

The Church of God

Great Lakes Mountaineer Region



Ohio



West Virginia



Michigan

Issue No. 4

March, 2019

**Great Lakes
Mountaineer
Regional News**

March



World Missions Month

Official Publication of

The Church of God

In

Michigan—Ohio—West Virginia

James T. Smith

Regional Overseer

www.tcog-glmr.org

A Minute from the Minutes

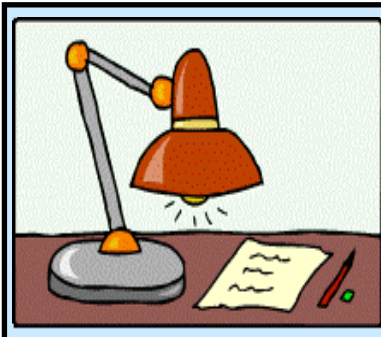
Inspirational Nuggets From Past Assembly Minutes

*(Excerpts from message by Jess F. Pruitt, Foreign Language Secretary,
to the 57th Annual Assembly in 1962)*

Jesus prayed this prayer (in John 17:18) just after He had set the Church of God in order and just before He purchased it with His own blood and commissioned it to go into all the world and preach the gospel of deliverance to every creature. Jesus came into the world and set the Church in order and He equipped it with power for service. He gave the Church an anointing to heal the sick, to cast out devils, to take up serpents, and so on. He promised that where the Church was doing this, He would go with us all the way and bless us and help us in this great mission. Jesus equipped the Church of God with spiritual gifts of power and blessings for edification and enlightenment. He gave her a government instituted by God Himself for guidance and control. He gave her apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the body of Christ. He made her the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

Jesus said on the cross when He was dying, purchasing the Church with His own blood, *"It is finished."* His personal work was finished. Then it was up to the Church of God to take up from there and go on until the work was completed according to His plan. He just began His ministry of gathering together in one fold the children of God that are scattered abroad and making all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery. The Church is defined in the Scripture as the body of Christ. The body of Christ is not just an organized body of people to work for Christ. That is part of it, but not all. The body of Christ is an organized body of people through which Christ is to manifest Himself. Christ is the head of the Church, the body, and that head is depending upon the body to carry out its plan. My hands and feet don't work for themselves. They work for me.

That is the way that we are going to continue Christ's ministry. The Church of God is the living representative of Christ. Jesus made the statement, *"He that hath seen me hath seen the Father."* The people that were looking on Christ were looking on the Father because the Father was manifesting Himself through the Son. I believe the time has come when he that seeth the Church seeth Jesus. The Church of God today is to do the same work that Christ would do if He were here in person. The Church of God in the New Testament is our example. Some might get the idea that it might be old fashioned to go back and pattern after the apostles and the things that Jesus laid out for us, but we have no pattern to follow but the Word of God. Moody and Martin Luther and others had a great ministry, and we look upon them with praise for their work, but they are not our examples. The early Church is our example. We are to preach the same message, the same gospel, the same teachings and to minister to the hearts of people like they did.



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



Even So, Come, Lord Jesus

The book of Revelation was written by John, the Revelator, also known as John, the Beloved, an apostle of Jesus Christ. He also wrote the gospel of John and three other letters bearing his name. The book of Revelation was written at the direct command of Christ. It was written at a serious time in the Church's history, during the *Ten Primitive Persecutions*, as described in Chapter 2 of Foxe's Book of Martyrs. During that period of time, many Christians gave their lives for the sake of the gospel.

There had been many who questioned how they could go on serving the Lord. Based on the writings of Paul to the Thessalonians (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:1-11; 2 Thess. 1:4-12), some already questioned if Christ truly would come again (for them), and others questioned whether Christ had already returned (and they had missed out). Persecutions were already taking a toll on the early Church.

Both Paul and Peter tried to encourage the Church through trials, tests, and persecutions. Paul closed his discussion with the following admonition:

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 *Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: (12) That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Peter likewise sought to encourage the Church regarding the trials and tests they would be (and in deed were now) facing:

1 Peter 4:12-14 *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: (13) But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. (14) If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.*

But the trials and tests endured during the time of Paul (beheaded in Rome) and Peter (crucified up-side-down) were growing harsher; the whole Church was under attack; and no end seemed in sight.

It is to this group of people and this period of time that the Lord felt the need to speak one more time on this matter—to settle it once and for all who wins:

Christ and the Church! Christ chose as His final answer to have John the only one remaining of the twelve apostles to transcribe a message direct from Him to the Church! That message is captured in the book of Revelation.

Much has been written regarding the book of Revelation. Every generation has questioned the meanings of the symbolism employed therein, and just how soon might be the day of the fulfillment of its prophecies. I do not plan to address such questions today. Rather, I wish to address how the early Church received and felt about this Revelation. It contains both warnings and promises, first explicitly to the seven churches of Asia which are called out by name, and then to all who would read this Revelation.

Rather than focus on what this Revelation means for that final day, let us focus on what it means for us here and now, and for each day we might be blessed to live on this earth. Whereas the Lord had directed Daniel regarding his writings: “*shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end*” (Daniel 12:4), the Lord told John “*Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.*” (Revelation 22:10). That is, we can apply its truths to the here and now, as well as to that final day.

The writings of Revelation depict symbolically the spiritual warfare that is now unfolding upon this earth. God’s judgments are pitted against the workings of Satan. Revelation makes it perfectly clear that in the end God does win! All wickedness will be brought to nought, and all unrighteousness will receive God’s judgments. Those who have followed Satan will also experience his judgments upon themselves.

In contrast to God’s judgments to be poured out upon the wicked, to them that overcometh, great and precious promises are theirs (Revelations 2:7; 2:11; 2:17; 2:26; 3:5; 3:12; 3:21; and 21:7). While the first seven of these were to the seven churches to receive letters, they are also apropos to us today. And that last promise at the end of Revelation is to everyone that overcometh!

Revelation 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

The letters to the seven churches (and to us!) speak clearly of what the Lord expects of us, and what we must do if we wish to overcome. We cannot determine just who the Beast and the Anti-Christ will be (a person or another entity), but we can determine whether we will be accounted an overcomer, worthy to enter into the joys of the Lord.

Consider the last words by which Christ had John to conclude the book of Revelation:

Revelation 22:14-21 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. (15) For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. (16) I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these

things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. (17) And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

of life freely. (18) For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: (19) And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (20) He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. (21) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Verse 14 ties our victory to our obedience to His commandments. What is expected of us cannot be much plainer than that. The end result also could not be plainer: that we “*may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.*”

Verses 18-19 state clearly that addition to or removal from God’s Word will not be tolerated. This is not just about the written words of Revelation, or more generally the entire word of God, but also concerns the living word – that is, how we live His word. Do we put it into operation, into practice as He has clearly intended? Or do we twist, bend, add to, or eliminate it to satisfy our own desires?

And I agree with **Verse 20**: “*Even so, come, Lord Jesus.*” I am so glad that “in the end, God wins!”

Continued from page 6

He was ordained a Bishop in 1999. He moved to Fairmont, WV in 2002 and became Regional Sunday School and later CPMA Coordinator. He was appointed Regional Overseer of the DE,MA, MD, NY, PA Region in 2006. In 2018 he was appointed Regional Overseer of the newly formed MI, OH, WV Region.

In addition to having served in the ministry since 1966 (over 50 years), he has taught in BTI and has written Sunday School lessons for the general Church. He also has over 40 years of professional experience as a Scientist and Software/Systems Engineer in the fields of defense systems, telecommunications, satellites, etc. He also maintains the region’s website <http://www.tcog-glmr.org>.

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

I am twenty-five cents.

I am not on speaking terms with the butcher.

I am too small to buy a pint of ice cream.

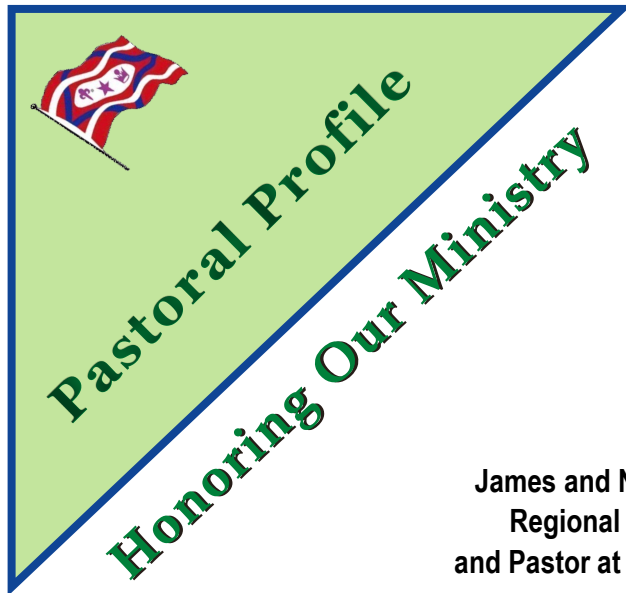
I am hardly big enough to purchase a small box of candy.

I am scarcely big enough for a tip.

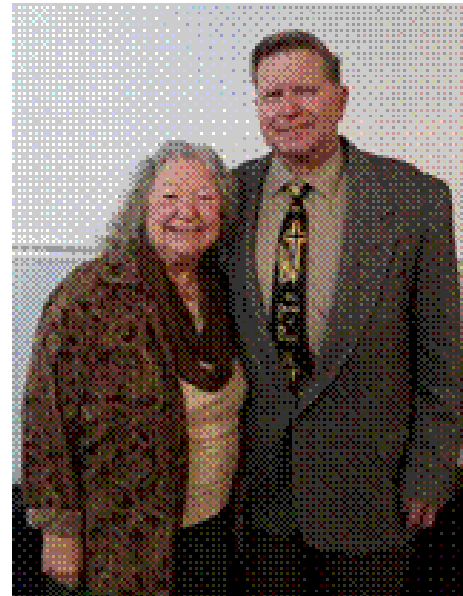
But, believe me, when I go to church on Sunday, I am considered BIG money.

—Coronet





James and Nancy Smith
Regional Overseer
and Pastor at Fairmont, WV



James Thomas Smith, Jr. was born on August 15, 1949 to James Thomas and Joyce Smith. In 1951 he was diagnosed with blindness and epilepsy of which God so graciously healed him at the Mississippi State Convention in July, 1953, the same month his father was killed on the job.

In 1958 he was saved in a tent revival with James Staggs as evangelist. He was sanctified in 1960 during a Sunday School morning song service. In 1961 he joined the Church in Jackson, Mississippi.

His mother married Loy E. Dooling in 1961 and they moved to Kansas City, Kansas. His parents entered the ministry in 1963 and moved to Mt. Pleasant, Texas to pastor.

He received the Holy Ghost in the summer of 1966 and was called to preach. He preached his first revival in Pearl, Mississippi where his family moved to pastor.

In 1967 he graduated from Pearl McLaurin High School and was set forth as a Lay Minister. He finished up the last two months of the 1969 pastoral year as pastor of the Church in Mt. Olive, MS.

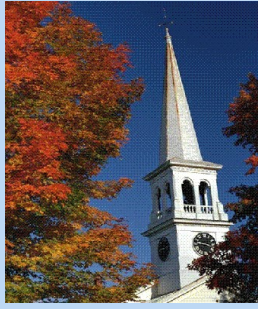
In 1971 he graduated from Millsaps College where he majored in mathematics and physics. Also in 1971 he was set forth as an Evangelist and served two years as Utah State VLB Secretary and Camp Director. He also pastored two years in Cary, MS and taught at Sharkey-Issaquena Academy. In 1975 he graduated from Mississippi College with an M.ED in mathematics and education.

On June 18, 1977 Brother James Smith and Sister Nancy Sue Thompson from Greenwood, Mississippi were married. To this union were born a son, James Thomas Smith III on December 1, 1979 and a daughter, Tena Marie on February 10, 1983.

He also attended graduate school at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1977 and graduated in 1980 with an MS in mathematics and computer science.

Other pastorates include Carrollton, GA; Manassas, VA; Leesburg, VA; Winchester, VA; and Flower Mound, TX.

(continued on page 5)



Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional Church News

News from Castalia, Ohio

These last few months we have had a lot of sickness going around and with the bad weather we have had to cancel church a few times. We are looking forward to the Lord blessing us with warmer weather sometime soon. On February 14th after WMB service we had a Valentine's Day party down stairs. We had a wonderful time of fellowship and good food. We also revealed our Secret Sisters and we exchanged gifts. We are so blessed here in Castalia to have such love for one another. God is so good!!!!

News from Seth, WV

We had a sale for World Missions on Valentines Day at our local Country Store. We were there four and half hours and we received \$35 in donations and sales of \$110. We appreciate the Lord for giving us the vision that this type of work gets us out in the community and gives us an opportunity to witness, give out tracts and invite people to Church. And, they do come.

We also held service at the Genesis Nursing Home with 14 in attendance plus 5 members from Seth. They really look forward to us being there every month and we are just as blessed in this ministry. Please remember these precious folks in prayer.

We also attended the "Craft Make and Take" youth meeting in Rand. Four from Seth attended. One of our youth, "Evan" was with us and we are so thankful. He rarely attends Church. After this meeting he wants to commit one weekend to be in Church and to attend this youth meeting in Rand. In attendance were two other adults and one other youth for a total of 7. Sister Kandy did a devotion on the Love of God and Jesus being our First Love. The one in charge cannot be there in March and has asked us to carry on. We are thankful that she has trust in us to continue in her absence.

We have had a couple in the hospital and a couple of others sick over the past couple of weeks.

An IF For An IF

"IF thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us."

Jesus said unto him, "IF thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:22-23).



Don Bolyard
BTI REGIONAL COORDINATOR

We have about three months until B.T.I school begins in Cleveland, Tennessee. I want to encourage everyone that can to attend. If we can't attend, we can give of our time in prayer for those in attendance and give of our finances to help supply the needs of B.T.I. God is calling and counting on us all to do our part in his program, whether it be praying, giving, or doing, to get the truth out to as many as possible. *"Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man. Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things. For my mouth shall speak truth."* Prov. 8: 4, 6, 7. If we are determined to fulfill the theme chosen for B.T.I, we will all have to speak the truth and obey the truth. Our God is a God of truth, he has nothing to do with lies. I believe God's will is for all mankind to come to the knowledge of the truth. God bless everyone and God bless B.T.I !!

—Regional B.T.I Coordinator, Don Bolyard

How Many Times?

The question is often asked, "How many times should I visit a prospect?" A survey made by the National Retail Dry Goods Association sheds significant light on the question.

Their records show that:

- 48% of the salespeople make a call and quit.
- 25% of the salespeople make two calls and quit.
- 15% of the salespeople make three calls and quit.
- 88% of the salespeople quit after 1, 2, or 3 calls.
- 12% of the salespeople keep on calling.
- The 12% who keep on calling do 80% of the business.

Hear what Jesus said about the unjust judge in Luke 18:5, *"Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me."*

Also consider what Jesus said in Luke 16:8: *"...for the children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light."*

If persistent contact with people brings results in the world's system, why would it not also work in making contacts for Christ and the Church?

Think about it!

If you like to go places, go while you are alive. You can only go to one after you die—Heaven or hell. Which will it be???

The Man With The Consecrated Car



He couldn't speak before a crowd,
He couldn't teach a class,
But when he came to Sunday School
He brought the folks "en masse."
He couldn't sing to save his life,
In public could not pray,
But always his "jalopy"
Was crammed on each Lord's Day.

Although he could not sing,
Nor teach, nor lead in prayer,
He listened well and had a smile,
And he was always there,
With all the others he had brought—
Folks who lived near and far;
And God's work prospered,
For he had a "consecrated" car.

Selected



MARCH WORLD MISSION DRIVE

is on

Thank you

GLMR Region

**for a total of \$1,169.39 for our
very first**

**World Mission offering during
October, 2018.**

**Let us work to excel
in our March World
Mission Drive.**



An Inspirational Mini Sermon

From the Book MUSE WITH ME by R. O. Covey

“Steps” or “Stops”

David said, *“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.”*

(Psalm 37:23)

“And the stops, too,” someone has suggested.

In either case, the man must obey the orders if he would be blessed by his *steps* and protected by his *stops*.

Of course, it does specify *“a good man.”*

MISSIONARY QUALIFICATIONS

At three o'clock one wintry morning, a missionary candidate climbed the steps to the examiner's home. He was shown into the study, where he waited until eight o'clock for an interview.

Upon arriving, the old minister proceeded to ask a few questions.

"Can you spell?"

"Yes, sir," was the reply.

"All right; spell baker."

"Baker, B-a-k-e-r."

"Fine. Now do you know anything about figures?" the examiner inquired.

"Yes, sir; something."

"How much is twice two?"

"Four," replied the lad.

"That's splendid," returned the old man. "I believe you have passed. I'll see the board tomorrow."

At the board meeting the man submitted his account of the interview. He began, "He has all the qualifications of a missionary. First, I tested him on self-denial. I told him to be at my house at three o'clock in the morning. He left a warm bed and came out in the cold without a word of complaint. Second, I tried him out on promptness. He appeared on time. Third, I examined him on patience. I made him wait five hours to see me, after telling him to come at three. Fourth, I tested him on temper. He failed to show any sign of it; he didn't even question my delay. Fifth, I tried his humility. I asked him questions that a five-year-old child could answer, and he showed no indignation. So you see, I believe the lad meets the requirements. He will make the missionary we need.

—from the March, 1980 Happy Harvester

GLMR Birthday Calendar

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

March 4—Jessa Stephens—
Castalia, Ohio

March 18—John Zerucha—
Page, WV

Please submit your April birthdays no later than March 20th.

Thanks!



Sunday School Average Attendance

For Month of January, 2019

Niles, MI—10
Castalia, OH—11
Fairmont, WV—12
Page, WV—15
Seth, WV—10



WMB BOOST *The Palsy*

Palsy is a short version of Paralyze. It's meaning is, "being deprived of the power of motion"

I was reading in Mark 2, regarding the man sick of the palsy and how he was deprived of the power of motion and how he heard that Jesus was in the house and he couldn't get there by his own motion. Do we, do you, know anyone in our lives, your life, who's heard, Jesus is In the house ? Has Satan afflicted them with a spiritual palsy? Paralyzed them ! Do we, do you, know someone that needs help getting to Jesus ?

The part that touched my heart abundantly is where THEY came unto him(Jesus), BRINGING one sick of the palsy and when they couldn't get unto him (Jesus), they didn't stop, they uncovered the roof, they broke it up and lowered the man deprived of the power of motion to Jesus and when Jesus saw THEIR faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. It wasn't just the man with the palsy' faith, but THEIR faith.

Do you know anyone, someone that Satan has spiritually afflicted with palsy ? Let them know Jesus is in the house. Let them know your willingness to carry them to Jesus. Let them know your willingness to uncover the obstacles and break up the barriers and bring them to Jesus.

March World Mission Drive!

Let us March cheerfully with what God lays on our hearts to give.

God loveth a cheerful giver!

—Regional WMB Coordinator, Sue Hutton

A NUMBER TEASER

Did you know that...

1 x 9 + 2 = 11

1 2 x 9 + 3 = 111

1 2 3 x 9 + 4 = 1111

1 2 3 4 x 9 + 5 = 11111

1 2 3 4 5 x 9 + 6 = 111111

1 2 3 4 5 6 x 9 + 7 = 1111111

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 x 9 + 8 = 11111111

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 x 9 + 9 = 111111111

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 x 9 + 10 = 1111111111

?

Well!!!

If you want to be rich—
GIVE

If you want to be poor—
GRASP

If you want to be needy
—HOARD

If you want abundance—**SCATTER**



Sunday School Boost

"But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Thess. 2:13,14).

Paul was writing to the Church of the Thessalonians (2Thess.1:1) who were chosen because they received the love of the truth. He was warning them in this second epistle of the events preceding the coming of Christ. What a great warning to us, Church, as we live in these last days! When evil is called good and good is called evil. We know Who the truth is, Jesus Christ! But, our world does not. We have an eternal promise of hope and everlasting life, but death and eternal punishment to the sinner

Jesus is coming back soon! The hour is late. The burden for lost souls must bring us to pray without ceasing. The deceiver won't relent, so our prayers of faith should not either. Many are perishing. *"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved" (2 Thess. 2:10).*

Invite them to the pillar and ground of the truth, The Church of God. Welcome them to Sunday School to hear the truth. Just because sin abounds, don't let your love wax cold to the sinner. Someone will listen, if we continue to invite them. Remember God has chosen YOU to be a light to this lost and dying world! Let the love for the truth shine through YOU.

—Jenny Lonz, Regional Sunday School Coordinator

Praise the Lord!

When you're up against a struggle, that shatters all your dreams,
And your hopes have been cruelly crushed by Satan's manifested schemes.
And you feel the urge within you to submit to earthly fear.
Don't let the faith you're standing in seem to disappear.

Praise the Lord, He will work through those who praise Him.
Praise the Lord, for our God inhabits praise.
Praise the Lord, for the chains that seem to bind you,
Serve only to remind you, that they drop powerless behind you, When you praise Him!

Now, Satan is a liar and he wants to make us think,
That we are paupers, when he knows himself we're children of the King.
So lift up the mighty shield of faith for the battle must be won.
We know that Jesus Christ has risen and the work's already done.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

—Lyrics by Russ Taff

—Jessa Stephens, Regional VLB Coordinator

A Psalm of David



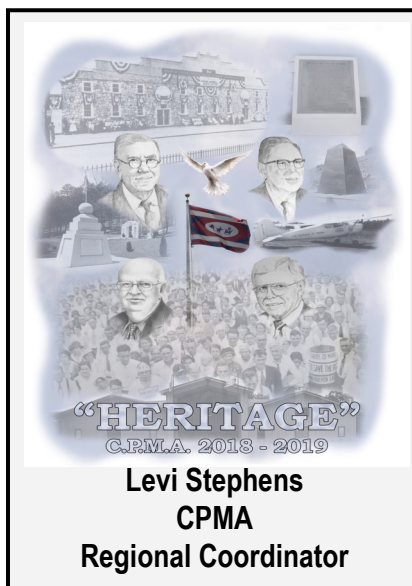
“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.” When we trust and obey, the Lord will walk before us. He is our Leader. He will give us grace to overcome as in the song, *“Trust and Obey.”* *“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters.”* (See Revelation 7:17.) *“He*

restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.” (Jesus paid the price.) *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”* (See Isaiah 43:2.) *“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.”* (Heaven will surely be worth it all.)

I once read a story of two friends which is well worth reading. When a friend offends you, write it in the sand so that time and the wind will blow it away. But when he does a good deed, write it on stone so the winds of time can never erase it. (See Lev. 19:18 and Matt. 5:14.)

—Juanita Atha—Regional ABM Coordinator

PAUL was a Jew by birth; a Greek by speech; a Roman by citizenship; a lawyer by training; a tent maker by trade; and an Apostle by the grace of God.



I want to thank everyone for your efforts in driving CPMA to 100% in your local Church!! We now have 4 of our 6 Churches at 100%:

Castalia , OH

Seth, WV

Page, WV

Fairmont, WV

Lets continue to push till we are 100% in the Region!

Our General CPMA Coordinator, Brother Horne sent a letter to our Pastors recently (to be passed to local Coordinators) boosting the CPMA Auxiliary work. I want to point out something he has asked us to try to do. He asked if in the month of June each local Church could do a work day focusing on beautifying the Church. It may be landscaping, painting, new construction, signs, or whatever your local Church may need

a little TLC on. Lets start planning now so we are ready when the warm weather is here!

—Brother Levi

Jonah and the Whale

Now boys be still and listen to me,
I'll tell you a tale as true as can be.
It's better than the story of Daniel
and Ruth.

Although it's fishy, it's every bit the
truth.



Now listen right good and I'll tell you a tale,
How Jonah the prophet got swallowed by a whale.
The whale caught poor Jonah, and bless your dear soul,
He not only caught him but he swallowed him whole.

A part of this story is awfully sad,
Its how a big city went to the bad.
When the Lord saw the people with such wicked ways,
He said, "I can't stand it but forty more days."

So He said to Jonah, "Thou go and cry,
Out to those wicked people and tell them that I,
Will give them forty more days to get humbled down,
And if they don't I'll tear up the town."

When he heard the Lord speaking, ole Jonah said, "No."
That's too far away from home, I'll not go.
Those Ninevah people are nothing to me,
And I'm against foreign missions you see."

So he went down to Joppa, and there in great haste,
He boarded a ship for a different place.
The Lord looked down on the ship and says He,
"Ole Jonah is fixing to run off from me."

So He set the winds to blowing with a squeak and a squeal,
And the sea got rough and kicked up its heel.
Ole Jonah confessed it was caused by sin,
So the crew threw him off and the whale took him in.

It was the funniest sight boys, you've ever seen,
To see Jonah ride off in his new submarine.
The people of Ninevah did not repent,
The message of God's warning to them was miss-sent.

So you see where God's letter to Ninevah lay,
In the dead letter box three nights and days.
On a bed of green seaweeds the ole whale tried to rest,
"I'll sleep here a while, my food to digest."

But he got mighty restless and sorely afraid,
For he rumbled inside, as the ole prophet prayed.
The ole prophet was shut as tight as a lock,
But all things God'll open as sure as you knock.

On the third day the ole fish rose from his bed,
With his stomach tore up and a pain in his head.
He said, "I must get to the air mighty quick,
For this backslidden preacher is making me sick."

So he opened his eyes and wiggled his tail,
And set out for shore to deliver the mail.
When he reached the shore he looked all around,
And vomited poor Jonah clear out on the ground.

Ole Jonah thanked God for his mercy and grace,
And turned to the whale and made a face.
And he said, "Since three days and nights you've found,
That a good man, old sucker, you can't keep down.

Ole Jonah stretched forth with a yawn and a sigh,
And set down in the sun for his clothes to dry.
He thought how much better his preaching might be,
Since from the whale seminary he had a degree.

When he had rested and dried well in the sun,
He started for Ninevah almost in a run.
He said, "I must hurry and try not to sin,
For I'm sure I don't want to be swallowed again."

He reached that city one week late,
And began preaching when he entered the gate.
Till the whole population had repented and prayed,
And the great hand of God from vengeance was stayed.

Now when you disobey boys, remember this tale,
And when you run away remember the whale.
For there's varmints to get you on sea and on land,
And a boy can be swallowed much easier than a man.

—Author unknown



Photos From The Past



A.J. Tomlinson

1865–1943

Former General Overseer of **The Church of God**, 1903–1943

EXTREMES

If it is true that one extreme follows another, surely we are in the end of a mighty transition, for surely there can scarcely be a time in the future when a greater tide wave of evil, crime, unbelief in the sacred Word of God, and disregard of chastity can prevail. All fear of God seems to have departed, and the “hell fire” of the Bible is laughed at. Let us work for the other extreme, and hope to the end. Combat the evil with the good always. I am for the good.

—A. J. Tomlinson, *WWM March 27, 1926*

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is how Brother Tomlinson felt about things 93 years ago. This applies even more to our day than when he wrote it. What would this righteous man's heart feel if he could see our day? We must have courage to fight for the good as we see the day of the Lord closer at hand.