CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, INC.

Bishop T. N. Brown, Pres. Gen.
Bishop Ivy Hopkins, V.P. Gen.
Bishop Dr. L. D. Ward, Liaison
George W. Ward, D.C.E.

National Director of Christian Education
54 South Ridgewood Ave. – Ormond Beach, FL 32174
(386) 527-3759 gwward@bellsouth.net
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EDUCATE – ENGAGE – CONNECT

Special Thank You

From: Deacon George W. Ward, Director Christian Education

It was an honor and privileged to partner with each of our workshop facilitators, our President General, Bishop Theodore Nelson Brown and our Vice President General Bishop Ivy Ann Hopkins at another tremendously successful General Assembly Church of the Living God. .

I want to acknowledge the leadership of both Bishop Brown and Hopkins as they have courageously stepped forward to create this platform on behalf of Christian Education-which is now becoming a global movement within our great church!

Thank You for being a speaker/facilitator/presenter for the 82nd General Assembly-CLG:

Auxiliary Department Presidents and/or Representatives: Missionary Marilyn Davis, Mother Jessie Thomas, Evangelist Eula Davis and Elder Edward Frazier. Elder Danny Ransey delivered a powerful, anointed and timely sermon in a general session on Tuesday afternoon.

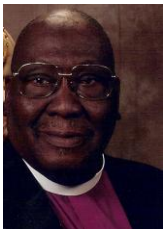
Thank you individually and collectively each workshop facilitator: Elder Danny Ransey, Rev. Dr. Brunilda B. Hopkins, Rev. Dr. Geraldine Crystal, Rev. Dr. Charmaine Coulter, Deacon Dr. John Barber, Elder Ralph Vanlow, Deacon Virgil Greer, Trustee Richard Pelzer, Presiding Elder Anthony M. Graham, and Bishop Carlton Williams

We so appreciate your time and dedication to the ministry of God.

To GOD be all the GLORY!!!!

The response and participant evaluations from the 82nd General Assembly workshops and training seminars have been overwhelming. Many reports have come in that were positive and have impacted many lives.

Church of the Living God
82ND General Assembly
Annual Report on the State of the Church



Bishop Theodore N. Brown
President General

Wednesday, October 26th, Bishop Theodore Nelson Brown, President General of the House of God Which is the Church of the Living God, the Pillar and Ground of the Truth, Inc. delivered his "Annual Report on the State of the Church". He established protocol by honoring everyone in their position. The address:

According to the "Official Manual" of the House of God Which is the church of the Living God, the Pillar and Ground of the Truth, Inc.:

1. One of the duties of the President General is to prepare and present an Annual Report on the State of the Church to the General Assembly.
2. He, Bishop Brown asked for and received this block of time to present his findings and concerns…

Bishop Theodore Brown address consisted of three broad areas:

1. Spiritual Christian Leadership
2. Past, Present, and Future concerns, and
3. Stewardship

Bishop Brown begun his address by quoting Richard Swindoll who wrote:

"I am convinced that life is 10% of what happens to me – And 90% how I reacts to it. I cannot change the Past, I cannot change the fact that people act in a certain way. The only thing I can change is my Attitude. So it is with each of you.

We are in charge of our Attitudes.

1. Many times we hear people tell us that our attitude is one of the most influential factors that will help determine our level of success or failure.
2. I once read a quote that said this: It's not so much your **Aptitude (how much you know)** that will determine your **Altitude (how high you will go)** but rather it's your **Attitude (your mind-set or thoughts)** that will help or hinder you from getting to your destination.
3. The Future and Well Being of our Church lie in our shifting from our past traditions to changes that are advocated and spelled out in the Word of God.

A. First, Spiritual Christian Leadership

1. I thank God for Rev. Dr. Shelia Y. Smalley, Past Christian Education Director of CLG.
2. She introduced us to Dr. Samuel Bryon Hogan, Sr. in 2001 at the Minister's Retreat in Charlotte, N.C.
3. I attribute much of what he wrote about and taught in that setting serves as a guideline for this report.
4. In principle, in Acts 20:28-31 Paul is telling us" "Guard Ourselves and God's Church:

a. History says these words are the last words of Paul to Church Leaders in general that are recorded.
b. This message needs expressing time and time again to all who are in Leadership Positions.
c. Two duties are spelled out:

(1). First, Guard Yourself and the Church. This is a very strong charge!

- ✓ Look after your own life,…character,…conduct before you can look after the flock!
- ✓ Guard against false teaching…
- ✓ Guard against an unforgiving spirit…
- ✓ Guard against self indulgence…
- ✓ Guard against fables, myths, false doctrine of men…
- ✓ Give yourself to the Doctrine of the Scriptures…
- ✓ **LOOK after "all the flock"**
- ✓ Sheep have a tendency to wander and **..**
- ✓ Sheep can be seized by the beast, satan …
- ✓ Sheep without a Shepherd are in a pathetic state

(2). Second: Feed the Church of God

- ✓ He has purchased it with His own blood
- ✓ It is your duty…
- ✓ False teachers will come to seduce them…
- ✓ Paul himself was a supreme example of faithfulness…

5. Spiritual Christian Leadership must be able to:
   a. Articulate goals…
   b. Convey visions…
   c. Effectively communicate directions
   d. Serve as anchors within and without the body,
   e. Inspire hope,
   f. Challenge the human heart,
   g. Up lift the human spirit,
6. Godly inspired leaders must
   a. Guide the "Organism"
   b. Elevate their statute…
   c. Enrich their character…
   d. Restore their integrity…

7. The church is the greatest and most powerful "organism" in the world, not organization, organism!
   a. The Church is the vehicle that God uses to bring redemption and spiritual maturity to man..
   b. Therefore, there is need for "Effective Leadership" in the Church…
   c. Leadership that uses resources efficiently by the guidelines of the Holy Ghost…
   d. So, to operate His Church successfully requires "Good Leadership".

(1). Good Leadership must be coupled with:
- ✓ Good Ministry
- ✓ Good Management

(2) Leadership, Management and Ministry are different in their functions…but

(3). When combined together, they become vital in the proper and successful operation of every church.

e. We must always acknowledge authority

(1). God is a God of structure and order…

(2). God wants us to function under the Biblical umbrella of "authority".

8. Finally, Spiritual Christian Leaders that are "In authority, Under Authority" must:

a. Not use the past as a "crutch"…

b. Assess the present to see where we are…

c. Chart directions for the Church by probing the future…

B. Looking at the PAST, PRESENT and the FUTURE

1. As I traveled the past year, I have been pushing our MISSION and VISION statement with a few additions…

FOR THE FUTURE

a. Concentrating on extending Educational Training for our young Ministers, partnering with already established Ministries, proving training that is:

(1). Christ-centered…

(2). Bible-based, and

(3). Ministry-focused

b. Providing excellent Programs

(1). Academic studies…

(2). To develop professional leadership skills…

(3). To further Spiritual Growth…

c. Nurturing: Helping to grow and further develop those within our churches…

d. Excellence: Helping our Church to take its place in the world amongst other ministries…

e. Spirituality: Fine tune the quality of character traits that will cause us to seek, obtain, and utilize the Gifts of the Spirit…

f. Stewardship: The teaching and applying the principles of God's Word in the Organization and Utilization of the resources within our organization.

2. Furthering our outreach as we:

a. Learn to Work the Ministry:

b. Learn to Embrace sound Doctrine:

Learn to Show Love Everywhere We Go:

3.In 1990's, the Budget and Structure Team that was organized and authorized by Bishop Jesse J. White, Sr – our then President General presented five critical problems our church was undergoing:
- ✓ Inadequate Accountability
- ✓ Extreme lack of Communication
- ✓ Lack of Enforcement of Guidelines
- ✓ No defined Lines of Authority and
- ✓ No Operating Budget.

4. Not solving those five (5) critical problems has come back to haunt us, financially:
   a. During the past year, it has been a year of hard work in our transition or our shift…

(1). Trustee Board has been working non-stop with our Vice President General…

(2). Bishops and Trustee Board Officials have been in three or four sessions since October 2010

(3). President General has been globe trotting to different Diocese Assemblies and General Meetings:
- ✓ MLK Fund Raising, Springfield, MA
- ✓ Pearl Grant Day, Wilmington, DE

- ✓ Music Conference, Hartford, CT
- ✓ Foreign Mission Convention, Tupelo, MS
- ✓ Did not make it to NYC, Lancaster, PA

(4). A Good Will Ambassador trying to sell the Church of the Living God, seeking help, and encouraging our people to …

C. Finally, back in 2006, I think, we moved into the Olivet Christian Center in Greensboro, N.C. Many false concepts about the Greensboro Project were passed out…

1. Our then President General Bishop Jesse J. White, Sr whom we called our "Visionary Leader" sold his home in Hartford, CT….

2. Moved himself and his invalid wife to North Carolina

3. When our people stopped giving to support the project – The c\Church fell on hard times

4. Bishop White and several other gave mightily to the cause in bailing us out for a spell….They gave until they couldn't give no more….

5. We had to return the Olivet Christian Center back to its previous owners…

- ✓ We had to fall back on the National Tabernacle at 1100 Bethune Drive – Orlando, FL
- ✓ We found that we were $5000,000.00 in debt due to having an "Interest Only Loan"
- ✓ Paying over $6,000.00 Monthly Mortgage toward "interest only" – we still owes $500,000.00.

6. Many plays were brought up…

None of them were successful…

Our many requests for help fell on deaf ears of some…

III. Conclusion – where are we now? Still PRAYING AND waiting! Oil and Water does not naturally mix…

Church of the Living God Mission Statement

The House of God, which is the Church of the Living God, the Pillar and Ground of the Truth will strive to teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever Jesus has commanded. We seek to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the poor in spirit, to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the spiritually oppressed and to offer recovery of sight to the spiritually blind. We endeavor to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God. And we will comfort and console all who mourn.

We will fulfill our mission as a member of the Body of Christ by accomplishing the following strategic objectives:

- To organize, build and own churches throughout the world.
- To dispense charity and benevolence to people.
- To improve social and moral relationships between, not only our church members, but between people in general.
- To care for, protect and comfort persons in distress.
- To provide school and training and Christian Education.
- To purchase, publish and disseminate Christian literature.
- To work in cooperation with all true believers in the principles of the Bible

Scripture reference for the Mission Statement

St. Matthew 28:19-20	Isaiah 61:1-3
St. Luke 4:18-19	Romans 1:16

Church of the Living God Vision Statement

Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.
Proverbs 29:18

We endeavor to be holy and claim the gifts of the Holy Spirit offered by the Lord Jesus Christ, our foundation**.** And, through education and training, we will create a unified membership that will evangelize the world with the Word of God and prayer. Our environment will be one of free and exuberant worship and praise. WE will positively impact the spiritual social and economic needs of our communities and future generations by being aware of the relevant issues affecting the vision of the Church of the Living God.

FOCUSING on the VISION and MISSION STATEMENTS, I Have Extended Them in (4) Areas:

Nurturing: - Helping to grow and further developing that which we already have planted in our Churches.

Excellence – Helping our Church to take its place in the world amongst other ministries…

Spirituality: Fine tune the quality of character traits that will cause us to seek, obtain, and utilize the Gifts of the Spirit…

Stewardship: The teaching and applying the principles of God's Word in the Organization and Utilization of the resources within our organization.

In The Implementation and Extension of Church of the Living God Mission and Vision Statement

To Work The Ministry

- **a.** God has given us our assignment and with those assignments, we have been given duties and responsibilities to perform.
- **b.** We must serve one another as brethren.
- **c.** Whether individually or cooperatively, we need to be concerned.
- **d.** Go and sell the work of our Ministry

To Embrace Sound Doctrine

a. Condemn teaching that does not embrace the Word of God.
b. Satanic and Cult information are invading our Church ranks.
c. Sensor material that is handed out within our Church.

To Show Love Everywhere We Go:

- **a.** Be motivated by the Holy Spirit and not for favors.
- **b.** Showing love to all and not to selected few.
- **c.** Say what you mean and men what you say.
- **d.** Prioritize your actions giving more attention and care to the less fortunate members.

2011 Annual Address 82nd General Assembly

Bishop Ivy Anne Hopkins, Vice President General – Church of the Living God

Friday Evening, October 28th Bishop Ivy Ann Hopkins, President General of the Church of the Living God delivered an anointed, powerful and prolific sermon entitled: **"They Got Together".**

Scripture Text: Genesis 11:1-9 & Psalm 133

1. **The Equation of Unity** – Gen. 11:1-4 – very profound and simple: this people: did not want to be scattered; did not want to lose their identity:

- With one consensus made a decision to come together and become one people
- They had a sense of determination in Shinar – no stone there; no motar there: How can you build a city without stone or motar in the plain. They made brick – put it in an oven (slim made). They didn't invite God into the situation: God is not mentioned even once in this situation.

2. **Effectiveness of Unity** V-5 – work was so incredible; outstanding, impressive to God that He decided to come down to take a

closer look at the city and the tower that men built.

V-6 – God tell the reason: **"They were one".** They got together – no cliques. Nothing will be restrained or kept back from them. God stopped the building project by confusing their language and scattered them abroad over the face of the earth. The name of the place or experience is called "Babel".

3. **<u>How do we pursue Unity</u>** – the descendants of Moses made a conscious decision to come together. We as the people of God, as the Body of Christ, as the church of the Living God must make a conscious decision to come together. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

"The Assignment" - excerpts

By Mike Murdock

If you are a Christian, God has an Assignment for your life that will put you in the right place at the right time with the right group of people to fulfill His purpose in your life. But for many, God's Assignment is illusive. Too many God's children live in a lifestyle of constant failure and futility because their lives are out of focus to the purposes and plans of God.

If satan can keep the Christian blinded and out of focus to his or her life's Assignments, he can keep them in a lifestyle of failure and strife. But even more importantly, he can bring pain and failure to the heart of God.

In The Assignment, Dr. Mike Murdock unlocks the powerful truths of your life's Assignment – Assignments truths as:

- Your Assignment is not your decision – it is your discovery
- Everything God created was created to solve a problem
- You are a reward to someone
- Your assignment will require your total focus
- Your assignment will require time
- Your assignment will require seasons of preparation
- What you love is a clue to the gifts, skills and wisdom you possess
- What grieves you is a clue to something you are assigned to heal
- What you hate is a clue to something you are assigned to correct
- Your assignment is geographical
- God can forgive any sin or mistake you have made in pursuit of your assignment
- If you rebel against your assignment, God may permit painful experiences to correct you
- Your assignment will require miracles
- You will succeed only when your assignment becomes an obsession
- Your assignment requires planning
- Your assignment may require seasons of waiting
- Your assignment will be revealed progressively
- Your assignment will contain seasons of social isolation and change
- Never stay where you have not been assigned
- Crisis is a normal event on the road to your assignment
- Your assignment may require seasons of intensified prayer and fasting
- The completion of your assignment is your enemy's greatest fear
- Your assignment may be misunderstood by those closest to you
- God will not show you pictures of what He is bringing you through – He will show you what He is bringing you to
- Any satanic attack reveals what satan fears most in your future
- Your assignment may require unusual and unwavering trust in a man or woman of God
- You are the only one God has anointed for your specific assignment
- You must only attempt a God-given and God-approved assignment
- Your assignment will succeed because of something God has chosen to anoint in your life
- Etc