



*"Roll Back The Curtains"*  
Hitherto hath the Lord helped us 1 Samuel 7:12

50th

*New Testament Church of God*

*Wolverhampton*

**50th**

*Anniversary Celebration*

50th

— 1953 - 2003 —

# Fifty Years Of History

*And the church was without form, and void.*

**A**lthough World War Two ended in 1945 with Britain victorious, many of her towns and cities were left devastated by German bombing. The problem then arose of there being insufficient adult males to provide the necessary labour for rebuilding the nation. Six years of war had taken its toll.

Winston Churchill was one of those who took the opportunity to invite workers from the British colonies to supplement the workforce, and many West Indians saw the chance to 'make their fortune' in 'The Motherland'— just for two or three years!

Jamaica actually had high unemployment in the 1950's and, with much of the work (on farms and sugar estates) being seasonal and short term; the prospect of earning in faraway Britain seemed too good to miss.

However, paying the fare was never going to be straightforward. Many left their wives and families behind, sold most of their possessions and still had to borrow in order to raise the best part of £100 or so to make the journey. A frequently used route was to initially fly to New York and then sail to English ports such as Liverpool, Bristol or Southampton. One who arrived at Liverpool Docks – on 8th November 1951 – was a young preacher named Oliver Lyseight. His experiences in trying to settle into English life as a black immigrant, are typical of the time. A more detailed account can be found in his book "Forward March" (Birches Ltd 1995) but this brief synopsis will give an idea of the difficulties that were encountered by early West Indian arrivals.

On reaching Liverpool, he first travelled to Wolverhampton, where he had two younger half-brothers living on Penn Road. Perhaps he had not

realised that he would have to share a bed with the two of them as well. Yet finding a room elsewhere was no easy matter. It was not uncommon to hear, "Sorry, all rooms are taken", from local landlords, in spite of vacancy signs being displayed in the window. The white population had not been prepared for the influx of coloured immigrants, and there was extreme ignorance and thus frequent discrimination, especially with regard to work and accommodation.

The first church Rev Lyseight attended was Darlington Street Methodist Church near the middle of Wolverhampton – but this just wasn't Pentecostal!

He tried the Assemblies of God church a few miles away in Dudley, travelling by trolley bus. This was more like it! Two prophecies were given – one through himself – that God



was going to use the West Indians in the Midlands area in a mighty way.

As he preached around the area with Brother Ezekiel Tennant; further prophecies were given, telling of how they would command a great church of thousands throughout the country. Sounded impossible at the time!

The opportunity was taken to minister to many hundreds of people around the country, but Rev Lyseight was not satisfied. He still saw too many West Indians drifting away from the church and backsliding, as they faced the everyday struggle to cope with the different customs and ways of the British.

A black face was often unwelcome in the mainline churches, but being able to minister to the Caribbean people was often a problem anyway, due to accommodation difficulties and many doors being slammed shut.



Another West Indian who emigrated to Britain (in May 1952) was Lambert Garwood. He had served under Rev Lyseight in Jamaica for several years and decided to follow the trail across the Atlantic. He also left his wife – and six children – before arriving in Southampton, and then London.

However, he had to stay in a damp, stuffy and unpleasant air-raid shelter, which was both frightening and depressing for someone fresh from the Caribbean sun.

Lambert had £5 in his pocket – this was standard advice to all West Indians leaving for England – so he headed for Wolverhampton, as he knew nobody anywhere, but had a parcel for a Brother H. Brown at

an address there. He followed directions to Paddington, continued to Wolverhampton Low Level Station and from there to Compton Road, on the edge of town. Imagine the shock, and at the same time delight when he was greeted at the address by Rev Lyseight and Brother Tennant!



Brother Whitter allowed him to stay at his house – where up to 20 men lived at a time, sharing rooms and usually beds too.

Lambert often cried himself to sleep, as he thought of his family so far away. He needed a place to worship.

Brother H. Thomas invited him to the 'Church in the Garden' in Blackheath. Buses were only once an hour so having just missed one and waited it must have been very discouraging to get the next, only to see the connection leave as he disembarked in Dudley! By the time they arrived at Pastor Walter Darby's church – you guessed it – they were just in time to hear the benediction.

Nonetheless, Brother Garwood joined this white Pentecostal church and became a Sunday school teacher there, whom the children dubbed 'Uncle Lambert'.

*And God said, 'let there be a church in  
Wolverhampton'*

*A*lthough work was available, pay was usually very low for West Indians, who were often taken advantage of. Bro Garwood worked a 60-hour week at a steel factory in Darlaston for just £14 a week. When pay and conditions worsened he moved to a better job at Goodyear Tyres. Slowly savings built up and he was able to



send for his wife – but not the children – in September 1953. Rose Lyseight had joined her husband too, in April of that year.

By this time things were developing in Wolverhampton. Meetings were being held in private homes and then permission was granted by the police to hold occasional open-air meetings. It was proving difficult for West Indians to gain significant roles in the mainstream churches but at least Rev. Lyseight now had the opportunity to minister. Yet it was clear that premises were needed to allow for the growth of West Indian Christianity in Britain.

They decided to seek for rented accommodation and, following consultation with a Welshman from the Apostolic Church, they contacted the Young Men's Christians Association (YMCA).

They were given a large room at the YMCA Centre on Stafford Street, Wolverhampton. Praise God, the church was born on Sunday 20th September 1953.

Admittedly the place had to be cleaned out and disinfected before service every Sunday

(it was also used as a smoking room for social functions) but it was a start.

Rev Lyseight tried to rally as many as he could for the very first service, and he had hoped that Bro Garwood would be among the number. But Bro Garwood was a little reluctant to leave his 'Church in the Garden' and return to a Jamaican fellowship, so the New Testament Church of God in Britain – in Wolverhampton – began with just seven. The 'Magnificent seven' Christians on that night were: Rev and Sis Lyseight, Bro and Sis Herman Brown, Sis C. Salmon, Bro G. Peddie and Bro C. Dundas.

Others soon joined the congregation including Bro and Sis Garwood, Bro Leonard Monfries, Bro John Bryan, Sis Berris Bucknor, Bro and Sis Street and Bro and Sis Stephens.

Memories of the time often seem to focus around open air meetings in the freezing cold (British winters really were harsher in those days!) while disbelieving passers-by stopped and stared at them as they sang, prayed and preached the word.

But there was a strong belief that the church would happen in England if it was God's will. The words of Gamaliel in Acts 5:38 – 39 spring to mind, "... if this counsel or this

work be of men, it will come to nought: But if



it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it. . ."

Sis. Whitter, who attended the second meeting at the YMCA and was to contribute wonderfully in 'encapsulating the past' through regular magazines, made the following observations:

*"...looking at the number, they were just a few. Bro Jeffeth Lawrence was appointed by Rev Lyseight to stand outside at the entrance of the YMCA building to direct brethren into the building and find their way to the meeting room. Outside was cold but he did his duty.*

*I had a 'Songs of Praise' song book that I usually lent to one of the leaders to sing a duet with his wife. I was the only one who owned one then. Often they would sing 'I'm Living in Canaan Now', and when they sang the chorus 'Crossed over Jordan wide, gladness to find my soul satisfied' they would be well applauded as memories of home in Jamaica were revived."*



I still remember that little English man who played the piano in those early stages. He certainly made a contribution to this great church for he was always there to do his part."

By 1954 the numbers arriving from the West Indies had substantially increased. New arrivals in Wolverhampton were welcomed to town, and then invited to church before they could be lured



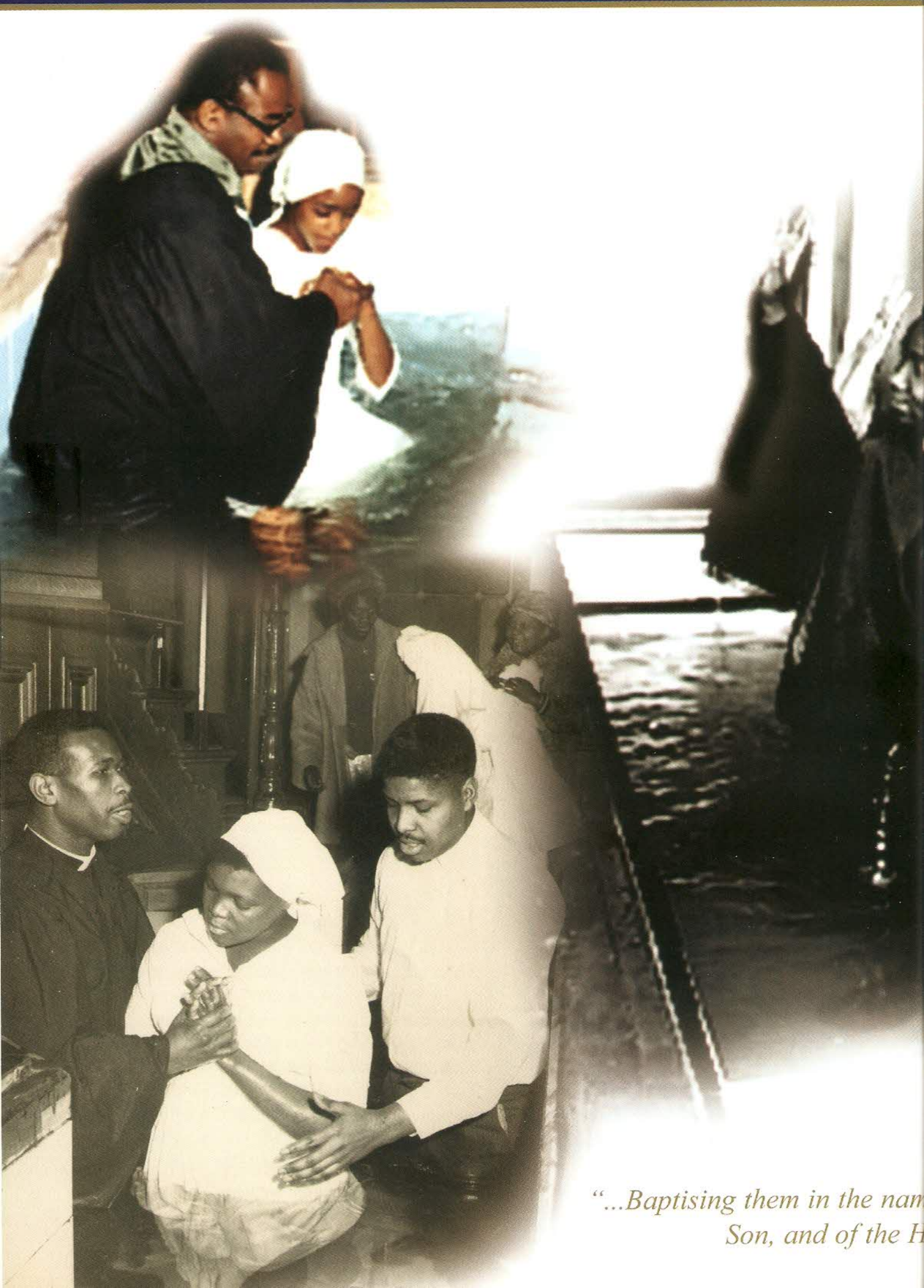
elsewhere!

One who arrived at this time was Theresa Douglas. She was not a Christian when she left Jamaica, but she had been brought up in a Christian environment. The Proverb (22v6) "Train up a child in the way he should go: and he when he is old, he will not depart from it" is born out well by her story. God spoke to her whilst in bed in Jamaica distinctly telling her to 'Arise and go to England', even showing her the very house she would be living in on Waterloo Road, Wolverhampton, which belonged to an English woman, Mrs Booth. She told the Lord that if he took her safely to this foreign land, she would serve Him until the day she died. Her sister thought she was mad but Theresa was adamant and eventually her sister helped by taking her to the booking office where clearance to travel to England was received without any problem.

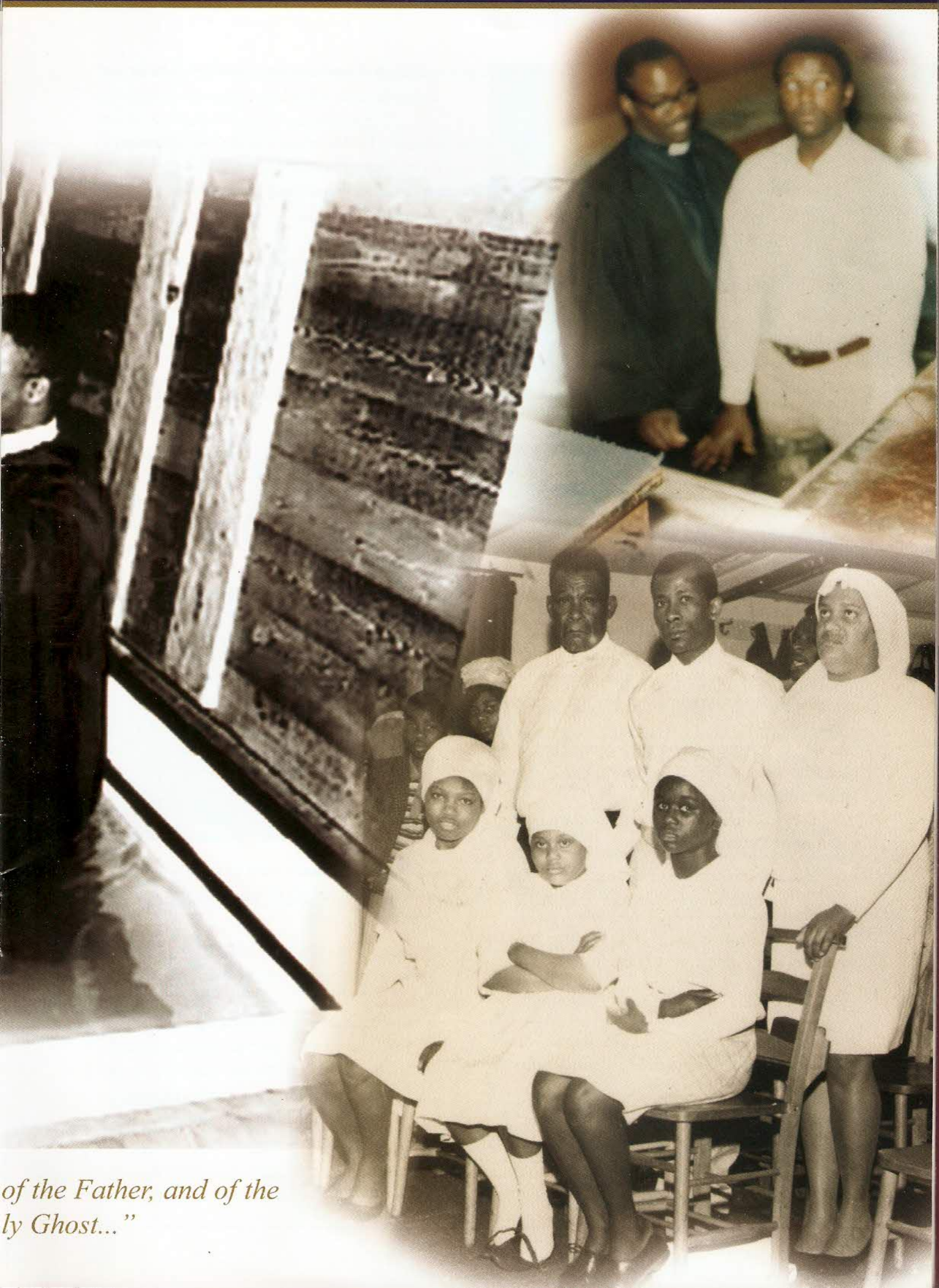
She had known Bro Monfries a short time and when she felt the urge to attend church, he agreed to take her to the YMCA.

Each of the leaders gave a few words of encouragement when she returned in the evening and one asked if she was saved. Without hesitation she got up and knelt at the little table, and a wonderful feeling came over her as she gave her heart to the Lord, the first convert in the church.

She also became the first candidate for baptism which was carried out on 11th October 1954, at the Dudley Assemblies of God Church - there being no pool in Wolverhampton.



*“...Baptising them in the name  
Son, and of the H*



*of the Father, and of the  
ly Ghost..."*

With encouragement from Pastor and Sis Brown, she got together with and eventually married John Bryan, one of the original seven.

As numbers swelled, a larger room at the YMCA had to be used to hold services, and on 26th December 1954 the Church of God in Wolverhampton was officially formed with 15 members. Brothers Lyseight, Peddie and Brown as 'original' founders were given the responsibility of preaching the word along with Bro Monfries. Bro Garwood became the first usher.

### *And God blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful and multiply'*

**B**ro H. Thomas and Bro E. Gordon visited from Birmingham and were so inspired, that they went home to start a sister church there.

By 1955, contact was made with General Headquarters in Cleveland Tennessee, and Rev Paul Walker, the Foreign Missions Secretary, visited in June. He settled matters in Wolverhampton and Birmingham, formally appointing pastors in both – H.D. Brown in Wolverhampton and G. Johnson in Birmingham.

As the church continued to expand, A.S. Cameron arrived from Jamaica with his wife, and they eventually came to pastor the newly formed church in Wednesfield.

As well as serving on the church council and as assistant pastor to Rev H.D. Brown, Bro J. Bryan's main calling was evangelism.

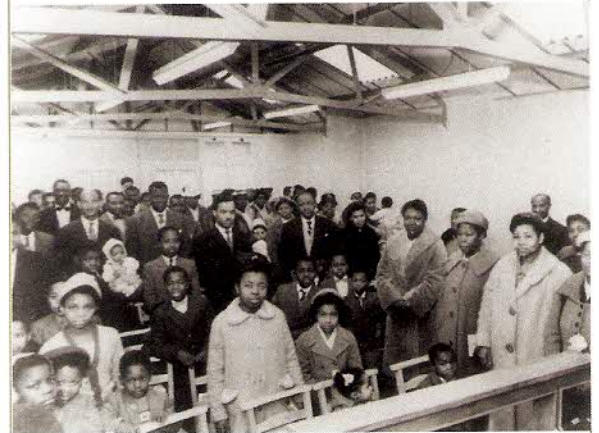
The Lord called him and his wife to take a team to Wellington (Telford) in 1959 to

start a new work there. Within 6 weeks a church was organised and he was there for 6 years.

Bro G. Macfarlane began holding meetings in Walsall and then Rev Tennant became the first pastor there.

Also in 1959, Bro V. MacGregor was converted and he later helped start the church in Bilston where Rev. L. Monfries became first pastor in 1962. Pastor MacGregor was transferred to Walsall in 1964.

G.S. Peddie went to Dudley, (assisted by G.S. Mason, Bro Foster and a few others) and eventually came to pastor the church there. Another church was formed in Willenhall.



Evangelistic teams went as far as Cardiff in Wales, and Balsall Heath in Birmingham (later Highgate).

### *Now the serpent...*

**J**ust when everything is looking good, it is all too easy not to notice the enemy sneaking up on you. Although 1959 saw new churches springing up all around, there was an old foe that had been lying in wait for an opportunity to pounce: DIVISION.



*“for ye are yet carnal : for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”  
(1 Corinthians 3:3)*

Sadly, the next 10 years brought a number of splits in the church as differences failed to be resolved.

It is pointless trying to blame groups or individuals, but history records how the enemy was able to strike with one of his strongest weapons against the young church in Wolverhampton. Neither party seemed prepared to back down and in June 1959, the church was divided.

Pastor Brown, along with over half the membership, moved out to form the Mount Shiloh Church, whilst Rev Bryan held the reins as caretaker pastor of the remaining 25 members. He continued until Rev Vincent R M Nelson, who was working for British Rail down in London, was called up to pastor the Wolverhampton church, still congregating at the YMCA in Stafford Street.

Pastor Nelson soon set about building up the membership and also looked toward obtaining new premises for the church.

He acquired a license to collect funds by knocking on doors, apportioning a quarter to the elderly, a quarter to the children and half to the church. Tent meetings were also held for the first time.

### *We the servants shall arise and build...*

*A*s the church continued to expand, so the need for their own building increased in urgency.

“After much pleading and negotiating” wrote Bro Garwood in his book ‘The Church As I See It’, (Alpha Press 1990), “the council grudgingly agreed to allow us a temporary building made of asbestos and not brick.” (Within 10 years the land would have to be



reclaimed for major road construction).

It cost £2,500 part of which was borrowed from a bank in Lozells, Birmingham, although some came through the New Testament Church of God’s Revolving Fund, as well as Pastor Nelson’s fundraising. The front was constructed from brick, but the remaining walls were of asbestos.

On 27th January 1962, the church was officially opened, with the Town Mayor and Chief Constable present.

Interestingly, the Chief Constable explained that the reason the Council had initially tried to block the move was mainly that they could see no reason for another church, whilst so many white churches already existed.

It appeared to them to be a move towards segregation.

Thus, the mixed congregation that attended that night both amazed and convinced him that the correct decision had finally been made!

The church was moving on and membership was back up to around 70, most of whom were baptised and paying tithes.

However, the course of history took another twist as Pastor Nelson was transferred out of Wolverhampton in 1963, to be replaced by Rev Curtis Grey, who came down from Leeds. He was soon to be promoted to the role of District Pastor – over Wolverhampton, Wednesfield,

Walsall, Dudley, Bilston and Wellington.

He saw the need for concentrated fasting and prayer, to combat the many situations arising during the sixties – a spiritual answer to spiritual problems. Mother Garwood's comment speaks volumes, "I didn't believe anyone could be filled with the Holy Ghost in this church anymore".

Under Pastor Grey, Wolverhampton unquestionably continued to move forward, it was undisputedly the largest Church of God in the UK. Stafford, Willenhall, Redditch and even Cardiff were all added to make twelve churches in the district. As Bro Garwood aptly stated, "In the 1970's, West Indians had a mind to serve God, evangelise and work".



But of course the council were due to reclaim the land in 1972, so again new premises had to be found and purchased.

A plot was eventually purchased on Wednesfield Road, Heath Town for £6,000. This had been raised by selling the church and house on Nursery Street (for £3,000) and by the brethren raising the remainder. Yet a new building was going to be so expensive to build (around £65,000) that the empty church virtually opposite was bought instead for £9,000.

A great deal of hard work and renovation was put in – mostly by the membership – to clean the place up and then install toilets, offices and upstairs halls before the new building was proudly opened in July, 1972, and of course it is still the home of the Wolverhampton membership today.

Yet after ten years, Rev Grey was transferred to the Sheffield district in a direct swap with Rev Poyser! He arrived from Sheffield to take charge in August of 1973, but he was gone within eleven months and Rev Rocliff Joseph stepped in to replace him.

Under Pastor Joseph, the need to appreciate the Senior Citizens was recognised at Christmas 1977 and a fundraising plan was put in place.

In February 1979 the 'Senior Adult Fellowship' was inaugurated under B. Bucknor's presidency with C. Walcott as vice president.

A first outing was made to Warwick Castle.

Another change to the pastorship brought Rev J. Hall in from 1980 to 1983 and – after a gap of three months without a pastor – Rev Kenneth Walder was appointed and served from January 1984 to August 1985.

In a relatively short amount of time, Pastor Walder made quite an impact in Wolverhampton, especially with regard to building improvements. During his tenure a new parsonage was purchased, an extended ceiling was put in to the church, a new stage was built, more central heating radiators were installed and repairs were made to the roof.



However, because of the school circumstances of his two younger children, a move to Wolverhampton was not practical at the time, and eventually National Overseer Dr Arnold decided to transfer Rev Walder to the Bristol District Church. Eighteen years ago, a greater degree of stability came to Wolverhampton as the present incumbent, Rev Winston Willis, took the hot seat in September 1985, and he is still showing no signs of letting up! This continuous service is symbolic of a new mindset in the New Testament church, where longer periods of pastorship are encouraged.

The year 1985 also brought a notable moment of recognition for the church when 1000 years of Wolverhampton (since 985 when Lady Wulfruna handed the key to the town) were celebrated. A song was written especially for the anniversary. 'Take a chance' was a gospel record, written, produced and arranged by E. Whitter and sung by the Foundation Choir. The celebration was covered by the BBC.

In August 1992, the first Inter-District Convention was held – jointly with Bilston District at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton and also at Bilston church.

Rev Derek Webley and Exhorter Hermilyn James provided the stirring messages for the event.

The year 1993 saw forty years of the church in Wolverhampton, and indeed Britain, celebrated. A big event was held in the Civic Hall in Wolverhampton and brethren from all over the nation, and even abroad, gathered as the New Testament Church in Britain was able to look back at forty years history – not just survival but considerable increase.



To God be the glory!

## *What God Has Done*

*Testimonies of God's Goodness Over 50 Years*

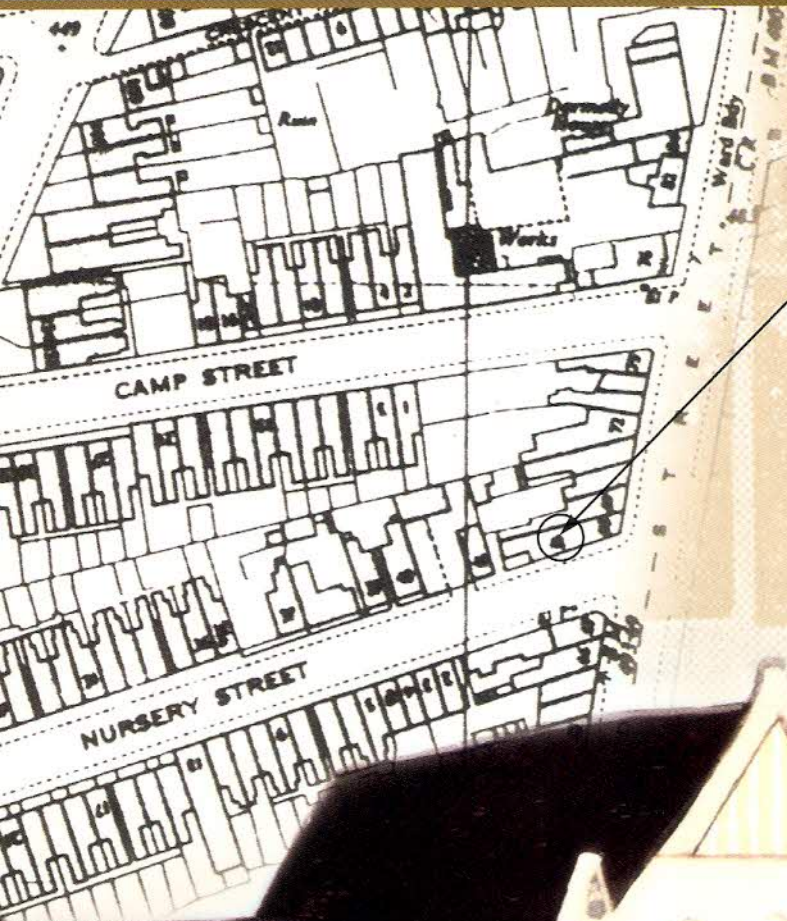
**R**ather like many testimony services in church, although the initial response was slow (and moderators begin wondering whether they have missed the Spirit somewhere), suddenly, people start popping up everywhere as they remember what God has done, and are freshly inspired by the Spirit.

In the end we were inundated with often lengthy, but nearly always powerful reports of how God has blessed and prospered individuals since the church began in Wolverhampton 50 years ago.

As in those testimony services, it came to a point where we just had to say sorry, but we can't take any more testimonies – but God bless you anyway!

The following is a sample of the many submissions received, although even most of these have been shortened. Thanks to all of you who took time out to write in, and rest assured that even if it does not appear in this section, it has been read with interest, and certainly assisted in the construction of the main History chapter.

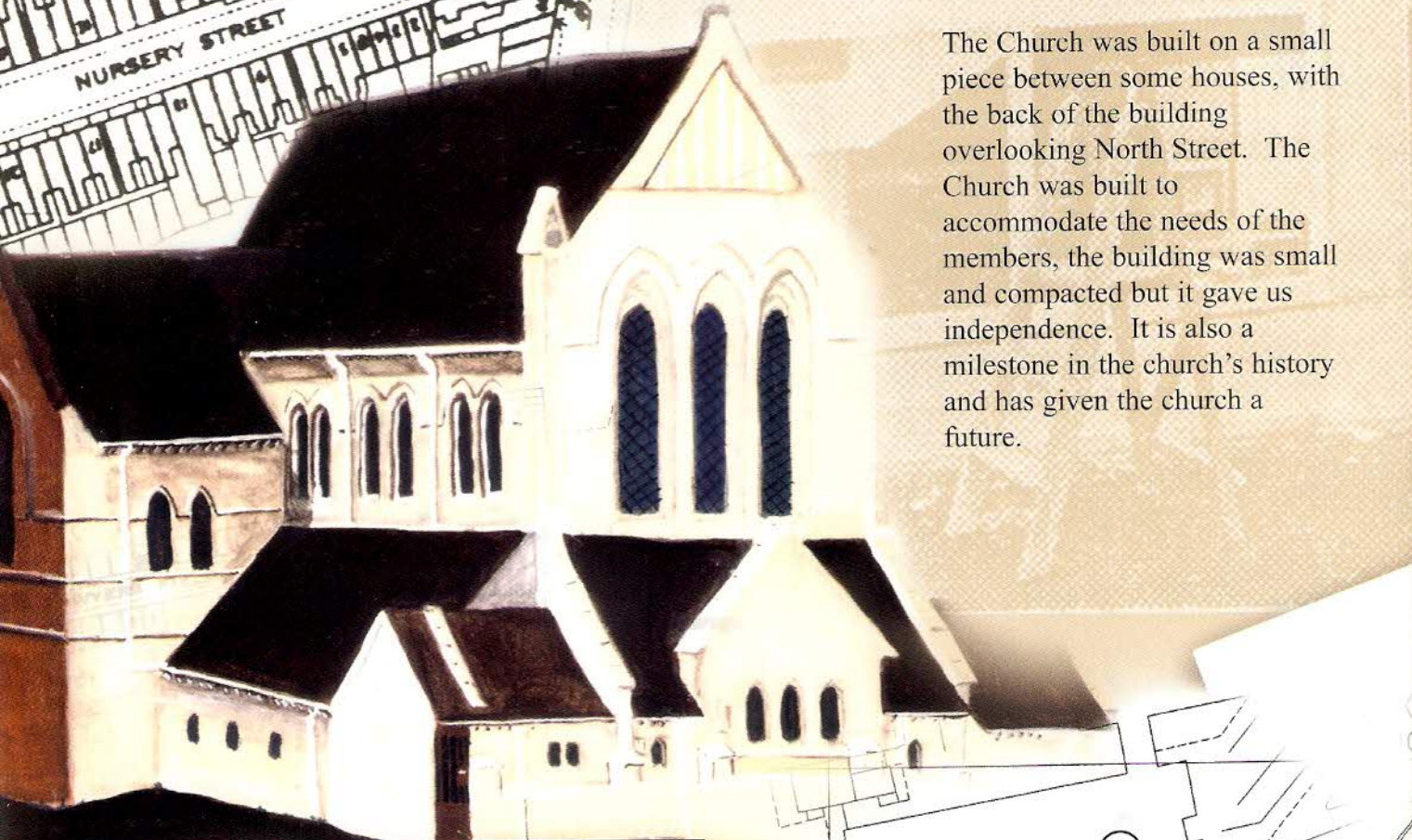
Editor



*Nursery Street Location 1962*

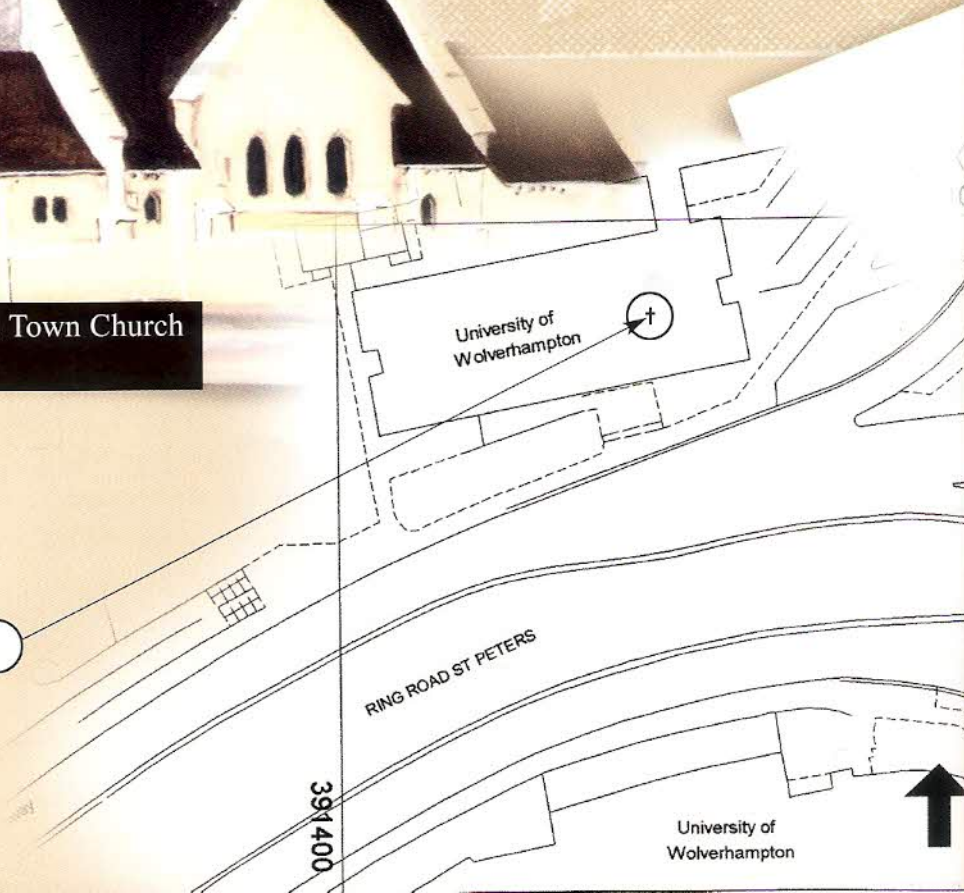
The New Testament Church of God Wolverhampton was built in the early 60s at Nursery Street. Nursery Street was located on the left off Stafford Street from Wolverhampton Town. It was a short cul-de-sac street with houses on both sides.

The Church was built on a small piece between some houses, with the back of the building overlooking North Street. The Church was built to accommodate the needs of the members, the building was small and compacted but it gave us independence. It is also a milestone in the church's history and has given the church a future.



Artists impression of the present Heath Town Church Painted by a local resident

*Nursery Street Location 2003*



# INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

Y.W.C.A.

YMCA Centre, Stafford Street, Wolverhampton.

Birthplace of the  
New Testament  
Church of God  
England & Wales  
Born Sunday 20th  
September 1953.



## New Testament Church of God

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS: Cleveland, Tennessee, U.S.A.  
NURSERY STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON, ENGLAND - TEL. WO 23469

MINISTER:  
REV. C GREY,  
34 Sandringham Avenue,  
Willenhall,  
Staffs.  
Tel. BLOxwich 75157

SECRETARY  
Mr. E.A. Stephens  
52, Southbourne Road,  
Fordhouses,  
Wolverhampton.

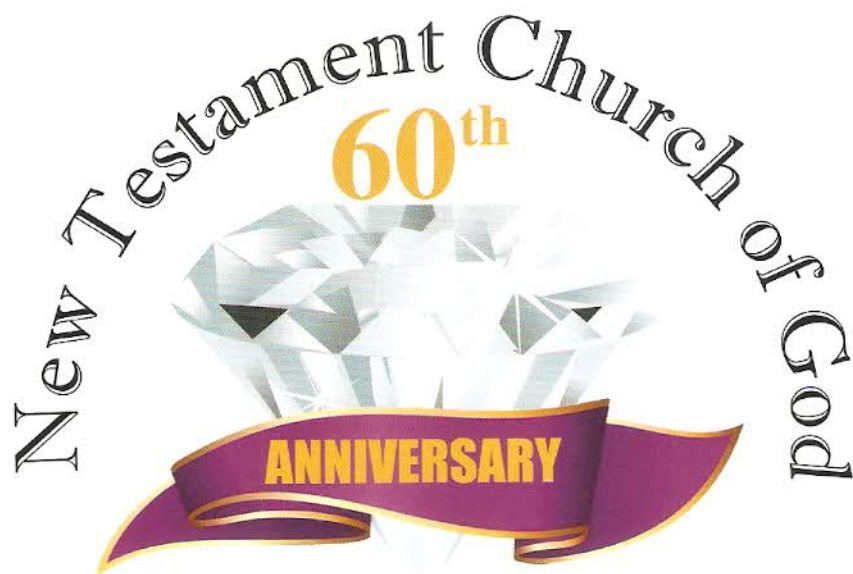
HEADQUARTERS:  
19 Sandringham Avenue,  
Wolverhampton, W. Midlands

*History of the Church of God in Wolverhampton begins when a small stream of light came to England, and settled in Wolverhampton. God is a man of God and active power in the world. The Church of God is a spiritual power in the world. The Church of God is a spiritual power in the world. The Church of God is a spiritual power in the world.*

NATION

## *Chronology of Events*

8th November 1951	O A Lyseight arrives in England
20th September 1953	Church opens at Wolverhampton YMCA
11th October 1954	First baptism
26th December 1954	New Testament Church of God officially opened
June 1955	Rev H Brown formally appointed pastor by delegate sent from Cleveland, Tennessee
1959-1960	Churches started in Walsall, Bilston, Willenhall, Dudley and Telford
	Church splits, Rev J Bryan holds the reins
	Rev VRM Nelson appointed pastor
1961	Nursery Street property purchased
1962	New building (brick and asbestos) erected
27th January 1962	New Church officially opened
1963	Pastor Nelson transferred and Rev C Grey appointed
1972	Current Church building purchased
July 1972	New Church opened
August 1973	Rev F F Poyser replaces Rev Grey as Pastor
July 1974	Rev R Joseph becomes new pastor
February 1979	Senior Adult Fellowship inaugurated
1980	Rev J Hall appointed pastor
1984	Rev K Walder installed as pastor
September 1985	Rev W Willis takes on the pastorate
August 1992	First Inter-District Convention held (with Bilston)
September 2003	Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration



1953 - 2013

*Harvest Temple*

## 60th Anniversary Booklet

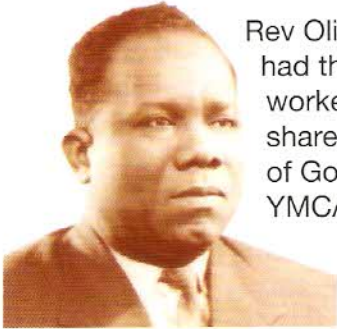
*Celebrating our Past...*

*Embracing our Future*





## The History of NTCG Wolverhampton



Rev Oliver Lyseight, a preacher from Jamaica with a commitment to serving God had the vision to start the New Testament Church of God in Wolverhampton. He worked with the support of some key brothers and sisters in Christ who also shared this vision and organised the first service of the New Testament Church of God. The service which took place on Sunday 20th September 1953 at the YMCA centre on Stafford Street, Wolverhampton with just seven members namely; Bro and Sis Lyseight, Bro and Sis Herman Brown, Sis Chloe Salmon, Bro Gilbert Peddie and Bro C Dundas. This was the planting of the seed, from which many more services took place.

Others soon joined the congregation including Bro and Sis Garwood, Bro Leonard Monfries, Bro John Bryan, Bro B Bucknor, Bro and Sis Streete and Bro and Sis Stephens.

Brothers Lyseight, Peddie, Brown and Monfries were given rotated responsibility of preaching the Word for a maximum of three months each with Bro HD Brown as the minister in charge. Bro Garwood took his place as the first appointed usher.



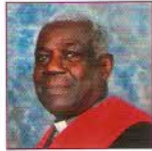
In 1955 and as the church began to grow contact was made with General Headquarters in Cleveland Tennessee. Rev Paul Walker, the Foreign Missions Secretary from Cleveland Tennessee, visited in June 1955 and officially appointed Rev Lyseight as the first National Overseer of the New Testament Church of God in England & Wales. Rev Walker also formally appointed Rev HD Brown as the pastor in Wolverhampton and as the church began to become established in Birmingham Rev Walker appointed Rev G Johnson to support the development of the New Testament Church of God in Birmingham. The church was doing well; several churches were planted in the West Midlands and in South Wales.

The next few years brought a number of challenges as individual differences failed to be resolved and in June 1959 the church became divided. Rev H D Brown sadly moved away from the New Testament Church of God along with over half the church membership and formed the Mount Shiloh church. Rev John Bryan held the church together until Rev Vincent R M Nelson was appointed to take up the pastorate. He set about building up the membership and tent meetings were held for the first time. The growing church needed its own place to worship and God enabled the New Testament Church of God Wolverhampton to raise funds to build a small church in Nursery Street bought for £2,500. Rev. John Bryan became Trustee for the church in Nursery Street and signed a security guarantee on his house, along with Bro. Peddie and Bro. Garwood; such was the commitment and faith in furthering the Kingdom of God. The church was officially opened on 27 January 1962, a sound foundation for the future development and further growth of the New Testament Church of God. To God be the glory.





**Bishop HD Brown**  
1955 - 1959



**Rev Vincent Nelson**  
1959 - 1963



**Rev Curtis Grey**  
1963 - 1973



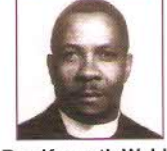
**Rev Felix Poyser**  
1973



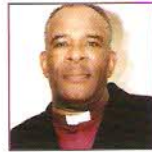
**Rev Rocliff Joseph**  
1973 - 1980



**Rev John Hall**  
1980 - 1983



**Rev Kenneth Walder**  
1984 - 1985



**Rev Winston Willis**  
1985 - Present

In 1963 Rev Curtis Grey was appointed to the pastorate and in 1972, a new building was required. The church formerly known as the St Barnabas' Church of England, Wednesfield Road in Heath Town was purchased for £9,000 and was opened in July 1972. From then on a number of pastors either took charge or held office. In August 1973, Rev Poyser took up office and after eleven months he moved to America and Rev Rocliff Joseph stepped in to replace him. The 'Senior Adult Fellowship' was organised. Bro B. Bucknor was inaugurated as the president with Bro C. Walcott as vice president in February 1979.

Further changes to the pastorate brought Rev J. Hall in from 1980 to 1983. Rev Kenneth Walder was appointed and served from January 1984 to August 1985. During his tenure a parsonage was purchased in the Goldthorn area of Wolverhampton and the church was renovated.

Rev Winston Lloyd Willis was appointed as pastor in September 1985 and continues to hold office until present day. Under his leadership and with support from the Church and Pastor's Council and members of the New Testament Church of God the 'Travellers Rest' Public House was purchased in 1996 for £160,000. The pub was well known for drug raids by the police but God had a different plan for its usage and in April 1997 the building now known as the 'New Trust Centre' was providing support programmes and care for senior citizens.

The usage of the Centre has continued to grow and flourish with Community Food Bank initiatives; the development of an Alternative Education Provision, Ofsted registered Summer Schemes, Independent Business initiatives, Education and Training Programmes, Youth Club as well as usage for catering and event bookings. To God be the Glory and we are sure he hasn't finished yet!

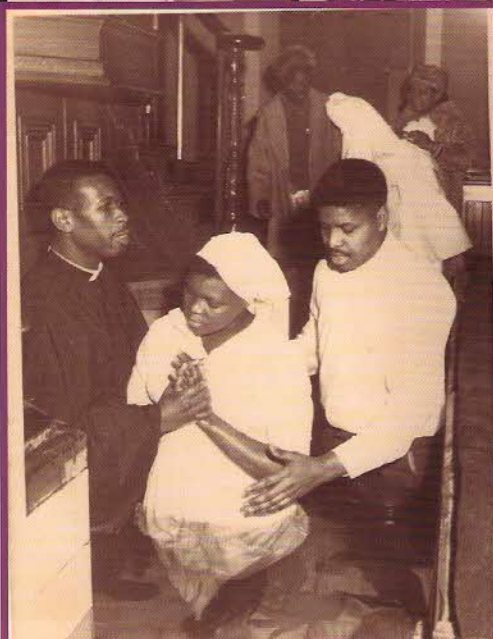
### **Name for the sanctuary**

In 2001 Rev Winston Lloyd Willis spoke passionately about the church having a name that would depict its mission and purpose, which was to 'Reap the Harvest', as we await the imminent return of our Lord. The name was 'Harvest Temple'. This was endorsed by the membership and the church became known as the 'New Testament Church of God, Harvest Temple'.

We have sown seeds through a preached, taught and sung Word from a vibrant and ever growing ministerial team. We have prayed for labourers to help gather in the souls that God has blessed us with; we embraced the name Harvest Temple to illustrate the mission of this local church:

1. **Exalt the Lord** – through regular Sunday, midweek, home and personal worship;
2. **Evangelise the lost** – through our outreach ministries;
3. **Edify the saved** – through Sunday school, home groups and weekly Bible study;
4. **Minister to those in need** – through our growing list of community projects;
5. **Be light and salt in the community** – through our relevancy in meeting needs spiritually, emotionally and physically.

We see the needs of this local community changing over the years and so too has our commitment and engagement with the community. The message "Jesus saves" is still the same and will forever be; the evidence "Jesus loves unconditionally" is demonstrated in the various ministries implemented over the years which are still empowering lives today.



Thanks be to God who has led us triumphantly in Christ over the years and has allowed His Spirit through us to spread His Word and knowledge, encouraging souls for His Kingdom.

We want to say a really big “thank you” to all our past and current, men and women of God, who planted the original seed that started in Wolverhampton in 1953. Through their efforts the New Testament Church of God was established throughout England and Wales.

Thank you to everyone for your prayers, contributions and support. Most of all, thank you for joining us in celebrating our past and embracing our future. God has truly blessed us and enabled us to come this far, and by His grace will lead us further.

Booklet produced & designed by:  
Jenny Gray, Grace Beecher, Grace Willis, Veronica Patmore & Pauline Farrell

