

*The Church of God*

*Great Lakes Mountaineer Region*



*Ohio*



*West Virginia*



*Michigan*

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## Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional



*News*

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# The Church of God

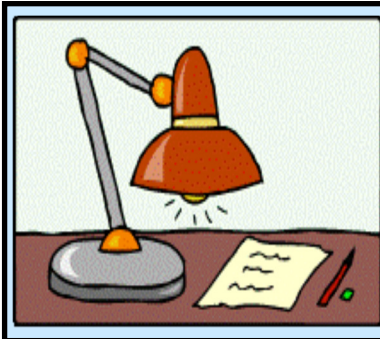
In

## Michigan—Ohio—West Virginia

**James T. Smith—Regional Overseer**

**Walter Lofton—Editor**

[www.tcog-glmr.org](http://www.tcog-glmr.org)



## From the desk of the Regional Overseer *James T. Smith*



The theme of our recent regional convention was “*Pressing Toward the Mark*” taken from Philippians 3:14 “*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*”

In particular, the Church has a two-fold high calling that she must reach: (1) what She is to become—Ephesians 5:27, and (2) what she must do—Matthew 28:19-20.

“*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).*

“(19) *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*” (Matt. 28:19-20).

I believe we understand our ultimate goal as typified (characterized) by the above scriptures. They clearly define the life we should seek to live, and the work to which our lives should be dedicated to completing. We must never lose sight of this ultimate high calling that the Lord has given us.

What we often have trouble with is understanding how this long term high calling affects the choices we make and the actions we follow each and every day. EVERY day should begin with our seeking Him to guide us in just exactly how TODAY we are to “press toward the mark” of this high calling. We find in the scripture a great set of principles that we should follow. We have captured many of these in the Church’s Prominent Teachings and in our Advice to Members. We would be well advised to put these into operation in our daily lives.

The high calling describes where we are headed, but it does not describe how we are to accomplish this high calling. If we are to achieve this high calling, there are specific steps that the Lord would have each of us to walk before Him.

The Lord, beyond these principles by which everyone should live, also provides specific guidance for each (individual) life, for each (specific) day of one’s life. This principle is described by David in ***Psalms 37:23*** “*The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*” According to *Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible*, the word rendered here as “ordered” means to stand erect; to set up; to found; to adjust, fit, direct. The idea being conveyed here is, that all which pertains to the journey of a good man through life is directed, ordered, fitted, or arranged by the Lord. That is, his course of life is under divine guidance and control.

I can think of several examples we can draw from Scripture that should help make this principle of personal divine guidance and direction for each step we would take each day. In Acts 8:4-8 we find the account of Phillip's evangelizing in Samaria. This was the Church's first major outreach beyond Jerusalem and Judea. This new outreach was motivated by the persecution led by Saul who "*made havock of the church.*" Thus, what was intended for evil proved to be for good. Phillip's outreach was prepared by the greatest of all evangelist, Jesus Christ when He made that stop in Samaria in John 4. Thus Phillip found a people ready to receive the Good News (Gospel)!

Phillip's presence in Samaria was surely the result of his following the Spirit's unction and direction. Yet in the midst of this great revival, the Lord interceded with other plans for Phillip. In Acts 8:26 an "*angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.*"

Do you suppose Phillip wondered at the Lord pulling him out of a great revival to go into a place that was essentially barren (of people), a desert? Yet Phillip was obedient to this specific direction from the Lord. He had not been told why he was being sent or what he should expect, but simply "GO!"

Having arrived in Gaza, further instructions were given when "*the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.*" Only after approaching the parked chariot did the first indication of what awaited him was revealed: "*Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias.*"

So, we find Phillip being pulled by the Lord's direction from a mighty revival among the Samaritans to go minister to a single person in the middle of the desert. Why would the Lord direct such strange behavior? (Or was it?)

Looking back on this account, I can see two points that could justify such unexpected direction from the Lord. First, the Samaritans were now well on their way to embracing the Gospel, many of them having received the Holy Ghost (Acts 8:17). On the other hand, this Ethiopian eunuch was on his way home to Ethiopia and would soon be out of contact with the message of Jesus Christ. The time for the Church to act to reach him with the Gospel was NOW!

Although the eunuch had in his possession a copy of the book of Isaiah, he was not understanding the significance of what he was reading. When asked if he understood what he read his response was "*How can I, except some man should guide me?*" Because we understand the Word of God it is easy to assume everyone else should as easily be able to understand. But do they? Paul explains the need for each one of us to fulfill our roles as ambassadors of Christ:

(13) *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (14) How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? (15) And how shall they preach, except they be sent?*

as it is written, *How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*" (Rom. 10:13-15).

Who but the Lord could have known that Phillip's witnessing to this single Ethiopian would become the vanguard of much of Africa being evangelized with the Gospel! This event is clearly an example of why we should follow His guidance and direction every day—even when it doesn't fit the pattern of how we think we should proceed.

But this was the exception to the rule, wasn't it? Does the Lord actually direct us to specific situations? Consider what happened to Phillip after baptizing this now recently converted Ethiopian eunuch:

*"And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing" (Acts 8:39).*

Some have speculated that Phillip literally flew through the air. I do not know about that. Perhaps the greater meaning we should gather here is that Phillip's current yielding to the Lord's direction and guidance regarding this eunuch resulted in the Lord's pleasure in him!

Recall our earlier Scripture regarding the Lord's response to those who accept His "ordering" of their walk before the Lord. Psalms 37:23 concludes with *"he delighteth in his way."* Perhaps Philip's being *"caught away in the Spirit"* signifies the Lord's pleasure in how obediently Phillip had followed the Lord's "ordering" and was rewarded with that next assignment the Lord had for his faithful servant!

Shouldn't we all want to walk such an "ordered" life before our Lord and Savior?

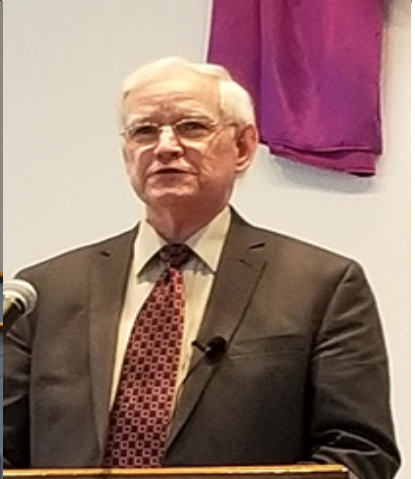
**The next several pages contains our Regional Convention highlights in pictures. Enjoy!**























# Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional Church News

## News From Castalia, Ohio

Sister Chelsea graduated from college on May 18th where she studied for the last four years to become a school teacher. We are so proud of her. She has worked so hard and had maintained a 4.0 average the entire time. The Lord worked it out for Chelsea and she got a job right away at the school where she did her student teaching. God is so good!!!! On May 19th we had a surprise party for her at the church after service in honor of her graduating college. Everything was so beautifully decorated. A special thanks to Sister Donielle, Sister Becky, Sister Jessa and Selah for all their hard work in making this day special for Chelsea.

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## News From the Southern District

After the district revival in April we have made contacts and started a weekly Bible study in Beckley, WV. We meet each Thursday evening in the home of Brother Robin Bradford. He has been so gracious to open his home to us for this Bible study. We are studying the BTI correspondence course on the Seventeen Works of the Flesh. We have had four non-Church people to attend so far. Please help us pray that this can be a step in getting a work started there for The Church of God.



We hope you have enjoyed these pictorial highlights of our recent Regional Convention. Next month we will have a written report of the convention with the business, appointments, etc.



Don Bolyard  
**BTI REGIONAL COORDINATOR**

**“Let us walk by the same rule, Let us mind the same thing”**

*“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Eph. 4:3-6).*

As long as there was only one church, there was little need to have to identify the congregation of God that existed in the world. When heresies began to creep into the Church and factions arose, however, it became apparent that some identifying marks of the Church be recognized to separate the true church from the counterfeits. As each faction arose and split off of the main branch, the claim of having the true gospel was usually made to substantiate their title of being the continuation of the early Church.

While the desire to identify the true Church was already conscious in the Church of the first century, the need for marking the Church became more and more apparent with the arrival of new heresy and faction. By 187 A. D. Irenaeus listed some twenty varieties of Christianity. By 304. A. D., the number of factions, the forerunner of modern denominationalism, had grown to eighty. In fact, it was said by Celsus, the antichristian philosopher of the second century, that the Christians were “split up into ever so many factions, each individual desiring to have his own party.”

In the present world of denominationalism, the marks of the true Church\* become more important than ever before in the history of the Church. The Scriptures teach only one doctrine, one Lord, one baptism, and one Church for all. By being able to identify the marks of the true Church, the congregation of God in the New Testament can not only be recognized, but a better understanding can be ascertained of what constitutes the Church of God. Some of the marks of the true Church are: (1) the true preaching of the Word; (2) the right administration of the sacraments; (3) the faithful exercise of discipline; (4) the staunch reality of unity; (5) the actual fulfillment of prophecy.

\***History & Polity** Chapter Six, Page 89 (Introduction to chapter).  
DO YOU KNOW WHO SHE IS ?

— *Regional B.T.I. Coordinator, Don Bolyard*

The time for definite action is before the light goes out and darkness veils the vision.  
—*A. J. Tomlinson*



# A Minute from the Minutes

Inspirational Nuggets From Past Assembly Minutes

*Excerpts from message by L. S. Rhodes to the 38<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 1943*

[**Editors Note:** The following message was preached nineteen days before the death of A. J. Tomlinson.]

This is the first Assembly after the fortieth anniversary celebration of the “Arise, shine” of the last days Church of God in the Fields of the Wood. What has bothered my mind is, this is a subject that has never been used. I need your prayers. This is something new. Forty is a Bible number. Before I get into my subject I want to get a foothold. We notice in the Bible after forty days certain things took place, and after forty years certain things took place. There were changes made after forty. In the time of Noah after it rained forty days and forty nights, there was a mighty change. Moses went up on the mountain and talked with God forty days. When he came down off the mountain his face was shining. This is the first Assembly after forty years. Brother Tomlinson is the only one that has been a member of the Church of God forty years. Jonah had a forty days message. There was a change made in Ninevah. Jesus was in the wilderness forty days and forty nights. There was a change after that. He had the devil to contend with those forty days and nights, but after that an angel came and talked with Him. He returned with the Spirit and power. The children of Israel were in the wilderness forty years, but thank God they reached the shore. The Church of God has had a lot of ups and downs, but it is going to be ups from now on. People in the wilderness can't see very much but we are out in the sunshine now, Joshua 4:19. The people came up. We are in coming up days, Joshua 5:19. Their first Assembly was in Gilgal. After that Assembly their food was changed. Their manna ceased on the day after they ate the corn of the land. Look out in the near future. After this Assembly you will eat something that will stick to your ribs. I do not feel we will have as many grumblers and complainers among our members. No more manna after their Assembly at Gilgal. They ate beans and corn. The Bible is going to taste different after this Assembly. I am so anxious to see what is going to take place in the next few weeks. Saints, the Bible is true. The Bible says this is written for our learning. They never murmured any more about their food after that Assembly. Their heart melted. There are hearts trembling now over this. They might have been firm but they are going to be like liquid. Some people around here have heart trouble and can't sleep at night. What is the matter? Prophecy has hold of them and there is only one cure—get in the Church of God. I am not afraid to make this statement, because I know

the Bible is right. A lot of people who call themselves the Church of God are due to have a hard time. Why did the rooster crow after Simon denied our Christ? He had to crow for God had him on the program. He felt his anointing and he had to crow, Jer. 30:17. This is the first Assembly after forty years. I will restore health unto thee. I will heal thee of thy wound.

Some people have wounded the Church of God, but He will heal us. Who is talking? “Thus saith the Lord” He is the head of the Church of God and He is talking. He has power to heal, Joshua 5:13, 14.

Brother Rhodes asked Brother Tomlinson to stand and look around. This man spoken of in the Scripture may come down and have a personal conference with Brother Tomlinson in his office. Two of the disciples walked with Jesus and didn’t know Him until a certain time. I don’t know what is going to take place but some one is due a visit, Joshua 5:9.

The power of God fell upon the people and the Holy Ghost took charge. There were demonstrations and messages and interpretations. When all was quiet Brother Rhodes asked the congregation to stand and lift up their hand and worship God. The multitude of voices sounded out with a mighty roar.

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## World Freedom Declining

At the turn of the century about 90% of the world’s population could boast of freedom. After World War 11, it dropped to 16%. Recent developments dropped it to 14%, perhaps even lower.

This means the Church’s freedom to get the message out to all the world is diminishing. We need to work while we have the opportunity for “*the night cometh, when no man can work*” (John 9:4).

### An Inspirational Mini Sermon

From the book, **MUSE WITH ME** by R. O. Covey

#### Who Will Run for the Greatest Office?

Are you aspiring to greatness? Do you have your eye on a high office in the Church? If so, what’s your “platform”? How about letting the Bible outline it for you?

*“At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”*

*And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 18:1-4).*

Now—do you still want your hat in the ring?





**Levi and Jessa Stephens**  
**CPMA and VLB**  
**Regional Coordinators**



Levi was saved April 11th, 1999 at 17 years old after nearly committing suicide. It was in a COGOP he was saved. His grandma attended there so he went there also. He was called to preach that June in a youth camp. Realizing the let down of the standard, on January 16th 2003 he moved to Virginia to try to learn under another COGOP minister who claimed to hold on to the doctrine. He was hungry for God to move in his life and ministry.

February, 5th 2003 he was electrocuted by power lines on a construction job. He had already gotten saved, sanctified, filled with the Holy Ghost, and now this was the next best thing to happen in his life. Levi says "I've never doubted this was the will of God because a few days prior, we were having a baptism service and God spoke to me at the end to get baptized again, to be a witness that He was going to do something in my life" (and that service was videotaped to look back on).

His time in Virginia allowed him to come in contact with The Church of God which he joined June 26th, 2006 in the VA/WV convention.

In the fall of 2008 Levi and I met, and on June 13th, 2009 we were married by my dad in Alaska, where we lived until 2011. We then moved to Willard, Ohio where we live now and attend The Church of God in Castalia, Ohio. I was raised in The Church of God my whole life in a pastor's home.

While I was growing up my parents pastored in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Alaska. I wish I could say, that I had stayed faithful my whole life. I'm so thankful though, for the love of God that never stopped trying to reach me. The love is still drawing me closer and closer each day.

As you know we have been blessed with 3 children; Noah Allen (9), Selah Lynn (7), and Benjamin Ezekiel (6), who we are in the process of adopting.

# Photos From The Past



The top photo shows the Bryant cabin that stood in what is now Fields of the Wood on the spot where the Arise Shine Marker stands. It was at this house that A. J. Tomlinson made his declaration by Divine revelation that, "IT IS" the Church of God—not going to be, but IS the Church of God on that memorable day of June 13, 1903.

The bottom photo is an artist conception of this house made probably before the historical photo surfaced.



# ***Sunday School Boost***

## **Teach Me, O Lord**

*“Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way. What man is he that feareth the LORD? Him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose” (Psalm 25:4, 5, 8, 9, 12).*

Our desire should be for the Lord to teach us His will and His way. As you read these scriptures, that is how David prayed. David waited all day for the Lord to teach him and to lead him in truth. After waiting on the Lord to be taught, we see a change, the Lord answering the prayer! He is teaching sinners and those that fear the Lord. We were all sinners at one time. Then through repentance we received the God of our salvation, Jesus Christ! Now, because we fear Him, He will teach us the way that He shall choose.

I don't want to set on a path of my own choosing. Rather, let the Lord lead me in His paths of righteousness! If we follow on to know the Lord and obey His teachings, we will never fail.

Let our continual prayer be: *“Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth; unite my heart to fear thy name” (Psalm 86:11).*

*—Jenny Lonz, Sunday School Regional Coordinator*

### **Grow Stronger Through Oppositions**

Get things going for the Lord and keep them going. Do not give way to discouragement because you meet with oppositions. When oppositions come, then is the time to brace up and grow stronger in the Lord. Those who serve the Lord always meet more or less oppositions. This is to be expected, because serving the Lord is going contrary to the ways of the world. The world is not a friend to grace, but God gives more grace when it is needed. You can always depend upon Him if you are faithful and true.

*A. J. Tomlinson—WWM July 12, 1924*

### **Hard Things? Maybe They're Diamonds**

You say you have struck up with some hard things in your pilgrimage through life. Have you ever thought of them as the diamonds that are to bedeck and adorn you at the marriage supper of the Lamb?

*A. J. Tomlinson—WWM July 26, 1924*

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\*\*\*\*\* **ABM Boost** \*\*\*\*\*

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I have been reading the book about our former General Overseer, Brother A. J. Tomlinson by Lillie Dugger who was secretary to both, Brother A. J. Tomlinson and Brother M. A. Tomlinson. We get blessed when reading of them for they both were walking Bibles. We need to be the same, giving of our time to the Body of Christ as our former brothers and sister did.

Sister Mary Shelton and her team along with Brother Robin Bradford had doors closed in their faces as they went door to door to invite people to the revival. Other people have their own idea of God's love. We find this out each day as we talk to friends. If we pray for them God can do what we can't. Prayer in earnest can work wonders. It will surprise you. Our thoughts are not God's thoughts. We need to pray for sinners and for others who do not know. The devil is a sly old fox. We need more compassion and most of all, love for each other to strengthen our love and to hold up one another and bear one another's burdens through prayer and love.

—Juanita Atha, Regional ABM Coordinator

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**GLMR Birthday Calendar**



- June 14—Becky Bolyard—Castalia, Ohio
- June 26—Selah Stephens—Castalia, Ohio
- June 26—Mya Saunders—Seth, WV
- July 4—George Atha—Page, WV
- July 6—Eva Saunders—Seth, WV
- July 10—Lincoln Saunders—Seth, WV
- July 23—Noah Saunders—Seth, WV

*Please submit your August birthdays no later than July 20th.  
Thanks!*

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**ADVERTISE IT!**

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The codfish lays ten thousand  
eggs,  
The homely hen lays one.  
The codfish never cackles  
To tell what she has done.  
And so we scorn the codfish,  
While the humble hen we prize.  
Which only goes to show you,  
It pays to advertise!

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**Revival  
Announcement**

Another new field revival is scheduled in Beckley, WV August 18-24 with the Shelton Evangelistic Team. Help us pray for this revival and that a permanent work can be started there.



**Sunday School Average  
Attendance**

**For Month of May, 2019**

- Niles, MI—10
- Castalia, OH—14
- Columbus, OH—5
- Fairmont, WV—9
- Page, WV—8
- Seth, WV—9

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# Victory Leaders Band Boost

Jessa Stephens, Regional VLB Coordinator

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## The Holy Ghost

For those of us that have the Holy Ghost we cannot imagine life without Him. This life would be vain. Nothing. Similar to how the disciples must have felt with the thought that Christ would be leaving them. We cannot imagine making it to heaven without the power of the Holy Ghost! He comforts us, leads us, encourages and strengthens us, He is the Revealer, and He teaches and convicts our hearts to be more like Christ. Perfection cannot happen without the Holy Ghost! How thankful we need to be for the precious Holy Ghost! Oh! How we need Him!

### **John 16:7-14**

*7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

*8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

*9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;*

*10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;*

*11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*

*12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.*

*13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

*14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

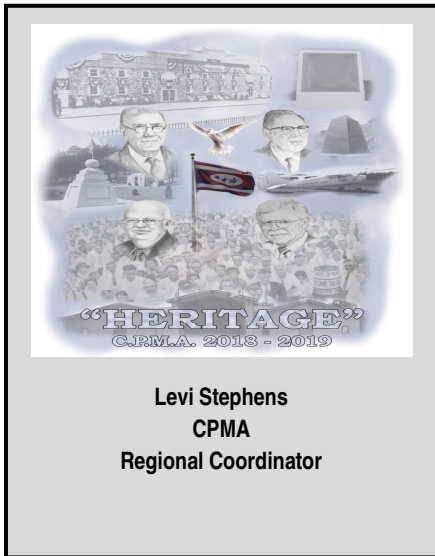
How wonderful the Spirit of God is! If you do not have the Holy Ghost you should be diligently seeking Him (Jeremiah 29:13). If it was expedient for Christ to leave for the Holy Ghost to come, it's expedient that we all receive Him. If you already have the Holy Ghost, you should have a heart to want more and more and more!

### **1 Corinthians 2:9-10**

*9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

*10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*





# At Ease in The Church of God? Yep!

*"Woe to them that are at ease in Zion..." (Amos 6:1).*

*"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would that thou wert cold or hot.*

*So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

*Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

*I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see" (Rev. 3:15-18).*

These scriptures are very clear that no matter what age of time, the people of God have trusted in the blessings more than the Blessor. We see it in a lack of passion and depth in the altar work. We see it when we don't have enough anointing pouring through us when it's time to minister in the Word, song, or prayer. We see it when we just go through the motions in a church service and we are going content with the results of no real Holy Ghost power coming over the service. Church, this is not the heritage we are after from these recorded scriptural times of our past. We are after the heritage of Holy Ghost power falling for the first time on the whole Church in Acts chapter 2! We are after the healings, the souls turning to the power of God from Satan's power! I could say much more, but I think enough is said to make a point. Let's press on, Church. Let's press on till we reach the mark in Jesus!

We are almost 100% in CPMA memberships in the region! I know we can do it! If in your local Church you can consider sponsoring others who are not CPMA members we will still make it by the Regional Convention. I'm sure also by the time you read this you have planned a church work day in the month of June! Thank you for all you do to promote our heritage in The Church of God!

—Brother Levi

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## When To Preach

An old-time English bishop sent for John Berridge to reprove him for preaching at all hours and on all days. "My lord," said he modestly, "I preach only at two times." "Which are these, Mr Berridge?" "In season and out of season, my lord."



# LIFEBOAT

**WMB Coordinator  
Sue Hutton**

*"...that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).*

A Lifeboat is a specially constructed (established) boat launched from land to rescue people in distress at sea. It has been constructed with everything it needs to rescue and endure the challenges of the sea. In saying this, it reminds me of when Jesus said, *"I will build (construct, establish) my church and the gates (powers, domain of Satan and his instruments) of hell shall not prevail (overcome, gain the victory) against it."*

I believe God's Word lets us know that the Lifeboat we are in has been endowed (clothed, provided) with power from on high to withstand in the evil day.

Are we facing spiritually violent storms in the times we are now living in? In the natural a storm is a violent disturbance of the atmosphere (air). Do we not see the prince of the power of the air, at work today?

The prince is causing many violent disturbances; physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

There are storms in homes, families, marriages, work, and church. These types of storms will rip through, leaving a trail of damage and destruction.

These types of storms can only be repaired by the blood of Jesus Christ and His saving power.

We that are aboard the Lifeboat will no doubt face storms on the sea and may feel like we will perish.

When Jesus arose, he rebuked the winds and the sea. We have the Master on board. He (Jesus) can face any disturbance in our society today.

Many are headed into a storm. Many are in a storm or coming out of a storm. In which ever case, there is still a rescue that is needed.

There are many today that need to be rescued from these storms of violent disturbances.

When we think of the word *rescue* it causes many different dramatic pictures to flood our minds.

Do you see someone in a storm? Do you see souls dying? Do you see souls in a sea of sin needing someone to rescue them? Do you hear souls crying?

Please make room in the Lifeboat !

*God bless you, WMB Sister Sue Hutton*

# Others May! You Cannot!

*From the March 1980 Happy Harvester*

If God has called you to be really like Jesus, He will draw you into a life of crucifixion and humility and put upon you demands of obedience. You will not be able to follow other people or measure yourself by other Christians, for in many ways He will seem to let other good people do things which He will not let you do. Other Christians and ministers, who seem very religious and useful, may push themselves, pull strings, and work schemes to carry out their plans, but you cannot do it. If you attempt it, you will meet with such failure and rebuke from the Lord as to make you penitent.

Others may boast of themselves, of their work, of their successes, of their writings; but the Holy Spirit will not allow you to do any such thing. If you begin it, He will lead you into some deep mortification that will make you despise yourself and all your good works.

Others may succeed in earning money, or may have legacies left to them; but it is likely God will keep you poor because He wants you to have something far better than gold—namely, a helpless dependence upon Him so that He may have the privilege of supplying your needs from an unseen treasury day by day.

The Lord may let others be honored and noticed, but keep you hidden in obscurity because He wants to produce some choice, fragrant fruit for His coming glory which can be produced only in the shade. He may let others be great, but keep you small. He may let others do a work for Him and get credit for it; but He will make you work and toil, without your knowing how much you are doing. Then to make your work still more precious, He may let others get credit for the work you have done, thus making your reward ten times greater when Jesus comes.

The Holy Spirit will put a strict watch over you, with a jealous love, and will rebuke you for little words and feelings, or for wasting time, things over which other Christians never seem distressed. So make up your mind that God is an omnipotent sovereign and has a right to do as He pleases with His own. He may not explain to you a thousand things which puzzle your reason in His dealings with you; but if you absolutely give yourself to Him, He will wrap you up in a jealous love and bestow upon you many blessings which come only to those who are in the inner circle.

Settle it forever, then, that you are to deal directly with the Holy Spirit and that He is to have the privilege of tying your tongue, chaining your hand, or closing your eyes in ways that He does not seem to use with others. Now, when you are so possessed with the living God that you are, in your secret heart, pleased and delighted over this peculiar, personal, private, jealous guardianship and management of the Holy Spirit over your life, you will have found the entrance to heaven.

*—Author unknown*