

*The Church of God*

*Great Lakes Mountaineer Region*



*Ohio*



*West Virginia*



*Michigan*

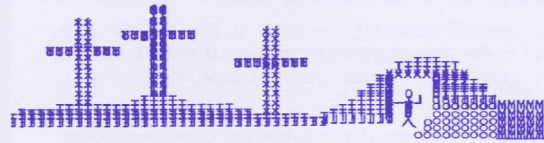
Issue No. 5

April, 2019



## Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional News

*Happy Easter!*



**Official Publication of**  
**The Church of God**  
In  
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**James T. Smith**  
**Regional Overseer**

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

# A Minute *from the* Minutes

## Inspirational Nuggets From Past Assembly Minutes

*(Excerpts from message by A. T. Griffin entitled "The Basic Elements of Spirituality" preached at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly in 1963)*

We could very well say, "The Foundation Elements of Spirituality." Basic means fundamental. If you have spirituality in your heart and life it is the result of some basic element. You have obtained something that brought about spirituality. Spirituality is not based on a shout. But for that shout to amount to anything, it has to come from a basic source. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith," (Gal. 5:22). If we have the Spirit of God in our hearts and lives, we will have the love of God. You may say that you love your brother or sister, but the Spirit of God will manifest itself. We do not have to put on a program of love. It just works automatically. The love of God is a basic element of the Spirit of God. Love does not just go to this brother and stop. It goes everywhere. The love of God will go a long way in solving your problems. Jesus said that by this all men would know if we have love one to another. Not if we shout a little. Not if we talk about our neighbor a little. Without the Spirit of God you have no love. You may have friendship or buddyship, but no fellowship.

One of the basic elements is also joy. The Spirit of God will bring joy into your life. With joy we draw water out of the wells of salvation. Maybe joy is the bucket, but sometimes people love the bucket. Sometimes people determine spirituality by observation. They look at someone shouting and jumping benches and determine him to be spiritual. If you do not have the basic element in there, you will not walk right on the other side of the bench. Before I was saved, I repented. Then I went over and made things right with my brother. When I got everything fixed up I got sanctified. The old man Adam is gone when you get sanctified. When you get sanctified, it brings about this great joy. When you shout and praise the Lord with joy, you will know how to live the life the next day.

### GLMR Birthday Calendar

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

April 6—Taylor Osborne—Seth, WV  
April 18—Glenna Nichols—Page, WV  
April 18—Faye Moyers—Castalia, Ohio  
April 21—Donielle Legg—Castalia, Ohio  
April 23—Sister Doctor—Castalia, Ohio  
April 25—Ron Legg—Castalia, Ohio

*Please submit your May birthdays no later than April 20th.*

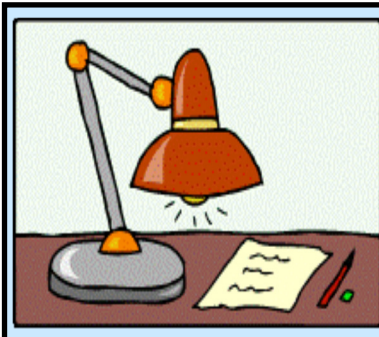
*Thanks!*



### Sunday School Average Attendance

**For Month of February, 2019**

Niles, MI—11  
Castalia, OH—17  
Fairmont, WV—12  
Page, WV—8  
Seth, WV—10



## From the desk of the Regional Overseer

*James T. Smith*



### Touching the Hem of His Garment

In Matthew 9:20-22 and in Luke 8:43-48 we find the account of a woman who had a lingering health problem. She had endured an issue of blood condition for some twelve years. During that time, she had spent all her living on physicians, but none of them were able to help her.

In her desperation she sought help from Jesus. She did not hope to be able to approach him directly, due to the “unclean” nature of her ailment. Consequently, she sought to secretly (outside of the public’s eye) to approach close enough to Him in the crowd that thronged Him that she would be able to touch the hem of his garment as he passed by.

#### **Matthew 9:20-22**

(20) *And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, **came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment:***

(21) *For she said within herself, **If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.***

(22) *But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, **Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole.** And the woman was made whole from that hour.*

#### **Luke 8:43-48**

(43) *And **a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any,***

(44) *Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanchèd.*

(45) *And Jesus said, **Who touched me?** When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?*

(46) *And Jesus said, **Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.***

(47) *And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately.*

(48) *And he said unto her, **Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.***

Her faith was that her simply touching His garment would be sufficient for her to be healed. Her effort was rewarded beyond her wildest dreams. Not only was she delivered of her ailment, but the Lord recognized that He had been touched, not only in the physical sense, but also in a spiritual sense: **Somebody hath**

***touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.*** (Luke 8:46.)

This woman's intention was to secretly secure her healing and to go her way back into society and live a normal life (free of this ailment). Her thought had been that her interaction with the great healer would be limited in scope and influence. He need not know that she had touched Him! Obviously, the secrecy part of her plan had changed when the Master exposed her actions to the crowd around Him.

I have often wondered just what did become of this woman. Had anything else changed in her life? She is not explicitly mentioned again in Scripture. Might we be able to find indications in other passages of Scripture that suggest what became of her, or what course her life had now taken?

This healing of the woman happened on the streets of **Capernaum**, located on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, as Christ was going from the house of Matthew the publican, to the house of Jairus the ruler of the synagogue, which were both in this city. Capernaum was part of the region known as the "land of **Gennesaret**."

Is anything recorded in later Scripture about this region that suggests the influence of this woman after she had received her healing? I believe we find an answer in the end of chapter fourteen of Matthew where Christ is once more visiting the "land of Gennesaret."

**Matthew 14:34-36**

*(34) And when they were gone over, they came into the **land of Gennesaret**.*

*(35) And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, **they sent out into all that country round about**, and brought unto him all that were diseased;*

*(36) And **besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.***

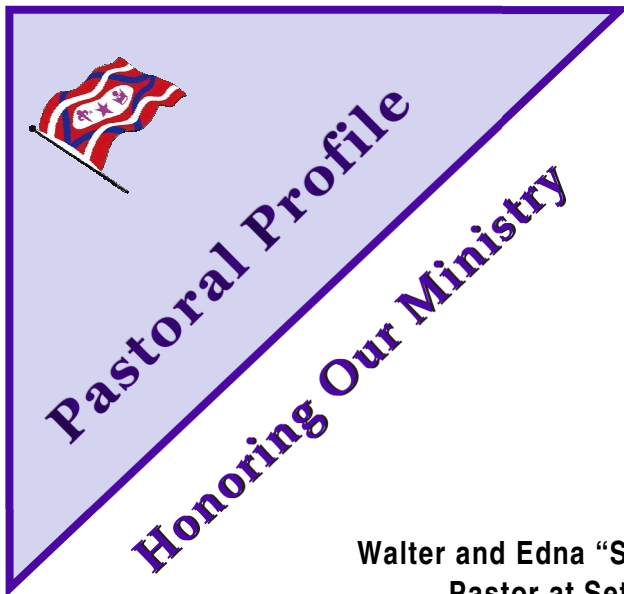
The disciples had just witnessed the experience of Christ walking on the sea. They had now landed once more in the "land of Gennesaret." The reaction of the people of this area greatly suggest the influence of the woman on their understanding of who Jesus was.

All the region was canvased for anyone having any disease. They were all brought unto Jesus where they ***besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.***

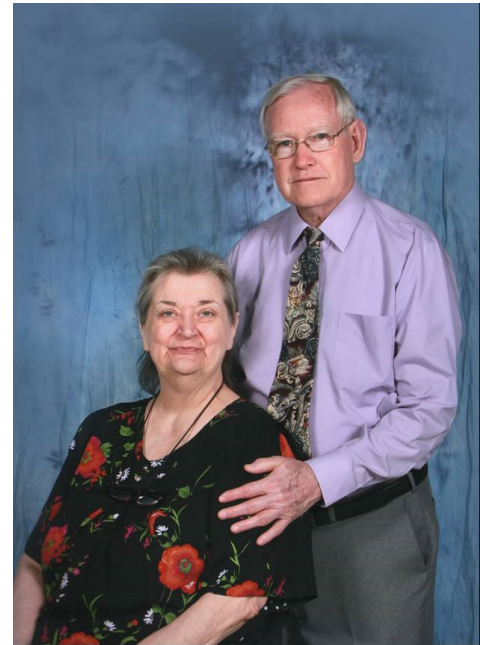
It would seem that the account of the woman who had touched His garment and been completely healed had been shared all over this region. Who do you suppose was the source of this healing evangelism? Might it have been the one who had been thus healed, who could witness first-hand of the great healing power and compassion of Jesus? How many of those who heard her account of healing had said "I wish I had been there (too)!" Their opportunity to have that same kind of encounter with the Master now seemed to be within reach (literally)!

*(continued on page 6)*





**Walter and Edna “Susie” Lofton  
Pastor at Seth, WV**



Walter Lofton got saved, sanctified, and baptized with the Holy Ghost and joined the Church at Newellton, Louisiana in 1953 at the age of nine. After graduation he moved to Baton Rouge where he worked at the State Capitol for the Division of Administration for a little over two years. After this he went to work in a local print shop and in 1969 he attended first term BTI.

In September of that year he moved to Cleveland, Tennessee to work in the press department of the White Wing Publishing House. There he met his future wife, “Susie” and they were married in February, 1970. He continued attending BTI and graduated in 1971.

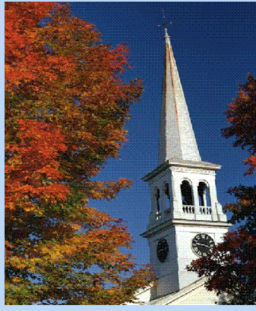
In February, 1979 he returned to Louisiana where he worked in printing, gaining important experience that would pay off in future years. In 1981 he was set forth as a Deacon and also felt a call into the ministry and was appointed pastor of the church at Newellton, where he first joined the Church. After pastoring two years there he returned to Cleveland, Tennessee and pastored the Church at Charleston for three years. Again he worked for the White Wing Publishing House until November, 1992 at which time he became involved with The Concerned for Bible Doctrine, serving as Secretary and Treasurer until the Solemn Assembly when he was appointed General Treasurer and placed over the printing operations of the Church.

In 2004 he was appointed to pastor the Fairview church, a short distance from Cleveland. He served as pastor there for a little over one year. He retired from full-time work in January, 2011 and moved to West Virginia in July, 2012 to work in a mission at Seth, which was organized into an active church in February, 2014.

In 2017 he was appointed General Church Historian. In 2018 he was appointed District Overseer of the Southern District (WV) of the newly formed Great Lakes Mountaineer Region and Editor of the region’s newsletter.

He has a great love for reading and has written several books, Sunday School lessons, tracts, poems and several other writings, including a monthly column for the Evening Light.

The Lofton’s have two daughters and four wonderful grandchildren.

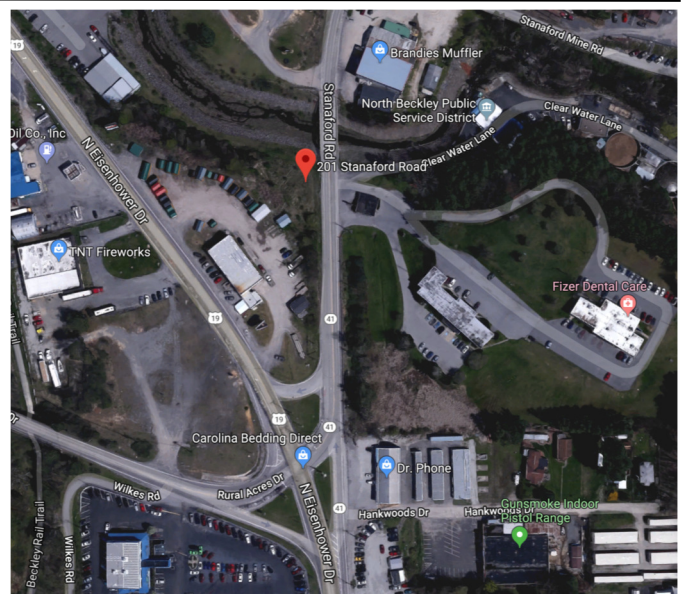


# Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional Church News

**Castalia, Ohio News**—We are so thankful to our Lord for what he has done for our Pastor. Back on the 9th of March he had went into the hospital in severe pain. With testing done they found out he had a blockage and was taken by ambulance to Cleveland Metro Hospital. There he was given medicine for pain and nausea, which did not help him. With much prayer going up for Brother Ron, the Lord answered our prayers and touched him and healed him without the need of surgery. He only stayed in the hospital a few days and was back in church the following Thursday evening for service. Now that's a miracle! We serve a great big God who truly does love us and takes care of us. We are so thankful that God gave us our Pastor back. Praise his holy name!!!

## Southern District New Field Revival

Sister Mary Shelton and her team will come for a revival April 14-20. They will set up their tent at 201 Stanaford Road (Hwy. 41) in Beckley, WV. This will be a district-wide effort and I am encouraging all who can to come out and help make the revival a success. Above all, please help us pray for an out-pouring of Holy Ghost power. *Walter Lofton, Southern District Overseer*



*(continued from page 4)*

How many today feel that their chance, their opportunity to reach out and touch Him has passed them by? I close with the lyrics of a familiar song that tells what you need to do:

***Reach out and touch the Lord  
As He goes by,  
You'll find He's not too busy,  
To hear your heart's cry;  
He's passing by this moment,  
Your needs to supply,  
Reach out and touch the Lord  
As He goes by.***



## Don Bolyard BTI REGIONAL COORDINATOR

*“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”* (Prov. 22:6). Did you know that this is the only scripture in the Bible that uses the word, train, that means to teach ( a person or animal ) a particular skill or type of behavior, through practice and instruction over a period of time. It means to instruct, teach, coach, tutor, school, educate. Bible Training Institute is a school of training people in the word and in the doctrine and in the different ministries and operations of the government of the church. We’re all children of God when we get saved, but we are just babes in the Lord and need to be trained up in the Lord, even if we get saved at the age of 40, 50, 60, or above. Many may never be able to go to B.T.I. in Cleveland, so it’s important to teach these things in our local churches. And certainly we need people that are willing to teach and people who are willing to learn. Prov. 4:13 tells us, *“Take fast hold of Instruction; Let her not go: For she is thy life.”* Pray for God to give us more teachers and more students to teach.

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



## Happy Resurrection Sunday!

This is a very special time of year to rejoice and give honor to Jesus for what he has done for all of mankind. *“Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time”* (I Tim. 2:6). He suffered and died to save our lost souls from a punishment that we deserved.

So many will celebrate Easter with candy, food and presents. They will celebrate the Easter bunny and newness of life as springtime emerges. They will forget the sacrifice that the Father gave as He turned His face for that brief moment as Jesus became sin for us. *“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”* (II Cor. 5:21).

The Father gave His only begotten Son. The Son gave His life. What love! What mercy! What an honor to serve the Father, Son and Holy Ghost!

May the Lord bless each one as we celebrate the Lord's death and resurrection this month and give honor to Him for all He has done!

Happy Resurrection Sunday!

—Jenny Lonz, Regional Sunday School Coordinator

# Victory Leaders Band Boost

## Obedience

My Pastor, Brother Legg recently preached a message on this subject. I cannot in no way, share all he preached. Although, I wish I could! I would though, like to share this topic with our youth and encourage further study.

Deuteronomy 6:17-19

*17 Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee.*

*18 And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the Lord swore unto thy fathers.*

*19 To cast out all thine enemies from before thee, as the Lord hath spoken.*

I would like to point out the word "diligently." Similar to continued fervent prayer, reading and studying Scripture, fellowship with the saints, the receiving of salvation, sanctification, the baptism of Holy Ghost, and a divine revelation; these being all characters and marks of a strong Christian, obedience though, cannot be left out! We must "diligently" do ALL which is right and good in the sight of the Lord.

James 2:10

*For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.*

1 Samuel 15:22

*And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*

Obedience cannot be forgotten! It will bless us individually, our families, our local churches, and The whole Church of God!

—Jessa Stephens, Regional VLB Coordinator

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## Youth Emphasis Week Will Be April 28-May 4

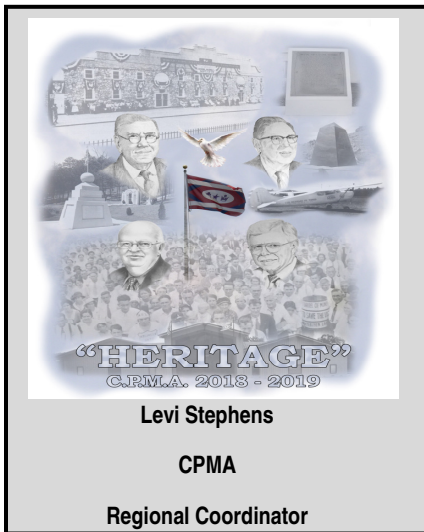
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## Public Schools were Started to Teach the Bible

Public schools were started in the early American colonies for the purpose of teaching its citizens to read the Bible. A law was passed in 1647 ordering the hiring of a school-master in each township of 50 or more families. The preamble of the law stated: "It being one chief project of that old deluder, Satan, to keep men from the knowledge of ye Scriptures," the Commonwealth must thwart this "old deluder that learning may not be buried in ye grave..." The law became popularly known as the "Old Deluder Satan Act."





I want to thank our local CPMA leaders and everyone who works hard to promote the ministry of this auxiliary in our local Churches. Everything you do to keep our local Churches looking just as inviting as your own home is CPMA at work. Whether it is just keeping the electricity or heat on, or total renovation you are working the CPMA, so THANK YOU! Remember you are the most important marker we have in your community though. Without you at the top of your personal spiritual experience the Church will not be the best light/witness

we could have in your locality. My wife and I have plans to visit our Seth, WV Church at the end of March and things look promising to be at both District Conventions also. If we have not met you yet, we are looking forward to meeting you! If we have met you, we have a new addition to our family to introduce you to! On February 5th a little 5 year old boy named Ben came to join our family. We are in the adoption process which may take some time but he is here to stay. To say a little about him, he is super energetic and loves having a older sister and brother now! When he was told that he would be living with us "to ever" as he says it, his face lit up with a smile and he said "I get to live with my friends"! Please pray for Ben as we want to be a marker to him, showing him the way, the truth, and the life in Jesus Christ!

## An Inspirational Mini Sermon

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

### Government Is for Our Good

It is the justice of God that *sinning* and *backsliding* be punishable by oppression and chastisement. Such is not for our *destruction* but for our eternal *salvation*.

It has been stated that "divine ideas" have little active power on the lives of people, but "divine officials and institutions" are more readily accepted for such control and discipline. Could this be one of the initial purposes of God in ordaining government for his Church?

We should keep ourselves in an attitude of humble submission to those persons whom God chooses to use as His instruments in delivering us from the evil results of our own negligence or obstinacy, whether the error be that of an individual or a whole congregation.

# The Empty Place in the North

One of the most inspiring and thrilling of recent disclosures of astronomers is there is a great empty space in the north in the nebula of the constellation of Orion—a heavenly cavern so gigantic that the mind of man cannot comprehend it and so brilliantly beautiful that words cannot adequately describe it.

The revelations were made possible by gigantic lenses, plus long exposures of photographic plates which in turn can be further magnified. This increases the vision of man so tremendously that he is able to peer into the depth of interstellar space and glimpse the vastness of infinity itself. What has been found correlates with the words of Job: *“He stretches out the north over the empty place”* (Job 26:7).

All astronomers agree there is a huge opening in Orion which is perhaps more than 16,740,000,000,000 miles in diameter. The diameter around the earth’s orbit is 186,000,000 miles, which in itself is incomprehensible to man; yet the opening into this heavenly cavern of Orion is 90,000 times as wide. In other words, there could be 30,000 solar systems like ours with a sun in the middle of each across the entrance of the opening in the north, and still have room to spare.

But surpassing the immensity of its size is its exquisite beauty and the luminous colors that are unlike any upon earth. Professor Larkin of Mt. Lowe Observatory gives us the following description: “These photographs reveal the opening and interior of the cavern so stupendous that our entire solar system would be lost therein. I have watched it since the days of youth in many telescopes of many powers, but never dreamed that the central region is the mouth of a colossal cave. Pen of writer and brush of artist alike are lifeless and inert in any attempt to describe this interior, for the depth of the Orion nebula appear like torn and twisted objects and river masses of shining glass, irregular pillars, columns of stalactites in glittering splendor and stalagmites from the mighty floor. The appearance is like that of light shining and glowing behind the clear walls of ivory and pearl, studded with millions of diamonds like shining stars.

“There must be some reason why all this grandeur is lavished on this one spot in the heavens. The colors are a hue peculiar to the Orion and studded around the opening so that they appear as a pavement of starry sand. No wonder the astronomers (many of them not religious) relate they seem to feel as if they were in some Almighty Presence while scanning this part of the heavens and become speechless before this great outburst of grandeur extending for trillions of miles through space.”

—continued on next page

## Photos From The Past



**This is the very first church building erected by The Church of God since the Arise Shine in 1903. That makes it the first church building for the Church in the state of Tennessee and also in the City of Cleveland. It was built on the corner of 24th and Peoples Streets. It was dedicated by A. J. Tomlinson, September 29, 1907. Ten Assemblies were held at this local church.**

Here we think of the prophecy of Daniel 12:4, *“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.”*

I wonder why, in Isaiah 14:12-16, at the time of Lucifer’s fall, in verse 13, he states, *“I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the NORTH...I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most high.”*

The NORTH has a great significance in God’s Word. Could it be possible that Revelation 21 might have some connection here? We are sure that many changes of great magnitude are in the making for God’s people, but the “how” and the “when” we cannot say; but all these things do encourage our HOPE and our spiritual ambition while we continue to serve.

Without doubt, Paul spoke more truth in his statement (1 Cor. 2:9) than we realize; for *“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”*—beyond all power of comprehension!

THEREFORE, the HOPE we have: *“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; who gave Himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”*

How true it is today that so many of God’s dear children simply live and worship for a “blessing,” not realizing the great depth and far-reaching meaning of life in its fullness, with a God-given plan for each of us, and that part we may have in the great hereafter.

*—from a tract by Tract Evangelistic Crusade*



Read Deuteronomy chapter 7. It will take you through to Glory if you study it with your heart. The worldly churches brag about big numbers but how many have the true Word of God and obey the Scriptures? Good members are good to have but often there are few that obey and have the love to work to help keep the work together, as a man and woman would work together to have a good marriage. Deuteronomy six is also a good chapter to read to teach us to love one another along the way. It will never be forgotten. Harsh words will

forever stand because the devil will make sure of that. We need to think twice before we speak once and taste our words before we speak. People sometimes forget where good things and good times come from. We love one another because we are one family. We love others who do not believe as we do in order to show God's love to all men.

We enjoyed our business meeting, feet washing service Sunday the 10th. It is always a blessing. I enjoy reading the Old Testament. It reminds us of the law and grace we now enjoy so freely.

—*Juanita Atha, Regional ABM Coordinator*

**The CROSS of Jesus Christ is at the crossroads of eternity, where the narrow road that leads to HEAVEN crosses the broad road that leads to HELL.**

## **The First Resurrection**

The people that are saying the first resurrection is already past, because many of the saints arose and walked about the city when Jesus arose from the grave (Matt. 27:52), should also read Paul at 2 Tim. 2:16-18; 1 Thess. 4:16; Rev. 20:5, 6. Paul declared that those men were in error when they declared the resurrection was already past. He also states that the saints will be resurrected when the Lord "*shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God.*" This has never taken place yet. When this takes place, and the saints come out of their graves singing, as they will (Isa. 26:19), there will be some different movements among a lot of people that have never been known. No, the resurrection has not passed.

— *A. J. Tomlinson, WWM January 31, 1931*