

connect

New Testament Church of God England & Wales

 **ntcg**
National
Church
Magazine

ADMINISTRATIVE
BISHOP'S
WELCOME

**CELEBRATING 35
YEARS OF SERVICE**

Vivienne Welsh

EDITOR'S
BIO

**BOOK
LAUNCH**

Bishop Claiion
Grandison

GROW

A Glimpse of
things to come!

- REFLECTION
- RANDOM HACK!
- CHURCH NEWS

ISSUE NO.01

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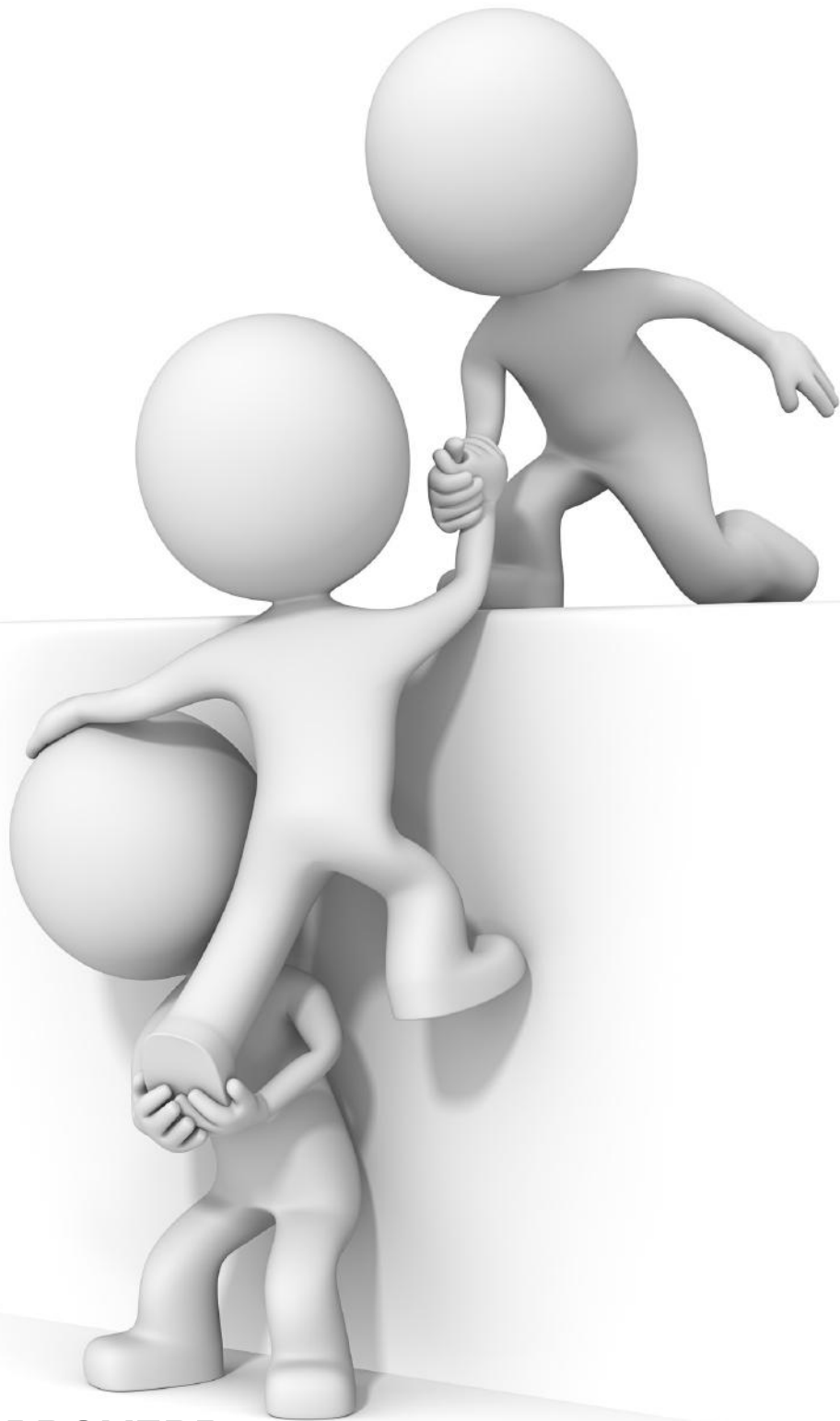
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CONNECT



AFRICAN PROVERB

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

A Relevant, Relational Church, Reimagining God at work, in our communities and nation.

CONNECT is a quarterly publication from the Office of the Administrative Bishop. This will be published digitally and posted on our website for your viewing.

Please click [HERE](#) to subscribe.



- **Encouraging Spiritual Growth:** Helping each other grow in faith through prayer, sharing the Word, and church activities.
- **Improving Communication:** Keeping members directly updated about church activities, decisions and personnel changes, so that you are informed about your church.
- **Building Community:** Strengthening connections between members through this medium.
- **Supporting Each Other:** Encouraging involvement in and keeping you informed about local and national events.
- **Celebrating Together:** Recognising and celebrating important moments in the lives of our ministers and members to uplift and encourage each other.

BISHOP'S WELCOME



Bishop Claion Grandison
Administrative Bishop

Welcome to our 68th Annual National Convention and welcome to our first edition of **CONNECT**. We're excited to share with you this weekend just a taster of our latest online magazine.

CONNECT aims to do exactly what it says on the tin and that is to be a way of connecting members of the New Testament Church of God to its leadership and to each other.

Over the years we've had several other publications which have served the denomination extremely well and so **CONNECT** is continuing in that vein.

In each issue we hope to engage with readers on subjects that are theological, thoughtful and practical, sharing information that will equip you in your area of ministry, along with articles to inspire you.

Reflecting on this year's theme grow, **CONNECT** is part of that strategy in creating effective ways of communicating the successes and experiences of our branches across the country.

Within the last year and a half God has opened several doors to us as an organisation, giving us powerful platforms from which we are influencing our communities and nation, spaces for us to be a more relevant and relational Church.

Sonia and I have had the privilege of attending some of our services across the country and it is exciting to see the growth and impact many of our congregations are having; we're truly excited.

With that said, there's still work to be done; there are several of our fellowships that would benefit from connecting with vibrant and healthy ones. The idea is that we do not suffer in silence, but reach out and connect with others in the WeAreNTCG family.

Finally, I'd like to say a huge thank you to Nastassia our Commissioning Editor/Education Administrator, and Leony Senior Executive Assistant and your team for making this publication happen in a very limited amount of time.

Please enjoy the convention and enjoy Wales.

EDITOR'S BIO



Mrs Nastassia Holness

Commissioning Editor / Education Administrator

Nastassia (Tassi) is a member of NTCG Northampton, where she served as the local Evangelism & Missions Department Lead. She also represents the 18-35 age group on the National Evangelism & Missions Board. Her primary role is as the National Education Administrator for the Leadership Training Centre (LTC), under the Leadership of Bishop Delroy Henry.

In 2013, Nastassia completed a BA in Theology through Chester University. Previously to working at the LTC, Nastassia worked as the North & Central Church Relations Regional Manager for Wycliffe Bible Translators in the UK, and the BAME Church Fellowship Manager for the UK for Operation Mobilisation (OM UK).

At the LTC, Nastassia's responsibilities are extensive. She works to develop and manage the LTC Website, LTC App, and the student Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

“Change is inevitable. Growth is optional.”

John C. Maxwell

Her duties also include church engagement, video editing, and providing essential administrative support to a team of lecturers. Additionally, she oversees the entire student life cycle, from registration to graduation, including course recruitment, coordinating examinations, assessment processes, and communication.

Nastassia is married to Richard and is the proud mother of her four year-old son, Nathaniel.

Reflection

66
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Scripture: Acts 16

Theme: Grow

Growing is a powerful sign of life, indicating activity, progress, and development. Conversely, a lack of growth symbolises stagnation and potential decline. Acts 16 recounts five significant events in the life of the Apostle Paul, each of which led to the growth of the churches.

First, Paul added gifted Timothy to his leadership team. However, he circumcised him to prevent him from being rejected and barred from the synagogues and considered an apostate, worse than a Gentile (vv1-5). Nothing gets in the way of growing the kingdom, even if it is against Paul's fundamental belief (Gal. 2:1-10).

Second, Paul was obedient to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He is receptive to the vision of where to invest his spiritual gifts and resources (vv6-10). We should conclude that God prepares the ground where growth and flourishing occur.

Third, Paul found a place for prayer (vv11-16). Pursuing God allows the unexpected to happen – not enough men to establish a synagogue, no problem! – the women still gather for prayer by the riverside. There, he found Lydia, a wealthy purple seller who accepted Jesus and became a benefactor (sponsor), host and leader of the church in her home.

Fourth, Paul becomes angry with oppression and injustice (vv16-20). The owners of the enslaved girl used her for economic advantage. Think of her as a foreigner who has mystique.

But she is not a one-off; it is part of the business model and culture, and she can repeat the testimonies she heard or through divination. Someone awaits freedom from enslavement, violence, addiction, trafficking, etc.

Fifth, Paul (and Silas) praise God despite their pain and darkest hours (vv21-40). Wrongly accused, flogged and thrown into prison, accompanied by those who may or may not deserve imprisonment, they choose to praise God instead of lamenting their circumstances.

The Holy Spirit intervened, breaking open the prison and the prisoners' shackles, intervened in the jailer's suicide attempt, prevented the prisoners from escaping and saved the Jailer's household.

In our personal and collective pursuit of growth, we can draw inspiration from Paul's example by surrounding ourselves with the right people, heeding the Holy Spirit, prioritising prayer, confronting injustice and maintaining faith and confidence in God, even in challenging times, creating opportunity for the Holy Spirit to grow the church in unexpected places, with unexpected people.

Mark Sturge is a member of Willesden NTCG and a Doctoral Researcher at Durham University.



Rev. Mark Sturge

Doctoral Researcher at Durham University

VIVIENNE
WELSH



Ms. Vivienne Welsh
Senior Administrative Officer

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Celebrating 35 years of service



CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

VIVIENNE WELSH

Vivienne has been the longest serving member of the National Office Administrative Team, having started in 1989. This August, after 35 years of devoted service, Vivienne will be retiring.

We sat down with her to reflect on her time working with the church.

LEONY TITUS (LT): Vivienne, when you think back on your 35 years at NTCG, what are some of the most touching moments that you hold dear and how did they shape your journey?

Viv: When I look back over my time at NTCG, I have had the opportunity to work on numerous impactful projects and visions of the church. From the days of the Overstone project, our early years of cultivating organic fruit and vegetables for our members,

to having the opportunity to work from a palatial, historical Victorian manor house surrounded by immaculately manicured lawns.

My first assignment was working with Mrs Arnold on the Abbeyfield Dorcas project providing accommodation for the seniors of our church. This was a baptism of fire as we struggled and fought with governmental authorities, completing numerous grant applications, only to have many rejections. Being involved from conception to completion of this project is one of my treasured moments.

That project shaped my journey, as it symbolised what can be achieved despite insurmountable obstacles.

LT: How have the relationships you've built within the church community influenced your life and can you share a story about a particularly meaningful connection?

Viv: I have a community of loyal and authentic people who I call friends; we have a reciprocal love for one another. They have helped to shape me, by making me more tolerant, more patient and kind. I love how our people are very responsive during a crisis or major disasters. They come together and give out of a sincere and generous heart. An outstanding moment of giving was, 'save our Overstone.' Many gave a week's wages, which at the time, seemed like a month's salary to me. We are a giving people and I love the fact that we love our church.

Another occasion when I experienced the church community influence was the great fire at Overstone. That fatal bank holiday Monday, is a day that I shall always remember. I was on route to London when I received the call, that there was a fire at Overstone. I turned the car around at the next junction and got back to Northampton as quickly as I could. When I arrived on site and saw fire blazing from the west and east wing of the building, my heart sank and the tears began to flow. I could not believe that our beloved Overstone mansion was on fire.

That was one of my darkest days to lose something that meant so much to so many people. Like the phoenix, the church rose from the ashes and with the gallant efforts of the leaders, ministers and church community, we were able to come back stronger than before.

LT: What was one of the toughest challenges you faced during your time at the church, and how did your faith and the support of the community help you through it?

Viv: When the church was going through a financial transition in the late 1900s, money was very tight and for some of us, our salary got deferred for many days. Going to the bank was a tricky business as those salary cheques just kept on bouncing. This went on for a number of years but eventually with the help of God,

the generosity of church members and strategic financial planning, we slowly turned the corner. I live by Phil. 4:19, "And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" Thank you, Jesus!

LT: If you could go back to the beginning of your career, what piece of advice would you give to your younger self, especially regarding serving in the church?

Viv: The number one piece of advice I would give myself would be that ministers are real people like us, they go through the same trials the same way as we do. Lower your expectations; life is not easier because you work for a church organization. Always guard your heart and trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5.

LT: How has your personal relationship with God deepened over the years and can you share a moment or experience that significantly strengthened your faith?

Viv: The writer of Proverbs encourages us to take the long view and stay in the way of 'righteousness' where 'there is life. Avoid the temptation to focus just on the here and now; we have to take the long view. (Prov.12:28)

During hard times or stressful days, I sang and made melody in my heart as the bible admonishes us to do. I could not in all honesty, have made this journey without God in my life.

His wisdom and grace have kept me in both the good as well as the bad times. I am glad that I have a personal relationship with Christ my Saviour.

I have been able to share that experience, pray with others, give wise counsel during my interactions, all of which have helped me to see the goodness of God and have strengthened my faith along the way.

My encouragement is that work is a blessing, without hard work, there is no success in life. Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard. If we are to succeed in life, we must work hard at it.God is the one that will reward us in the end.

LT: After a lifetime of working full time, what will you now do with all that free time you will have on your hands?

Viv: After a lifetime of work and commitment, I am asking God for health and strength to enable me to pursue some of my interests - travel the rest of the world that I have not yet seen.

- Practice my love of photography by capturing the beauty of the world around me, this will help my cognitive skills and hopefully enhance my memory.
- Learn how to continue to grow my income after retirement (help).

- Use the 'bus pass' to visit all 48 counties of the UK.
- Continue my voluntary work in the community.
- Develop my crocheting skills
- Write my journal of my time at NTCG and Overstone in particular.

LT: Thank you, Vivienne, for your honest and insightful responses. It has been my pleasure to work with you for the last 22 years and I am thankful that our friendship goes beyond the workplace, so you won't get rid of me too easily. God bless you always.



Ms. Leony Titus

Senior Executive Assistant to the Administrative Bishop

*“He will cover you with
his feathers,
and under his wings you
will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be
your shield and rampart”.*
Psalms 91:4

Prayer Strategy

This is an improved strategy which ensures a comprehensive and structured approach to prayer, providing a clear path for spiritual preparation and engagement before, during, and after the convention.

It emphasizes personal growth, community building, and outreach, all anchored in a biblical foundation.

Bishop Delroy Henry

GROW - PRE-CONVENTION

Objective: This prayer strategy is a structured plan to achieve spiritual victory through intentional communication with God, guided by His Word. This communication involves:

1. Listening to God.
2. Hearing God to understand His will.
3. Understanding God's guidance to act according to His will, especially in complex and uncertain times.

DAY

1

PREPARE THE SOIL



Scripture: Psalm 139:23-24 & Daniel 9:4-9

Theme: Spiritual Preparation

Prayer Focus:

- Confession: Seek God thorough examination of your heart; ask Him to prepare the soil for spiritual growth.
- Humility and Repentance: Pray for a spirit of humility and genuine repentance throughout the convention.
- National Reflection: Seek God's forgiveness for the nation and ask for His guidance in returning to biblical truths.



“Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my
anxious thoughts.
See if there is any
offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way
everlasting”.

Psalm 139:23-24

DAY 2 SOWING THE SEED



Scripture: Psalm 29:2, 2 Samuel 7:22

Theme: Adoration & Praise

Prayer Focus:

- Adoration: Praise God for His faithfulness in the planning and preparation of the convention.
- Acknowledgement: Declare God's greatness and holiness, recognizing Him as the true focus of the event.
- Worship: Honour God for His past deeds and express anticipation for what He will do during the convention.



DAY 3 SEEDING PROCESS



Scripture: Matthew 7:7, Matthew 6:9-11

Theme: Petition for provision

Prayer Focus:

- Logistics: Pray for God's provision for all logistical needs (finances, resources, volunteers).
- Safety: Ask for divine protection for all attendees traveling to and from the convention.
- Anointing: Petition for a strong anointing on every speaker, leader, and ministry team involved.

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you”.

Matthew 7:7

DAY 4 GERMINATING PROCESS

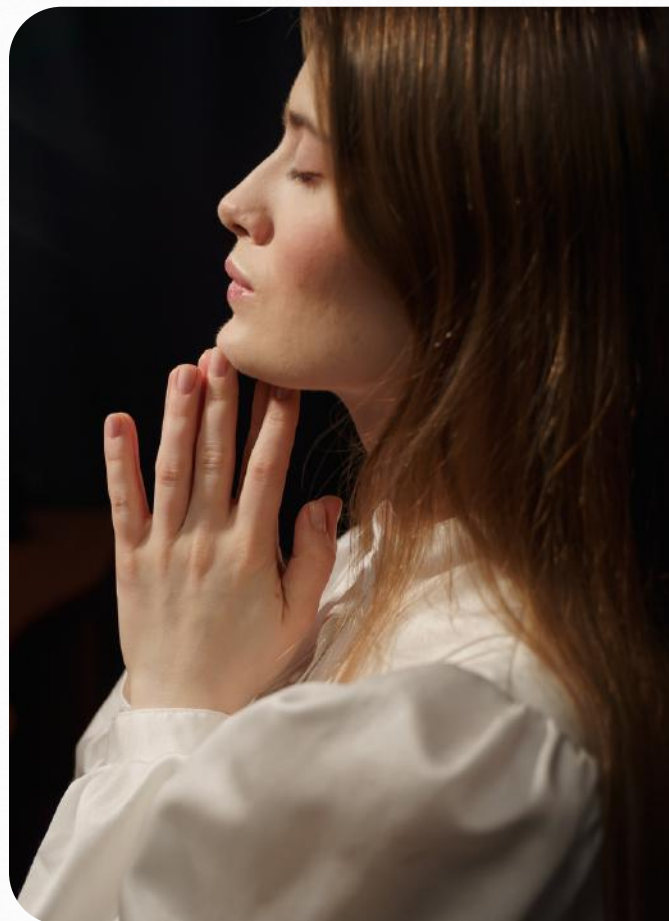


Scripture: Ephesians 6:18, Philippians 4:6-7

Theme: Supplication for Breakthrough

Prayer Focus:

- **Spiritual Breakthroughs:** Ask for renewed faith and spiritual breakthroughs for all attendees.
- **Healing and Restoration:** Pray for healing, deliverance, and restoration in the lives of individuals and families.
- **Church Growth:** Supplicate for the spiritual growth and deepening faith of the church community.



DAY 5 ROOTING PROCESS



Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:1, Jeremiah 29:7

Theme: Intercession for others

Prayer Focus:

- **Salvation:** Intercede for the unsaved attendees, praying they will come to know Christ.
- **Global Church Needs:** Pray for the global church, asking God to use the convention as a catalyst for revival.
- **Family and Leadership:** Intercede for families, youth, and leaders, seeking God's impact through the convention.
- **Community Impact:** Pray for peace and blessing over the surrounding community and Newport.

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people”.

Ephesians 6:18

DAY 6 SPROUTING PROCESS

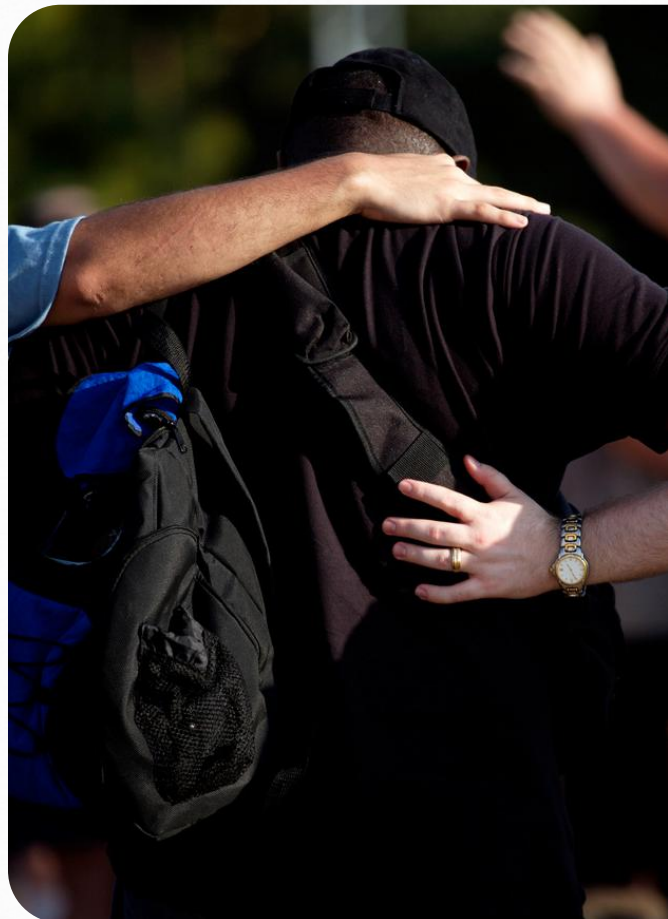


Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:16, Acts 2:42-47

Theme: Communion & Unity

Prayer Focus:

- **Unity and Fellowship:** Pray for a deep sense of unity and fellowship during the convention.
- **God's Presence:** Ask for God's presence to be tangibly felt in every session and gathering.
- **Lasting Relationships:** Seek God's help in building lasting relationships and partnerships within the church.



DAY 7 PRUNING PROCESS



Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Psalm 106:1

Theme: Thanksgiving

Prayer Focus:

- **Gratitude for Growth:** Praise God for answered prayers, expected breakthroughs, and the unity experienced.
- **Transformation:** Give thanks for the lives transformed and the testimonies that will emerge during and after the convention.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever”.

Psalm 106:1

Prayer Strategy

GROW: DURING CONVENTION

FRIDAY SESSION

Theme: Personal Spiritual Growth

Scriptures: Psalm 139:23-24, Galatians 5:22-23, Philippians 4:6-7, Jeremiah 29:11

Prayer focus:

- **Heart Preparation:** Ask God to search your heart and prepare it for spiritual growth through reflection and repentance.
- **Fruit of the Spirit:** Pray for the cultivation of Christ-like character, leading to healthier relationships and a life that glorifies God.
- **Prayer Lifestyle:** Seek consistency and fervency in your communication with God, deepening your relationship with Him.
- **Purpose and Mission:** Ask for clarity in discovering and embracing your personal mission and God-given purpose.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law”.

Galatians 5:22-23



FAQS: Understanding the importance of prayer

What is prayer?

Prayer is a dialogue with God, forming part of a worshipful lifestyle where believers seek God's will and maintain a relationship with Him (Exodus 25:21-22; Acts 10:1-4).

Why do we pray?

Prayer is the believer's spiritual connection to heaven. It is essential for maintaining spiritual life, as exemplified by Jesus who prayed consistently and commanded His followers to do the same (Luke 18:1). NTCG values prayer as vital for cultivating healthy, vibrant churches.

SATURDAY SESSION

Theme: Growing Relationships

Scriptures: Joshua 24:15, Ephesians 4:31-32, Hebrews 10:24-25, 1Timothy 2:1-2

Prayer focus:

- **Family Bonds:** Pray for stronger family bonds and spiritual growth within families.
- **Forgiveness and Reconciliation:** Seek healing and restoration in strained relationships.
- **Church Community:** Pray for deeper connections within the church, nurturing environments of belonging and support.
- **Leadership Support:** Pray for the strength and guidance of leaders who nurture the spiritual growth of the community.

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness”.

1Timothy 2:1-2

**How long should I pray?**

There is no upper time limit on prayer. It can happen anytime and anywhere. The key is to pray consistently, honestly, and with faith. Start small and allow the conversation to grow, as it is part of a relationship.

Where do I start with prayer?

A structured approach to prayer can be helpful:

- **Adoration:** Express deep love and respect for God (Psalm 45:1-8; Isaiah 6:1-4).
- **Confession:** Acknowledge faults and failures before God (1 Kings 8:47; Nehemiah 1:6-7).
- **Petition:** Make requests known to God (Daniel 2:17-18; Matthew 7:7-12).

SUNDAY SESSION

Theme: Revival Growth

Scriptures: Proverbs 29:18, Acts 2:17-18, Psalm 85:6, Matthew 28:19-20

Prayer focus:

- **Vision Alignment:** Pray for alignment with the “We are NTCG” vision, inspiring unity and action towards a common mission.
- **Spirit Empowerment:** Ask for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, providing divine guidance and strength.
- **Personal Revival:** Seek personal spiritual revitalization, impacting your ministry, local church, and community.
- **Outreach Impact:** Pray for the development of effective outreach strategies and the church’s ability to engage and serve the surrounding community.



“Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom’s instruction”.

Proverbs 29:18

- **Supplication:** Earnestly ask for God’s intervention (Daniel 6:11; Luke 18:1-8).
- **Intercession:** Pray on behalf of others (Acts 12:5; Jeremiah 15:1).
- **Communion:** Share intimate thoughts and feelings with God (Genesis 18:33; Exodus 25:22).
- **Thanksgiving:** Express gratitude to God (Colossians 4:2; Ephesians 5:20).



Rev. Laurel Woodstock & Team

PAC Course Facilitator

For those interested in deepening their understanding of prayer ministry, intercession, spiritual warfare, and their role in deliverance and pastoral support, consider exploring the Prayer, Altar, and Counselling Ministry (PAC) course offered through the Leadership Training Centre. Register [HERE](#).

BOOK LAUNCH



“Through these informative, and inspirational poems Bishop Claion Grandison has creatively connected to the vena cava of black anthropology...”

- Bishop Tedroy Powell

*National Presiding Bishop, Church of God of Prophecy,
U.K., Holland & Belgium*



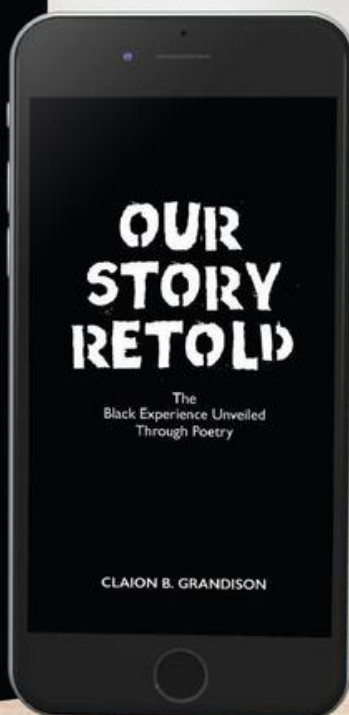
**EXCLUSIVE
BRAND
NEW
RELEASE!**



“Claion Grandison is one of the few church leaders who write poetry and it has to be said it’s very good...”

- Marcia Dixon MBE

Publisher, Keep the Faith magazine



Available Now on

amazon

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DIY Citrus Vinegar Cleaner

Make a powerful and eco-friendly cleaner using citrus peels and vinegar. This cleaner is perfect for countertops, windows, and more, Leaving your home smelling fresh and chemical-free.

Ingredients: Lemon peel – White wine vinegar – Strainer – Empty Jar – Spray bottle

How to make it:

- ✓ Save the peels from oranges, lemons, or any citrus fruit.
- ✓ Fill a jar with the citrus peels and pour white wine vinegar over them until they are fully submerged.
- ✓ Seal the jar and let it sit for 2-3 weeks in a cool, dark place.
- ✓ Strain the liquid into a spray bottle, discarding the peels, and dilute with equal parts water.

Why is this great?

The natural oils in citrus peels enhance the cleaning power of vinegar and leave a pleasant scent behind.

Plus, it's a great way to reuse something that would otherwise be thrown away!

CHURCH NEWS

Connecting members of the New Testament Church of God to its leadership and to each other.



YOUTH ACADEMY
October 25 – 27, 2024
For more info, click [HERE](#)



SENIOR PASTORS' PRAYER MEETING
January 11, 2025
For more info, click [HERE](#)



NATIONAL YOUTH DAY OF PRAYER
January 18, 2025
For more info, click [HERE](#)



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONFERENCE
FEATURING
ANNUAL OLIVER LYSEIGHT LECTURE
February 8, 2025 (To register - Click [HERE](#))



REIMAGINE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT
February 21 – 22, 2025
For more info, click [HERE](#)

CONNECT



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EKKLESIA

New Testament Church of God England & Wales

 **ntcg**
National
Church
Magazine

ADMIN
BISHOP'S
WELCOME

**SELF LEADERSHIP:
THROUGH THE LIFE
OF JESUS**

LEADING
MILLENNIALS

EDITOR'S
BIO

- TESTIMONIES
- REFLECTION
- & MUCH MORE!

PRACTICE WHAT WE PREACH

EVERY-DAY THEOLOGY:
SHINE WHERE YOU'RE
PLACED

ISSUE NO.01