

*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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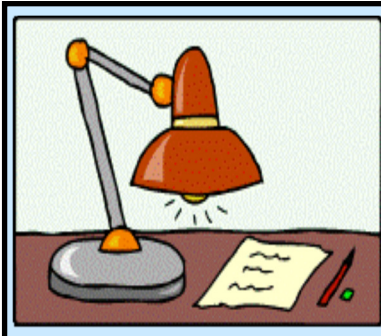
In

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*



### **O King, This Is The Woman The Shunammite's Land Restored**

The Shunammite woman revisited here in chapter 8 was first encountered by Elisha in chapter 4. (Go ahead and read the chapter of **2 Kings 4** now). This great woman had prepared a place in her home for Elisha and his servant to lodge anytime they were in the vicinity of this woman's home. Two great events had previously occurred in chapter 4: **(1)** the woman who had been childless was promised a son for her faithfulness, and **(2)** this child later died, but was raised from the dead by Elisha. With this background in mind, we now turn to the events described in chapter 8.

**(1)** *Then spake Elisha unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn wheresoever thou canst sojourn: for the LORD hath called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years. (2) And the woman arose, and did after the saying of the man of God: and she went with her household, and sojourned in the land of the Philistines seven years. (3) And it came to pass at the seven years' end, that the woman returned out of the land of the Philistines: and she went forth to cry unto the king for her house and for her land. (4) And the king talked with Gehazi the servant of the man of God, saying, Tell me, I pray thee, all the great things that Elisha hath done. (5) And it came to pass, as he was telling the king how he had restored a dead body to life, that, behold, the woman, whose son he had restored to life, cried to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, My lord, O king, this is the woman, and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life. (6) And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed unto her a certain officer, saying, Restore all that was hers, and all the fruits of the field since the day that she left the land, even until now (2 Kings 8:1-6).*

The Shunammite had good reason to respect the word of Elisha. The sympathy and power of the prophet had previously been demonstrated by the birth of a promised son, and later in the restoration of her dead son. When, therefore, Elisha warned her of the coming famine, and advised emigration, she and her son promptly obeyed.

This move was not easy. Leaving all our homes and sojourning in a foreign land is not an easy task, but sometimes it is our lot. Such has been the lot of many of those who would follow the Lord. Consider **Hebrews 11:13** *“These all died in*

*faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”*

Her obedience to the words of the prophet showed the wisdom of the advice, and justified their confidence in the prophet. She left her home not knowing how she might ever return and recover her property. Today, our Lord calls us to the same willingness to forsake all at His behalf. Consider **Matthew 19:29** *“And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.”* Her family was preserved during the years of famine, and ultimately received again the property they had relinquished at the word of Elisha. The means by which her property was restored was every bit as miraculous as abandoning her home and being sent to sojourn in a foreign land.

This Shunammite brought her suit for the restoration of her property at the very moment when the king would be talking with Gehazi, when Gehazi would be talking of her to the king. The words of Gehazi, the thoughts of the king, the desires of the Shunammite. were all drawn together (coincidental?) by the wise providence of God into the center of one moment, that his oppressed servant might receive a speedy justice.

These events were not *coincidental* (by chance), but rather *providential* (directed by the providence of her Lord)! This conversation between the king and Gehazi (the servant of Elisha) might have seemed an accident, but it was divine providence. How happily does God contrive all events for the good of His own! We read in one single verse how all the Lord's providence through numerous events now came together in one exciting moment!

*And it came to pass, as he was telling the king how he had restored a dead body to life, that, behold, the woman, whose son he had restored to life, cried to the king for her house and for her land. And Gehazi said, My lord, **O king, this is the woman, and this is her son, whom Elisha restored to life (2 Kings 8:5).***

If we abide in the will of God, life will be sown with divine coincidences. A good action cannot be hid. Sooner or later it will emerge from the obscurity in which it was first done, and become the talk of a nation, until it reaches even royal ears. When we have forgotten our own good turns, God yet remembers and crowns them. Let us do good to all while we have time, but especially to the household of faith (**Galatians 6:10**).

Indeed, nothing happens in our life or in the world apart from the divine appointment or permission of our Lord. Behind every event and incident there is a divine providence. The Shunammite who had done so much for Elisha was now remembered and cared for, years afterward.

Elisha himself had a role in this with his admonition to her to leave her home while the Lord worked His judgement and correction of Israel through a

drought. The Lord also used this conversation between the king and Gehazi that might have seemed an accident, but was divine providence. Gehazi had himself failed as a servant of Elisha. (Recall in **2 Kings 5** his pretense in taking the gift offered by Naaman that Elisha had previously declined?) Yet now the Lord still used this same Gehazi in the restoration of the Shunammite's property.

If we abide in the will of God, our lives will be sown with divine coincidences. We may discover in our own lives numerous instances of how the Lord, in His providence, overrules times and events to the promotion of His own glory and His people's comfort.

Oh, the infinite wisdom, power, mercy of our God, that insensibly orders all our ways, not only as to His own holy purposes, but also to our best advantage!

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! (Romans 11:33).

## **Ministers Convention**

**The dates for our Ministers Convention is**

**September 20-21**

**(Friday night and Saturday morning)**

**at the Castalia, Ohio Church.**

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

## **A Note From the Editor**

This issue of the paper is later than we had planned due to increased activity of the General Assembly and two district revivals back to back in West Virginia, plus the recent hospitalization of my wife. She nearly lost a foot due to extreme infection and while in the hospital she fell and broke her right hip which required surgery. She is now in rehab and will be there for two to three weeks. PLEASE help us pray for her improvement.

Some years ago, a boy who seemed incorrigible came to Sunday School. The teacher tried to be patient, but finally told the boy never to return. He took her at her word. He went out and became society's number one enemy—John Dillinger



# Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional Church News

## Castalia, Ohio News

Our Regional Convention was held July 21-23 at our local church this year and we were thrilled to have our General Overseer, Brother Pimentel with us as our guest speaker. Different parts of West Virginia and all of Ohio were represented at the convention. We all had a wonderful time in the Lord and during our lunch break on Saturday we raised money for church camp next year. It was around \$200.00. July 11, 12, and 14 we had our VBS for the little ones and Sister Jessa and everyone involved did a wonderful job. We had two children to get saved during VBS. Sister Jessa used the scripture from Matthew 6:21 for her theme. We all enjoyed it—both young and old. God is so faithful to us and we sure felt His presence there with us especially when the children were all praying in the altar. What a beautiful sight! Many from our local church were able to attend the General Assembly this year. Those of us who were not able to attend, watched it on the internet.

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## Southern District Revival News

Two new field revivals took place in West Virginia in the month of August with the Shelton Evangelistic Team. One in Marmet during the third week of August and another in Beckley the last week of August. Help us pray for these outreach endeavors.

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### **Sunday School Average Attendance For Month of June, 2019**

Niles, MI—10  
Castalia, OH—18  
Columbus, OH—5  
Fairmont, WV—9  
Page, WV—7  
Seth, WV—11



### **Sunday School Average Attendance For Month of July, 2019**

Niles, MI—10  
Castalia, OH—17  
Columbus, OH—8  
Fairmont, WV—4  
Page, WV—7  
Seth, WV—9

# A Minute from the MINUTES

## Inspirational Nuggets From Past Assembly Minutes

### *Preliminary Events to the 56<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 1961*

Delegates to the Fifty-Sixth Annual Assembly began arriving in Cleveland a few days before the Assembly began. Several were in attendance at the various local churches in the city on Sunday morning.

The highlights of the afternoon was the parade. Several out-of-town delegates participated. The various means of transportation that have been used by those attending the Assemblies during the past fifty-six years were on display. We were able to have several horses and wagons, a buggy, a 1914 Model T, several cars more than thirty years old, bicycles, trucks and other cars. There was also a replica of a locomotive engine to show that many people have come to the Assemblies by train. Airplanes flew overhead. Each department of the Church was represented in some manner, and there were signs and banners on the cars telling of the work being done by the Church. The parade, which formed near the World Capitol building on Central Avenue and moved south on Short Street to Inman, then west on Inman to Ocoee and north on Ocoee to the Cleveland Municipal Airport, was said to be the largest ever to pass through the city. The local Police Department estimated the parade to be two miles long. Many local residents were on hand, and numerous motorists stopped along the highway to view the parade. This was a wonderful parade and did much to attract attention to the Church and to the Assembly. After the group reached the airport a short program was directed by Charles S. Pennington, General CPMA Secretary, and H. L. Moore, Director of the White Angel Fleet.

The local churches in the city came together for the service in the tabernacle on Sunday night. A large number of delegates were present for this service which was directed by A. H. Davis, pastor of the Wildwood Church.

**Note by the Editor:** Sounds like an exciting time! What zeal for The Church of God! I was never privileged to see a Church parade in Cleveland, but when I was younger I did get to participate in a VLB march when several hundred young people marched from the downtown Court House to the tabernacle on Central Avenue, a distance of about 6 or 7 blocks. We sang, shouted praises, gave out tracts and had a good time on our way to the VLB program in the old tabernacle where our zeal climaxed in a wonderful Spirit-filled worship service. (I was blessed to be in a parade in Nicaragua once during their National Convention in 1996.)

## Photos From The Past



The picture above from the past shows the manner in which some of our ministers moved. This is Brother Perry Pless and his family in Clovis, New Mexico, en route to Fort Sumner in 1947.

## The Center of God's Will

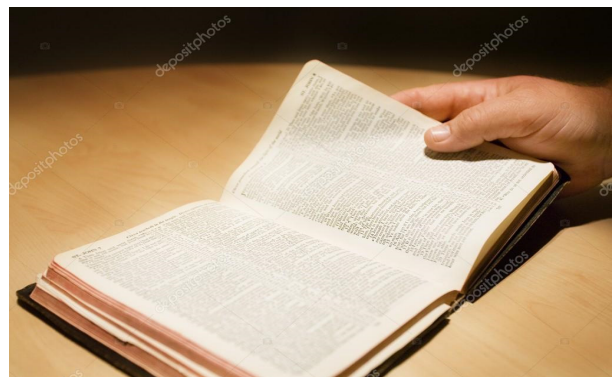
The longest chapter in the Bible is Psalms 119.  
The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalms 117.  
There is just one chapter between the longest and shortest chapters in the Bible—Psalms 118.  
Psalms 118 is the center chapter in the Bible.  
Psalms 118:8 is the center verse in the Bible.  
There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118.  
There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118.

Add these together and you get 1,188 which is the same as the center verse of the Bible, Psalms 118:8.

Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives?

Let's read it: "*It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.*"

The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives, direct them to the center verse of the Bible.



# *Sunday School Boost*

***“For I do always those things that please Him.”***

**Jenny Lonz, Regional Sunday School Coordinator**

Do we have this same testimony that Jesus had while He was here on this earth? The Heavenly Father sent His only begotten Son to fulfill all His will. Jesus certainly and without fail accomplished everything that the Father asked Him to do. Was it easy?

Jesus is a member of the Trinity but was given a flesh and blood body just like you and me. He knew what it was to suffer in every way. He didn't live a stress free life and seek to always be happy. *“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him”* (Heb. 5:8, 9). *“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”* (Phil. 2:8).

We, too must learn obedience. It will come with a cost. *“But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you”* (1 Peter 5:10). We sing the chorus *“To be like Jesus, All I ask is to be like Him.”* To be like Jesus means to be obedient to His Word. It means to suffer for His name's sake. Jesus will make us perfect after we have suffered a while. This life is full of suffering and trials and tribulations. However, perfection in us and perfection in the Church will be the end result! Jesus said in John 16:33 *“These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”*

Our general theme for 2019-2020 is found in Matthew 11:29 *“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest for your souls.”*

"Rest" Oh what a wonderful thought! Rest as defined in this passage of scripture means intermission, recreation, to refresh. When we come to Jesus, and learn of Him, then and only then, will we truly find rest for our souls. This rest is not a temporary feeling, but an eternal relationship with the Prince of peace!

Do you want to learn about Jesus? Come to Sunday School, study the Bible, and pray for a divine revelation through His Holy Word. Jesus will not withhold any good thing from a sincere heart. *“... it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom”* (Luke 12:32).

Desire to know the Lord and His perfect will for your life. He has a perfect plan for everyone of us to work to build His kingdom and His Church!



I want everybody to still remember that the Bible and the Church of God stand as strong for sanctification as a definite experience after one is saved from his sins as ever. There is no compromise to shield the “old man” just because he may appear to act the gentleman sometimes. No sir, we still cry out, crucify the “old man” and let him die the death appointed for him by the Word of God. The crucifixion and death of the “old man” is Bible sanctification.

—A. J. Tomlinson

## BRAIN TEASER

Three guys in a hotel called room service and ordered two large pizzas at exactly \$30.00. Each guy pays the delivery boy \$10.00. When he turns the \$30.00 in he is told that a mistake was made; the cost should have been \$25.00 instead of \$30.00. On the way back to the hotel to return the \$5.00 the delivery boy thought, “Those guys did not give me a tip.” Since there was no way to evenly split \$5.00 between the three guys, and since no one would know the difference, he decides to keep two dollars for himself and give them back only three dollars. He knocks on the door and explains the mix-up to the guy who answers the door and leaves the three dollars. All is well? Not quite. Answer this: Each of the three guys paid \$10.00 each. They got back \$1.00 each in return. That means they paid \$9.00 each, which is \$27.00. The delivery boy kept two dollars equaling \$29.00. Where did the other dollar go?

### GLMR Birthday Calendar

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

July 2—Noah Stephens—Castalia, Ohio  
 July 22—Edith Salyers—Castalia, Ohio  
 Aug. 24—Levi Stephens—Castalia, Ohio  
 Aug. 29—Peggy Bolyard—Castalia, Ohio

*Please submit your October and November birthdays no later than September 20th.*

### IMPORTANT DATES

- ✓ Western International Ladies' Retreat  
Prescott, AZ - October 4-6, 2019
- ✓ Eastern International Ladies' Retreat  
Pigeon Forge, TN - March 27-29, 2020
- ✓ Caribbean/Bahama Islands Ladies' Retreat  
June 24 & 25, 2020
- ✓ REVIVAL of the ISLANDS  
Bahama Islands - June 26-28, 2020
- ✓ BTI - English & Spanish  
May 31 - June 13, 2020

# 20/20 VISION



Levi Stephens  
CPMA  
Regional Coordinator

AS many already know the new CPMA theme is "20/20 Vision ." Personally I'm excited about the theme and the thoughts that it helps to inspire from the scriptures! Like Mark 8:24 with the man who saw men as trees until Jesus touched his sight again. *"Where there is no vision, the people perish:"* (Prov. 29:18), or *"write the vision"* (Habakkuk 2:2)

In Acts 28:27 the Apostle Paul says *"...and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes."* We could also consider the Apostle John who saw the last days in the Spirit (Revelation). Here at our local Church, Brother Legg preached the first Sunday back from the Assembly about "Spiritual Cataracts" and the cloudy vision it can bring. With the new Assembly year we should have a renewed desire to be a member of the CPMA! What a blessing to know what the Church stands for and is supporting through our CPMA memberships! Will you make plans to join now? Ten dollars per person is all that is needed for the year. To our local CPMA leaders, please start boosting this right away so your Local Church can be 100%. I don't know exactly how close we were last year to being 100%, but we did have 4 out of 6 churches 100%. Please, please, please make every effort to support and boost the CPMA! — Brother Levi

## An Inspirational Mini Sermon

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

### "Keeping Up With the Joneses"

Keith Huttenlocker has said, "Before one decides to keep up with the Joneses, he had better decide whether he wants their bills, domestic problems, and headaches."

Then another (possibly Wilbur H. Miller) advised, "The best way to keep up with the Jones family is to take it easy for a while. Later on, you'll meet the Joneses coming back."

Letting "the Joneses" represent other religious organizations, the Church might profit from Mr. Huttenlocker's and Mr. Miller's observations. It could help us to *put first things first*, besides saving us the embarrassment of "coming back" to the main line.

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# Victory Leaders Band Boost

Jessa Stephens, Regional VLB Coordinator

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## Generation Breakers

**Generation Breakers** is the new theme for the **Victory Leaders Band**. I feel blessed to have been able to attend the Assembly, and to have been a part of the VLB march. There are many VLB's throughout the world that did not have that opportunity, and I don't want to fail to be thankful.

When thinking about this theme, Generation Breakers, the word "courage" comes to mind. Looking at the theme scriptures in 1 and 2 Kings we find young men that had a tremendous amount of courage to stand and do what was right. Right in the eyes of men? No, the scripture always records, "right in the eyes of God." No doubt this kind of stand to break a pattern of a whole previous generation, takes a real relationship with God. To be able to stand, even if it is all alone.

I like this definition of courage: "Courage is not the absence of fear; true courage is manifest in bravely doing what has to be done in spite of fears, or foes, or the foolishness of the crowd, or the taunts of the group. True courage is doing the right thing in spite of the odds or opposition or apprehension."

In our current dark and evil generation and also as a part of The great Church of God, maybe, like Joshua, God is telling us to be VERY courageous.

*"Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. (8) This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. (9) Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:7-9).*

**In times of trouble**, God's trusting child may say: **First**, He brought me here; it is by His will that I am in this strait place; in that will I rest. **Next**; He will keep me here in His love, and give me grace in this trial to behave as His child. **Then**; He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me the lessons He intends me to learn, and working in the grace He means to bestow. **Last**; in His good time He can bring me out again—how and when He knows. **Say**: I am here—**(1)** By God's appointment. **(2)** In His keeping. **(3)** Under His training. **(4)** For His time.

—Andrew Murray



## From the Monkeys' Point of View

Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree  
Discussing things as they're said to be.  
Said one to the others, "Now listen you two,  
There's a certain rumor than can't be true,  
That man descended from our noble race,  
Why, the very idea is a disgrace.

No monkey ever deserted his wife,  
Starved her babies and ruined her life,  
And you've never known a mother monk  
Leave her babies with others to bunk,  
Or pass them on from one to another  
Till they hardly know who is their mother.



And there's another thing you'll never see,  
A monk build a fence 'round a coconut tree  
And let the coconuts go to waste  
Forbidding all the other monks to taste.  
Why, if I put a fence around the tree,  
Starvation would force you to steal from me.

And there's another thing a monk won't do,  
Go out at night and get in a stew,  
Or use a gun or club or knife  
To take some other monkey's life,  
Yes, man descended in worldly lust,  
But brother, he didn't descend from us!"





**Don Bolyard**  
**BTI REGIONAL COORDINATOR**

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

Thank the Lord for this theme, this will be the last boost for this theme. If you rightly divide the Word, you will find this theme will provoke your thinking about unity and reaching perfection and walking together with the Lord and each other as members of His Church.

*“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye”* (Psa. 32:8). God sees all the dangers that we don’t see. He knows where the devil is hiding ,trying to pounce on us and deceive us. *“Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah”* (Psa. 32:7). I want to be preserved from trouble, how about you? *“Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding”* (Psa.32:9). Thank God the subjects we study in B.T.I. were sought out by our forefathers and compiled in books for us to read and study to bring us to the place where we are walking by the same rule, and minding the same thing. God bless you all !!!

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



**ABM BOOST**

**Juanita Atha,**  
**Regional Coordinator**

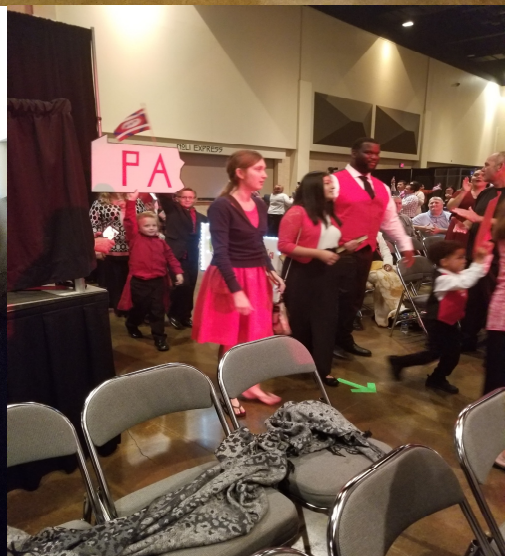
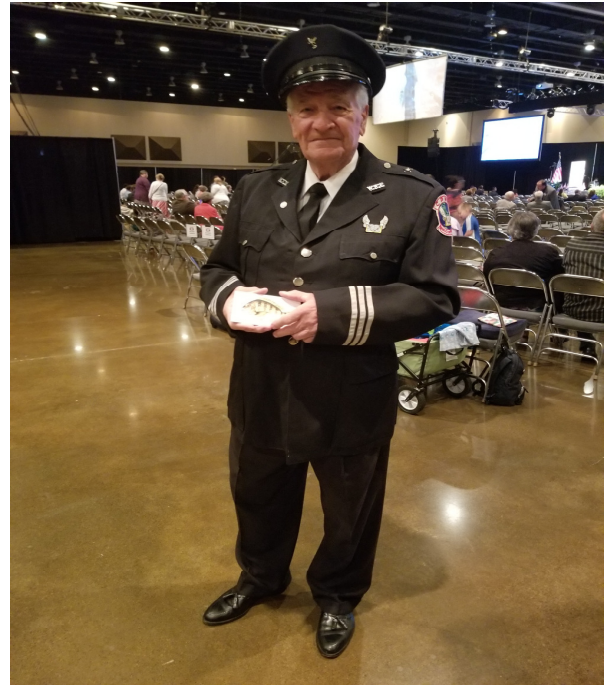
According to Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 5th addition, LOVE is (1) a feeling of strong personal attachment induced by sympathetic understanding , or ties of friendship, ardent affection and (2) the benevolence attributed to God as being like a father’s affection for his children.

We should desire the same love for each other that Johathan and David felt for each other. As His Church, we should have the same love that Jesus had for the world. Working together will help the world to see this love and will lift the spirit of others who desire to become a Christian. The day will come when we need to show this love even to the point of risking our lives for one another. This love will cause us to pray for our Overseers and leaders that Satan can’t hurt or hinder us. As the sheep of God we can rejoice in His Word and trust in the Lord. It may seem easy to yield to Satan, but he can’t hurt us when we trust fully in God. Let us watch and pray and be happy in getting together with our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

# Some scenes from IYC 2019



## Scenes from the General Assembly



### My Deliverer Is Coming Children's Assembly 2019 Report

Saved **11**  
Sanctified **10**  
Holy Ghost **1**  
Healed **1**  
Blessings **6**  
Joy **1**  
Vision of the Church **1**

Conducted **4** Sessions  
Total registered attendance  
for the week: **721**  
High attendance of **208**  
Thank you for registering!

