Fields was in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on the same day that we reorganized and restored the church on April 20, 2004. He asked me some pointed questions about our stand on traditional doctrinal views and our prophetic vision of the church. My answers seemed to satisfy him, and he invited me to preach to his independent congregation in Bayou La Batre, which I did three weeks later. All went well, and after some consultation with his congregation, they all with one consent expressed a desire to unite with Zion Assembly and to labor together as one body to fulfill the prophetic mission

of the Bible church. It was a jubilee meeting on May 9, 2004 as the saints gathered around and laid their hands on the Bible and committed themselves to the sacred covenant pledge (a report of this meeting was featured in the July 2004 issue of the *Voice of Zion*, p. 7).

I shall never forget the courage and commitment demonstrated by Brother Fields and the church in Bayou La Batre when the powerful Hurricane Katrina hit the coastal

region of southern Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana in late August 2005, taking many lives and destroying businesses and property. Massive flooding and property damage wreaked havoc all along the coast, flooding also our church’s place of worship and the houses of many of our members. Yet in the midst of this catastrophe, Pastor Fields and our courageous people were so anxious and determined to make it the General Assembly that began the next week, they just dropped what they were doing in the midst of recovery, left that awful scene and made their way to Cleveland for the Assembly. And oh, how the Lord did bless and honor their sacrifices! (See the report of this story in the October 2005 issue of the *Voice of Zion*, p. 15). Their faith and courage in the Lord and zeal for the church in that terrible crisis was reenacted time and again in the months and years ahead in other challenging situations. *Semper Fidelis* is a motto especially fitted for Bishop Fields and the saints whom he trained and raised up in the Lord in southern Alabama.

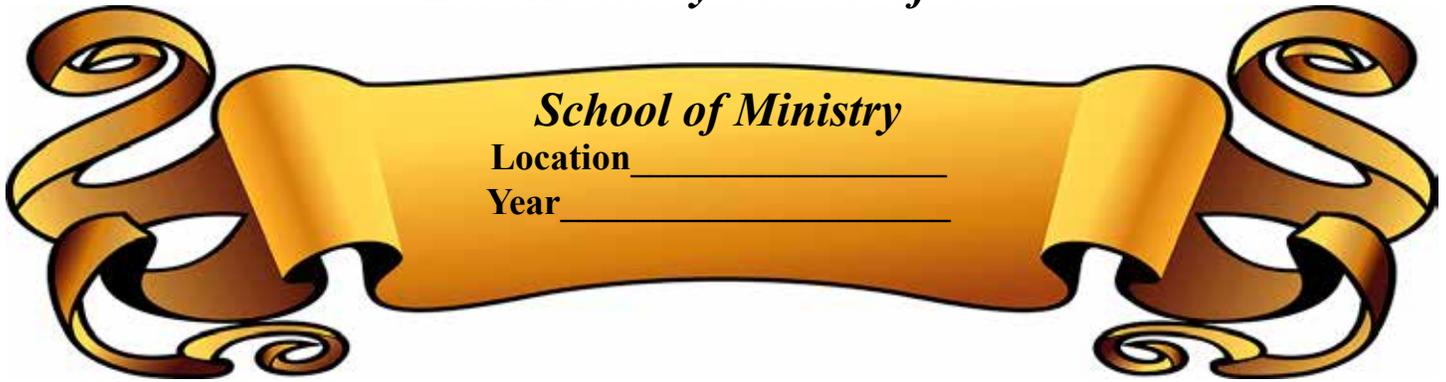


**Available March 23rd [150 pages, plus citations,
Scripture indexes, Bibliography]. \$12.00 plus shipping.**

In addition to explaining salvation themes, Bishop Phillips' book on the *Mystery of Sin* offers intriguing insights into the origin, nature, transmission, mystery, consequences, penalties, and the remedy for sin from a Wesleyan-holiness perspective. It explains, for example, the difference between "willful sin" and "sins of ignorance", and the distinction between "actual sin" and "original sin" [depravity]. More than forty sub-topics, including "Infants Born into Sin", "Sinning Christians?", "The Unforgivable Sin", "Deceivableness of Sin", "Delusion of Time", "The Scorpion and the Beaver", "The 'Purgatory' Fiction", and "Sin not unto Death . . . Sin unto Death" make this book a valuable study for Christians as well as the unsaved.

Scott E. Neill
Assistant Publisher

Zion Assembly Church of God



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Bishop and Mrs. Wade H. Phillips Celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary



Note: This article, written by Brother and Sister Phillips' daughter, Lynn (with the assistance of his secretary, Marie Crook, and his cousin Billie Smith), appeared in the *Cleveland Daily Banner* on February 13, 2018 in celebration of their 50th Anniversary. It has been edited for this issue of the *Voice of Zion*.

Wade Houston Phillips and Dale Lynn [Carey] are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on February 13, 2018. They were married in 1968 in Elyria, Ohio. Dale was born and reared in Chicago, Illinois where they met during one of Wade's temporary visits home from active duty in Vietnam. As fate would have it, Dale's and Wade's parents were friendly neighbors whose children would fall in love during his brief time on leave. Eventually he would return to the States, where his parents were living in Elyria, Ohio. He and Dale maintained contact and would later be married in a sweet ceremony in the church's parsonage in Elyria, Ohio.

Soon after Wade accepted Christ as his Savior in 1967, he began to feel a strong calling from the Lord to pursue the ministry. Under the mentoring of his pastor, Grady Cox, he heeded God's call on his life. In 1968, he covenanted with the church [in our former fellowship] and was licensed as an evangelist in 1970. In 1971, he began his first adventure in pastoral work. Five years later was ordained as a bishop. During his years of devotion to the Lord and the church, he held several international appointments from 1982-2004. In 2004, however, under the guidance and conviction of the Holy Spirit, he resigned his ministry with our former fellowship [due to the "falling away"] and became instrumental in leading and reorganizing the church under the name Zion Assembly Church of God. In the reorganizational meeting on April 20, 2004, he was elected unanimously to serve as Presiding Bishop, a position that he has held since then.

The years were not easy starting out in the ministry; but he and his devoted wife maintained the prophetic vision while raising their family. Wade worked long laborious hours in his own construction business for several years to supplement his meager income from the ministry. He took his first pastoral position in North Matewan, West Virginia, constructing a new building for worship while there. In 1974 he and the family were appointed to Farmington, West Virginia. In addition to winning souls and fulfilling his pastoral work, he went to work in the coal mines to supplement his income, and at the same time started his college education. During this time (1974-1982), he managed to finish his Bachelor's Degree as well as a Master Degree program, grow the local church from 10 to nearly 150 members (and the Sunday school to over 200), mentor other future ministers (Jim Melton, Lee Brown, and Tom Brown being three of them), build an impressive youth group, plant and grow many other churches throughout the region. He also constructed a new sanctuary and ministry facilities at the nearby community of Katy in 1976, where the members of that church still congregate today.

Many souls are the fruit of Bishop Phillips' labors in the ministry and his perseverance. Until this day, he has continued to build churches and move forward in the work of the Lord. He has held many positions throughout his ministry, traveling far and wide and leading the way for new congregations to be established in the United States as well as many countries. His love for missions has taken him to over 50 nations around the world. (He has traveled over 1.5 million miles in the ministry). Some of his many other accomplishments include his doctoral work in Christian history and theology, being especially noted for his research and many published historical and theological works on church related subjects.

Dale has been consistent in her role at home, maintaining and providing for the family, giving support to Wade while he pursued God's vision for his life in the ministry. She has stood by his side for 50 years, faithfully loving him, unconditionally. Truly in many ways, she is the reason that his ministry remains effective as she is a prayer warrior, grace giver, seeking God on behalf of her husband's direction and vision, giving him encouragement, a loving ear and positive words as needed. The couple resides in Cleveland where Zion Assembly Church of God is headquartered. Dale maintains her leadership today in the local church serving as secretary and treasurer. She loves working and serving where she is needed, and traveling with her husband when possible.

Four children were born to their union, Lynn Yvonne, Vincent Wade (deceased), Tuesdae Nanette and Paul Houston. They have three wonderful grandchildren: Christina Wade, Lauren Taylor and Mia Bella and two great-grandchildren Thomas Alexander and Cadee Elaine. We extend to the Phillips' blessings as they celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

“Excited About God and His Work”

Continued from page 4

thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, with all thy mind: and thy neighbor as thyself” (Lu. 12.27; Mt. 22.37-39; Rom. 13.10; 15.2). This enables us to truly fulfill the Great Commission (Mt. 28.18-20). For we know Christ not only as our King and Savior but the Head of the body, the church (Col. 1.18, 24-28): and He has given to us the “*ministry of reconciliation*” (2 Cor. 5.18-20).

This leads us to the next key---opportunity. We know what we should be doing, and we can see that the Lord has provided for us the opportunity to do it. We are living in a time when we can look to our leaders in the church with confidence. We can throw ourselves behind the vision that has been laid out before us. Whether you are a senior ambassador, a young adult, a teenager, a child, or male or female, Zion Assembly has a place and position for you in the ministry---a specific ministry in the church that you can be plugged into and go to work for God. It is indeed an exciting time to work for the Lord and His church!



Tribute to Bishop Charles Fields

Continued from page 11

(Coincidentally, the Bayou La Batre church relocated to West Mobile in 2009. Several of the members agreed to remain, however (with the approval of the Presbytery), and formed our present-day church in Bayou La Batre under the pastoral oversight of Tod Deakle whom Brother Fields had mentored in the ministry. Many of the members in both of these churches will recall vividly the powerful impact of Hurricane Katrina and the glory of that 2005 Assembly).

Brother Fields was ordained a bishop on May 9, 2004 and was always highly esteemed as an elder and leader in the church. He served for three years as the chairman of the Assembly Business Committee, asking to be relieved due to health reasons in 2012. He was always pleasant, cheerful, on-looking, firm in his faith and unrelenting in his view of sin and the church of the Bible. He was a diligent and faithful pastor. His counsel was sought by ministers and laymen throughout the church. He loved God, his family, his fellowman, God’s church and the whole “household of faith.”

The subject of this sketch is survived by his loving and faithful wife, Brenda, their two sons, Charles L. and Christopher L., and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and thousands of friends and fellow believers in Christ. He was much loved especially by his natural family and his church family---Zion Assembly; will be greatly missed and remembered always with much affection. He was endeared by the whole church including many ministers and friends outside the United States *via* his local church’s connection with world missions.

WHP

“Excited About Worship”

Continued from page 10

I’m EXCITED about WORSHIP! I’m excited to see the spirit of praise throughout Zion! I’m excited to see how God has blessed Zion with such anointed worship leaders and musicians. I’M EXCITED ABOUT WORSHIP! ARE YOU EXCITED ABOUT WORSHIP? Are you lively and zealous in your PRAISE? Is your heart fixed on God and ready to worship when you enter His House? Psalm 100:4: “*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name.*” People are searching for the Truth but it will not be found in a dead church. If the Truth is ALIVE in you, it will be evident by your PRAISE! Your praise will be LIVELY! Oh, what a worship service those disciples had in the upper room in Acts 2! It was one that ushered in the power of the Holy Ghost! We need that same outpouring of the Spirit in our churches today, and it begins with sincere Praise and Worship. The Spirit and Truth will lead souls to Zion, and they will sing . . .

“Let us go up to the Mountain of Zion,
where the Holy One Abides,
where the Holy One abides,
where the Holy One abides.

Let us go up to the Mountain of Zion,
where the Holy One Abides,
ZION IS WHERE THE HOLY ONE ABIDES!”



Continued from Editorials

Tithing and Giving

Tithing and giving are no small matters in God’s plan for His church. Failure to comply with these commandments is categorized as “falling away” or “going astray”. Hear the prophet:

“Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord . . . But ye said, Wherein shall we return? (Mal. 3.7)

Now listen to the answer from the Lord:

“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings . . . Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord . . . if I will not open to you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall be room enough to receive” (vv. 8-10).

