

The Church of God

Great Lakes Mountaineer Region



Ohio



West Virginia



Michigan

Issue No. 9

October-December, 2019



**Great Lakes
Mountaineer
Regional**

News

The map shows the Great Lakes region with several regional centers marked: Niles, MI (red dot); Castalia, OH (red dot); Columbus, OH (red dot); Chillicothe, OH (red dot); Seth, WV (red dot); Fairmont, WV (red dot); and Page, WV (red dot). The map is color-coded: Michigan is light blue, Ohio is yellow, and West Virginia is dark blue.

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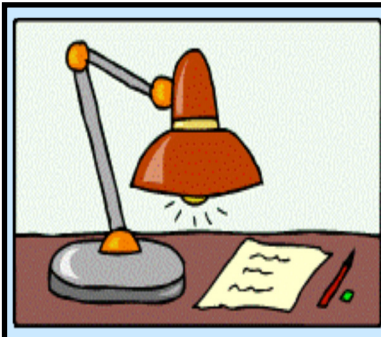
In

Michigan—Ohio—West Virginia

James T. Smith—Regional Overseer

Walter Lofton—Editor

www.tcog-glmr.org



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



Mending Offences – The Prodigal Son’s Family

During our recent ministers’ convention the regional theme for this new year’s work was introduced: **Reclaiming Our Families**. The guidance that was given included copies of the booklet **Mending Offences**. How these two are connected is given in the booklet’s beginning lesson:

In the spiritual realm we find a silent killer that is just as deadly to our spiritual health as is high blood pressure can be to our physical health. Consider for a moment the people you may know who in the past were faithful members of the Body of Christ, The Church of God. They walked with us, and we had sweet fellowship. Then for some reason they have turned away to no longer walk with us. Why did they leave? What could have been done to have prevented their falling away? In particular, how do we overcome this silent killer of the soul?

In this quarter’s lessons we will seek to better understand this silent killer—how it gains its foothold, how to recognize it, how to deal with it when it appears, and better still how to avoid it in the first place. What is this silent killer? Being offended ourselves, or causing offences to others.

How are offences a silent spiritual killer? An offence may not immediately exhibit outward manifestations. Instead, offended people often will hold their hurt and resentment to themselves. What began as a mild irritation or annoyance can lead eventually (if not addressed) to bitterness, anger, resentment then on to disagreements and arguments, to hurt and pain, and eventually to spiritual death—and otherwise affecting both the offended and the offender parties.

The adverb eventually used here is important. While the consequences of one offence may be immediately manifested (and hopefully addressed) when it first occurs, another offence may fester over many years before its full impact and harm is manifested. During that time, its impact ultimately may touch the lives of many others beyond those directly involved in the original offence.

The booklet **Mending Offences** considers several examples of how offences can occur, the damage that they can cause, and how they are best addressed. We will now consider another example of mending offences based upon the account of

the Prodigal Son given in Luke 15:11-32. Please read this passage of scripture, which we will now examine from the viewpoint of offences: how they occurred, what were their consequences, and how they ultimately were addressed.

This parable involves a father and his two sons. This family appeared to be well-off (had servants, etc.); everyone had his needs provided; none of them suffered for want. Yet all was not well within this family. Offences can occur even in those situations that otherwise *outwardly* would seem to have no problems or complaints.

We will now consider the circumstances presented in this parable that can help us to understand how an offensive situation could exist, or at least be perceived to exist, among these three family members. Each of the three could be offended in his own viewpoint with each of the others.

Review *Mending Offences Lesson 11 Christ, Offence Counselor* which considered the visit of Jesus to the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus—another situation where an otherwise healthy well-adjusted family nevertheless had its own offence problems.

One must consider the whole account of any offensive situation to discover all the details that contributed to the offensives. This is the way that offences often reveal themselves: over time. How many times have you heard someone remark after an offence has been revealed, “*If only I had known...*” In so many cases, what eventually contributed to the offence only later becomes apparent. What should have been recognized early often is overlooked and its consequence minimized, until the offence is fully manifested.

The younger son’s need to separate himself from his family clearly indicates that he was not content with his current family situation. His discontent could have been due to multiple conditions. What actions he previously may have pursued in order to reach the relationship he desired with his father and brother we are not told.

We do not learn how his older brother felt about him until after the younger son’s return as revealed in Luke 15:19 when the older brother tells his father: “*Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends:*” How the older brother felt about his younger brother surely affected how the younger brother (perceived he) was treated.

The older brother appears to be quite older than the younger, having served their father for many years. The labor of the elder son seems to have been pleasing to the father. Yet, the father had done little to commend the elder son for his faithful service. Perhaps the younger son felt unable to measure up to his father’s expectations? He and his older brother were not on the best of speaking terms.

At some point the younger brother concluded that leaving home was the best solution to the offence he felt he suffered. Maybe then he, on his own, could prove himself to his family and to the world by demonstrating that he was indeed able to manage his affairs successfully. Surely his success would win him the favor, respect, and trust of his father and his brother. No doubt the younger brother left home with great expectations that his plan was the right thing to do.

The elder brother also had great expectations! For the elder brother, the absence of his younger brother provided the opportunity for him to prove to his father that he was the better son: he both labored untiringly for the father, and was obedient in all that the father expected of him. Yet, the father never seemed to notice, let alone praise, his elder son's labors: "*yet thou never gavest me.*" The elder brother may have thought he was satisfied, at least until the return of his younger brother revealed that he wasn't.

We thus see that the two brothers each took radically different approaches to winning their father's recognition, respect, and praise. But in both of these instances, the results were considerably less than what each had envisioned.

And so it is with the approach that each person may take to address the offences each one may (seem to) be facing. We have great expectations that we have chosen the right plan! This only sets the stage for the hard fall we then suffer before we can recognize the folly of our choices and actions.

The outward manifestation of offence's consequence for the younger brother was far more pronounced (outwardly visible) to those around them. The younger brother had reached the point where he "*would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.*"

Such is the case in the many efforts we may take to address, to work through, to avoid the offences we experience—both those we feel and those we cause, both those that are real and those that we perceive to be so. Our best laid plans seem to fall short, if not to collapse before our eyes.

The good news is that the younger brother did come to recognize the folly of the choices he had made, and where the true solution to his condition was to be found: "*when he came to himself.*" The son had come to realize that his offence with his brother (and perhaps also his father) was not worth the separation from his family. The need to "prove himself" was over. He now could be satisfied simply to serve his father in any capacity that he could. He would say to his father, "*(I) am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.*"

Thus it is with those offences that we may face in our own lives. We must surrender our need to "have it our way." We must be more than simply "willing" (as though we really don't want to, but are "willing"). Indeed, we must yearn (with great desire) that the Lord have His way.

The offended feelings of the elder brother were more easily suppressed. Possibly no one even knew how he really felt about his situation while the younger brother was gone. Others around him may have thought that all was well. Yet those “silent” offences we carry can be every bit as painful as those that are so obvious. In time, even those hidden and suppressed offences will come to be revealed and so must be confronted.

The younger son was now reconciled to his father, but what of his elder brother? With the younger brother returned home, the elder brother’s true (possibly suppressed) feelings were now revealed: “*he was angry, and would not go in:*” Furthermore, he could only bring himself to refer to his brother as “*this thy son,*” calling him the son of the father—no reference to his own brotherly relationship. Fortunately, the father that had secured his lost son’s return to the family now turned his attention to ministering to his elder son.

We are so blessed to have a heavenly father who sees and understands the offences we may be suffering through. If only we, as did the younger son, will “come to ourselves” then we too can find the true solutions to those offences that would pull us down and cause us to lose our cherished place as his children.

Luke 15:11-32

(11) And he said, *A certain man had two sons:*

(12) *And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.*

(13) *And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.*

(14) *And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.*

(15) *And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.*

(16) *And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.*

(17) *And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!*

(18) *I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,*

(19) *And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.*

(20) *And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.*

(21) *And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.*

- (22) But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put *it* on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on *his* feet:
- (23) And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill *it*; and let us eat, and be merry:
- (24) For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.
- (25) Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing.
- (26) And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant.
- (27) And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.
- (28) And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and in-treated him.
- (29) And he answering said to *his* father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends:
- (30) But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf.
- (31) And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine.
- (32) It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.

GLMR Birthday Calander

Aug. 3—Randy Osborne—Seth, WV
 Sept. 11—Greg Thomas—Seth, WV
 Sept. 19—Aria Saunders—Seth, WV
 Sept. 25—Elijah Saunders—Seth, WV
 Sept. 26—Evan Tucker—Seth, WV
 Oct. 1—Chelsea Legg—Castalia, Ohio
 Oct. 10—Malissa Moore—Page, WV
 Oct. 15—Paula Sanner—Seth, WV
 Oct. 19—Darlene Osborne—Seth, WV
 Oct. 24—Kandy Saunders—Seth, WV
 Oct. 30—Jane Boltenhouse—Chillicothe, OH
 Nov. 3—Don Hutton, Sr.—Chillicothe, OH
 Nov. 4—Joshua Atha—Page, WV
 Nov. 6—Robin Bradford—Page, WV

Happy Birthday To All!



Sunday School Average Attendance

For Month of September, 2019

Castalia, OH—21
 Chillicothe, OH, OH—7
 Niles, MI—10
 Fairmont, WV—10
 Page, WV—12
 Seth, WV—11

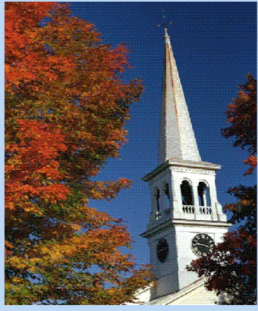
For Month of October, 2019

Castalia, OH—20
 Chillicothe, OH—6
 Niles, MI—10
 Fairmont, WV—9
 Page, WV—10
 Seth, WV—11

Special Notice From Editor

For 2020 we will start a bimonthly paper format. Our next issue will be for January and February, 2020. PLEASE have your information, news, and Auxiliary boosts to me no later than January 10th. PLEASE use this E-mail address when communicating with me: wglof@tcog-glmr.org.

Thank You!



Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional Church News

NEWS FROM FAIRMONT, WV

Thankful to still be able to have Sunday services at the YWCA. Once a month we also have a nursing home service with 6-9 in attendance. Sister Jackson has been conducting Bible study in her apartment complex. Brother Smith and I were invited to conduct one of the Bible studies.

Brother and Sister Robe are still awaiting the construction and placement of their new modular home after the fire that destroyed their previous home. They send their love and thanks to all who have prayed for them, given money, and sent cards. It means so much to them.

Two of our sisters, Sister Lucille Brady and Sister Nancy Smith, have had cataract eye surgery recently, and are able to see much better.

Plans are being made for our Christmas program and dinner for Sunday, December 1st at the YWCA. Ya'll Come! God Bless us everyone,

Nancy Smith, reporter

NEWS FROM SETH, WV

First of all, we would like to express our appreciation for our Regional Overseer and his wife, Brother and Sister Smith for visiting the Church at Seth. It's always a blessing to see them and to be in service with them. They also came to visit Sister Lofton as she is recovering from an injury. You know how it feels when one is missing and cannot make it to Church. But, she's been able to attend a little recently. It is great to see her there. Thank the Lord, she is getting better.

Here are some details of our events at Seth:

October World Mission Drive: We had two sales with much opposition. Our first sale was at the Flea Market—outside in the cold and wet and not many people stirring. We made \$7.00. But, then a member donated \$100.00. Our second sale started in a downpour of rain and we almost canceled, but we pressed on. The Lord blessed it and made it almost double our goal.

Dorcas: We had a get together with a couple of friends in the neighborhood to work on a craft and Sister Paula did a short devotion. She shared an article from our regional paper. We are going to try to schedule a Dorcas meeting every month.

Genesis Marmet Nursing Home: There was good attendance at the Nursing Home visit this month. The residents enjoy singing and worshipping the Lord. Help us pray for one of the employees who attended the Revival. He lives quite a distance away from the Church but he did visit a couple of times. Also, during our visits, we have met a few folks from the Church of God of Prophecy.

A Minute from the MINUTES

Inspirational Nuggets From Past Assembly Minutes

Excerpts from message by F. F. Johnson, Foreign Missionary Secretary, to the 36th General Assembly in 1941

The church came up the 13th day of June, 1903, and the aeroplane six months later, December 17, 1903. The Church in the extreme western part and the plane in the extreme eastern part of the same state—North Carolina.

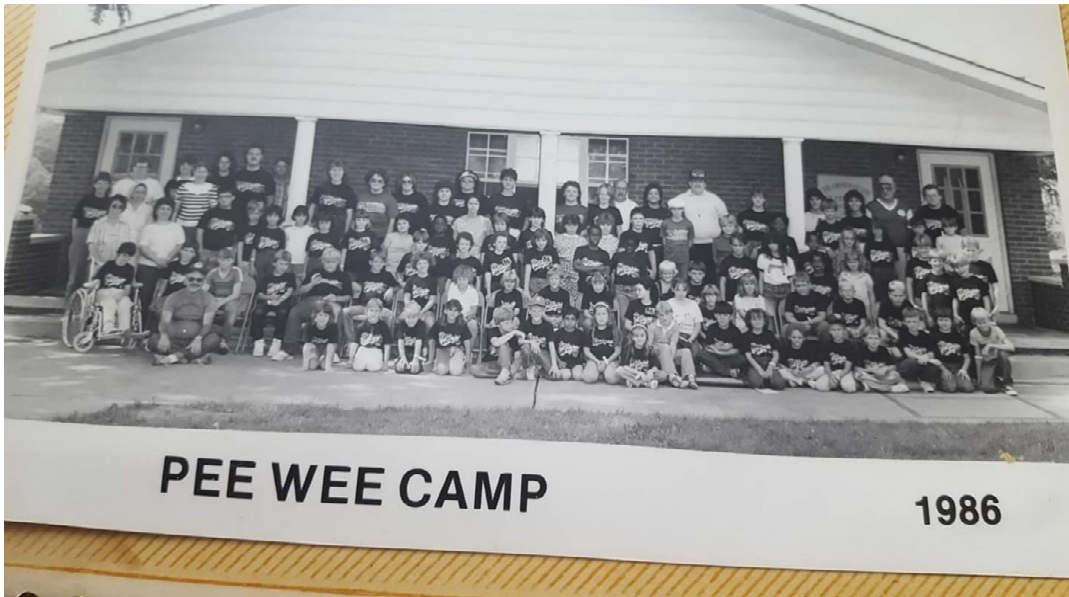
The first plane flew only a few yards, but it accomplished its purpose and proved to the world that men could do the seemingly impossible—fly. The American Government was slow to accept this new invention, so its inventors went to England with their invention, and there sold their plane and patent, and thus they developed the aeroplane. And while the plane have had many crashes and terrible accidents, they continue to make aeroplanes and today after thirty-seven years and nine months they have almost reached mechanical perfection.

So it is with the Church of God. It came up six months before the aeroplane, and all other organizations refuse to have anything to do with this that has sprung up in the Fields of the Wood, at the foot of Burger Mountain, in Cherokee County, North Carolina, as was prophesied of by David in the 132nd Psalm. Just a few humble followers accepted this that had sprung up in the Fields of the Wood. Its doctrine was too pure; man-made creeds and carnal institutions scoffed at its teachings; persecutions were terrible; Church houses were burned, and yet the work spread. Its followers claimed to be part and parcel of that early Church that had reached such glorious heights and beauty, and then crashed and lay dormant for twelve hundred and sixty years, [Editor's Note: Actually it was 1578 years.] its headquarters destroyed. And so it had to go far away as told by the prophet Isaiah and come up in the new world at the foot of Burger Mountain in the Fields of the Wood, as told by the Psalmist. Two and one half years elapsed before there was an Assembly for the last days Church of God, and in that Assembly it was urged that evangelism must be encouraged to spread into every open door, and surely that meant all the world by that Assembly. Because surely the Isles shall wait for me, and they are waiting for the Arise, shine to come to them.

The aeroplanes are going into all of the world. Their traveling facilities are wonderful. They have a regular schedule into all parts of the world, and the Church of God is commissioned to *“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature”* Mark 16:15.

EDITORS NOTE: This will be the last installment of this series. These articles will appear in The Evening Light beginning with the January 2020 issue.

Photos From The Past



The above photo shows the West Virginia PEE WEE Camp of 1986

If someone is tearing your church to pieces, why don't you join God's Church? He said the gates of hell shall not prevail against His Church.

An Inspirational Mini Sermon

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

Ye Are Dead

Paul said, *"For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God"* (Col. 3:3).

To the Romans, who thought they should continue in sin so that grace might abound, he wrote, *"God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer there?"* (Rom. 6:2).

Of himself he wrote, *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me"* (Gal. 2:20).

Unless that part of us is dead which has its affections set on the world, we are not dead in the sense Paul was speaking about. People who are continuing in sin are doing despite unto the Spirit of grace. They are not dead to sin, but dead in sin!

Sunday School
2019 - 2020



**Jenny Lonz,
Regional Sunday School Coordinator**

In order to learn, we must be taught. To be taught, we need a teacher. The best teachers we will ever have are God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost. They always agree. There is no division in them. They are perfectly joined together in one mind and one purpose. They are One. *“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one”* (1 John 5:7).

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God” (1 John 5:11-13).

Our General theme is “Learn of Me.” Jesus invites us to learn of Him 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.”* Repentance is the first step in taking His yoke upon us. This gives us access to eternal life. There is life in the Son, because He is the way, the truth and the life. Without Jesus we have no life. In Him, we will find rest for our souls.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas, take more time to learn of Our Lord and Savior. Our Heavenly Father sent His only begotten Son into this lost world so that you and I could be heirs and joint-heirs with Him. Oh how He loves us! Tell the world that there is no other name under heaven by which we must be saved other than the name of Jesus! Acts 4:12 *“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”* (Acts 4:12). Come to Sunday School, invite others, and learn of Him!

—Sister Jenny Lonz, Regional Sunday School Coordinator

Not Worth the Trouble

It was Mr. Spurgeon, we believe, who discovered a new and extra Scriptural reason for the safety of Daniel while temporarily abiding in the den of lions. According to his conclusions, it was absolutely impossible for the lions to eat Daniel, because the most of him was backbone, and the rest grit.”

What luscious eating lions would have with some of us!

—The Watchman Examiner

The Church of God is a mystery, and because of this people often seem to think it is like the other common churches of the day, and thus become confused about it. All should remember that the Church of God was originated by Jesus Christ Himself and is established upon facts instead of creeds. We have not established any new church but only **found** the one **founded** by our Lord. It is our purpose to stick to the apostle' doctrine, and of course this came from the Lord and thus it is divine. Every step of the way is sacred and calls for divine guidance to keep us from side-tracking and going astray. Let us keep in divine order and we are safe, Aside from the very right are dangers and shipwrecks.

—A. J. Tomlinson, *WWM April 23, 1927*

Truths Children Have Learned

- >No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- >When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- >You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- >You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- > Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a Tic-Tac.

Truths Adults Have Learned

- >Raising teenagers is like trying to nail Jell-O to a tree.
- >Middle age is when you choose cereal for the fiber, not the toy.
- > If you can remain calm, you don't have all the facts.
- > You appreciate the fact that wrinkles don't hurt.
- > You're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoes and wonder what else you can do while you're down there.

You have the capacity to choose what you think about. If you choose to think about past hurts, you will continue to feel bad. While it's true you can't change the effect past influences had on you once, you can change the effect they have on you now.



Don Bolyard
BTI REGIONAL COORDINATOR

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?” (Rom. 8:35) “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38, 39).

If we are ever going to reach this place of great strength in the Lord, as Paul did, it’s going to take some serious digging and studying of God’s Word, becoming or building strong in our relationship with Jesus. These things, or life experiences mentioned by Paul in (Rom.8:35,38,39) above are what’s in the stream that will beat vehemently upon our house we’re building (Luke 6:48). That scripture tells us that “ the stream could not shake it !!! “ PRAISE GOD!!! For it was founded upon a rock. Jesus is our rock to build upon. *“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us” (Rom. 8:37). “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? (Rom. 8:31).* Let’s commit ourselves to receiving a fuller understanding of God’s Word. If your local church doesn’t have anyone to teach the B.T.I. courses, then try to study them yourselves, they will be of great help to you in understanding the word of God. We need to be like Peter when Jesus ask his disciples, *“WILL YE ALSO GO AWAY? “Peter answered, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we BELIEVE and are SURE that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God” (John: 6:67–69).*

SO DIG DEEP AND BUILD STRONG!!!



Juanita Atha
ABM Regional Coordinator

We have loved going to the conventions and assemblies and hearing the singing and preaching and seeing all of our brothers and sisters. I got to talk with those at Castalia this year and really enjoyed getting to know our sisters in the Lord. I hope I didn’t bother them too much. We need to know our church families to be able to pray for them.

Castalia has so many wonderful singers and musicians. It was a wonderful place to be. The trip was long but worth it. I met our General WMB Coordinator and her family and so many more in the Church.

The Beckley and Marmet revivals was a blessing. God gave the world His breath and His Son died for the world. We need to love souls as Jesus did and depend upon God for our help in times of distress. We are getting older and it is getting harder but that is where faith comes in. We need your prayers for our region and our Overseer and family.



Sue Hutton
WMB REGIONAL COORDINATOR

MISSION ASSIGNMENT " OPERATION DEPLOYMENT"

Operation; is engaging in or relating to active operations. Operations are those activities that don't aim to produce anything new, but to maintain (preserve) and sustain (support) a system.

Deployment; in naval usage, is changing from a cruising approach or contact disposition to a disposition for battle. The movement of forces within operational areas. The positioning of forces into a formation for battle. The relocation of forces and material to desired operational areas.

In looking at the military definition, Deborah the fourth Judge of Israel came to my thoughts. In Judges 4 we can see how Deborah used a military strategy to ensure that Sisera, the leader, is drawn out and defeated.

Deborah sent and called Barak, she said unto him, *"Hath not the Lord God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take ten thousand men of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulon? And I will draw unto thee to the river Kushon Sisera, the captain of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand"* (Judges 4:6, 7).

Barack didn't want to go unless Deborah went with him. Deborah told him she would surely go with him. She also told Barack *"the journey that thou takest shall not be to thine honour; for the Lord shall sell Sisera into the hand of a woman"* (verse 9).

Deborah knew Sisera would bring his forces toward mount Tabor. Deborah said unto Barak, *"Up; for this is the day in which the Lord hath delivered Sisera into thine hand: is not the Lord gone out before thee?"* (verse 14).

Go ahead ! Look in Judge's 4 and see the outcome.

Deborah had a military mind because she allowed God to lead and guide her. She didn't use her own strategy !

God had a fatal sting for Sisera and all his chariots, and all his host !

—Regional WMB, Sue Hutton

When Friends Forget

"Yet did not the chief butler remember Joseph, but forgot him" (Gen. 40:23).

Sad it would have been for Joseph had he put his trust in man; but though the butler forgot him, his God did not. The Lord was reserving Joseph for a more timely deliverance; he was to come out of prison to a throne, and that was best secured by his waiting a little longer. It is good for a man to hope, and quietly wait for the salvation of God.

—C. H. Spurgeon

Limited Sowing—A limited Harvest

(The following message is a reprint from the March 21, 1970 *White Wing Messenger* by C. J. Cunningham, State Overseer of Wisconsin.)

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” (Gal. 6; 7). Most people think of this Scripture in terms of evil sowing. But when we give it more thought, and break down the word *whatsoever*, and when we pursue the Scriptures further, we can conclude that it may mean a spiritual harvest as well as an evil one.

Paul made this clear in 2 Corinthians. 9:6: *“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”* It would be incredible to think of a farmer planting an exact amount of seed and expect a full harvest from every seed. For example, in sowing cotton one must sow almost twice as many seeds as he expects a harvest from. The reason is that every seed doesn’t produce. The same goes for other seed. We cannot expect 100% results if we sow sparingly.

In recent years some have placed a limit on their efforts for God, but still expect a full measure from Him. I wonder how God feels about us being so precise with our auxiliary work (goals). Can we expect to reap a full harvest of blessings in our local churches, or throughout the state, when we are so sparing with our efforts? It may be that we are suffering from this. Perhaps our revivals would be greater and the increase in soul-winning and membership would be better if we sowed more bountifully. Are we afraid that God will not reward us for what we do? I am deeply concerned about this. I have had some of our people express their desires to do more for God, “But how can we when, we have a ceiling on our work.” For years, our auxiliary offerings have remained about the same and so has our growth.

Also the cost of operating our work has been on an increase. All of us are receiving more of everything—wages, better cars, better clothes, better places to live. Yet some feel God’s Church can get by on the budget of five or ten years ago. I wonder what we would do if God placed it on some individual’s heart to give to certain departments of the Church after the church had reached its goals. Would we refuse this because it would make it harder on us next year? Who knows? We may not have another year to work for God!

Let’s adopt the attitude of the saying, “Let us do what we can, while we can,” and be followers of the Apostle Paul, when he said, *“I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you...”* (Acts 20:20). When we keep back something from God, it is possible He will keep back His blessings from us. When we have it so hard with our local expenses, is it possible we are suffering from the strict limit we have placed on our efforts? Think on these things, and let’s do what we can while we have the opportunity. *“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.”* (Matt. 16:27).



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“And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.” (Matt.13: 10, 11). To Whom was it given? The Church.

“For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

*Therefore speak I to them in parables: **because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.** And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:*

For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.” (Matt. 13: 12-17).

*“Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: **blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed**” (John 20:29).*

Let's pray for our loved ones that God would divinely visit them with the power and conviction of the Holy Ghost; and if He wills, to use our witness of Christ—our walk with Him, that their eyes and ears would be opened to His Truth. Oh, that our loved ones would be touched and drawn by the Holy Ghost to *“seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

Are you ready? I'm ready to see an Exodus from the world into God's kingdom and then covenant to God and The Church of God. Let it be so, dear Lord, in Jesus Name. Amen.

Yes, we did produce a near perfect Republic. But will they keep it, or will they in the enjoyment of plenty, lose the memory of freedom? Material abundance without character is the surest way to destruction. — Thomas Jefferson



The Hole In The Fence

A little lamb strayed from the fold one day
Through a hole in the fence and wondered away.
His freedom, at first seemed to fill him with glee;
Away from the sheepfold—forever free!

He munched the green grass and the flowers so rare,
And gamboled on hillsides where life seem so fair.
Alas! Night drew on, and the darkness grew dense,
His fun turned to fear—he was lost; what suspense!

Now, weary and helpless, his steps seemed to lag;
He fell down the cliff, but was caught on a crag.
T'was then the Good Shepherd, who'd searched far and near,
Heard the cries of the lamb that He loved so dear.

With never a thought of the risk He would face,
He rescued the lamb from that dangerous place.
“A wonderful story,” cried a wee little lad,
In response to the story just told by his dad.

“But just one thing, Father,” and his voice was tense,
“What did they do 'bout the hole in the fence?”

—Selected

WHY HE KEPT HIS HAT ON

A man was seen to enter a certain church, and sit down with his hat on. When the deacons came in they noticed the phenomenon, and held a whispered conversation together, seemingly interested and perturbed. At last one of them approached the stranger and politely said, “Excuse me, sir, but are you aware that you have your hat on?” “Ah,” said the man, “I thought that would do it! I have been coming to this church for weeks, and not a soul took the slightest notice of me, or spoke to me. I am glad you have condescended to speak to me at last.”

—from February, 1951 Joyful News Broadcast