

The Church of God

Great Lakes Mountaineer Region



Ohio



West Virginia



Michigan

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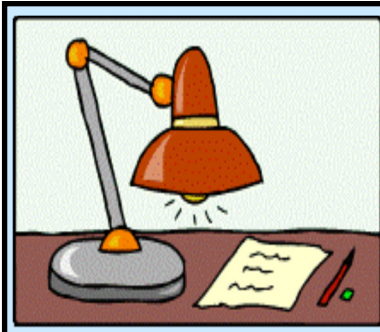
In

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



Warning Every Man

We know that the great commission given to the Church in Matthew 28:19-20 instructs us to *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

With what intensity and commitment should we answer this command of our Lord? How should we measure our success in fulfilling this command? Paul in Colossians 1:28 *“Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:”* repeats the theme of our teaching all things to all men (*“teaching every man in all wisdom”*).

To this core command *“teaching every man”* Paul also prepends the phrase *“warning every man”* to indicate the urgency and intensity with which we should execute the Lord’s command. Paul then appends after the core command an indication of how we are to judge the success of our teaching: *“that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.”*

With *“warning every man”* Paul indicates that our ministering the Word should be more than simply “informational” (for their information, take it or leave it). Our delivery of the Word should contain a sense of urgency (no time to wait) and of consequence (warning) for anyone not heeding what we are sharing. Our message of good news (gospel) to those who receive and embrace is also a message of bad news (warning) to those who fail to receive our message.

Consider the signs used along our nation’s highway system. They can be classified as: (1) *informational*, e.g., distance to the next exit, or mile marker, (2) *regulatory*, e.g., one-way, speed limit, and stop signs, and (3) *warning*, e.g., railroad crossing, steep sharp curve, and various hazardous conditions.

The message we are to share with the world likewise contains these same ingredients. Perhaps the foremost information we can share is the “good news,” the gospel, the plan of salvation. This is information that everyone can use! Then we have regulations to share—how we are to live (holiness, spiritual fruit) and to not live (sin, works of the flesh). Finally, the most important warning we can share is the necessity that everyone must prepare for the Lord’s imminent return to judge (eternal damnation).

As we fulfill our call “*teaching every man in all wisdom,*” we must be focused on the results we seek to accomplish: “*that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.*” This is the measure by which the Lord will judge our labors. We teach with the purpose not only to make men know, but indeed to work with (teaching) them that we might bring them to that perfected state that we all must reach. The Lord is coming back after a people, His Church, that hath made herself ready (perfected)! (Revelations 19:7).

Just as we have a warning to deliver to the world, the Lord has delivered a warning to us as His ministers. The ministers of the Lord are warned throughout the Word of God, perhaps more than the people to which they are to minister. In particular, consider the Lord’s warning to his ministers given through Ezekiel twice, in Ezekiel 3:17-21 and again in Ezekiel 33:1-9.

In coming issues of our regional paper, I hope to delve further into these points in greater detail. Not only are we to warn the wicked to repent and turn from their evil ways, but we also are to warn the righteous to hold fast to their faith, and indeed go on unto perfection.

Update on District Convention dates:

District One Convention will be at Niles, MI on May 2.

District Two Convention will be at Seth, WV on April, 4.

Stooping To Serve

One student of a struggling young seminary in a Third World country recalled his first days at school with embarrassment. The school was operating on a shoestring. It had dedicated teachers and a deep sense of mission, but inadequate facilities. One morning, after enduring the seldom cleaned washroom once too often, he burst into the principal’s office and complained bitterly. The principal, a godly scholar well-known for his preaching abilities, listened calmly and then promised to have the washrooms cleaned on a regular basis.

The change was immediate and apparent. And the student, taking the credit, was congratulated by his peers. Having been successful in one area, he began to be more vocal about change in other areas. Then one morning, having risen early to catch a train, he found the principal on his hands and knees scrubbing the washroom floor.

As he looks back today, he feels that no other experience so shaped his view of the ministry.

It is said of Christ in Philippians 2:7 that He “...*made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men*”.



Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional Church News

Chillicothe is alive and well. We give God the glory and praise for all he has done for us. We thank him for each and every one that comes to Sunday School and morning services. Continue to pray for us at Chillicothe

Prayer Request: Bill, Jane, Ben, Lisa and family, Eric, Jenni and the request that are upon the congregation hearts.

The Pastor and wife at Seth, WV celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 27 on the same day that Sister Lofton came home from rehab after breaking her left hip on January 31st. As you may recall she fell in August and broke her right hip. Your prayers are much appreciated.

Sister Jenny Lunz from the Castalia, Ohio Church writes: The Lord is so kind and compassionate! My oldest daughter gave her heart to the Lord today! Sister Linda, a visitor at the Church in Castalia, received sanctification today! Praise the Lord for He is good and His mercy endureth forever!



Don Bolyard
BTI REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Theme:
Digging Deep, Building Strong

The first school is Spanish & English West Coast, May 1-8, 2020. The second school is Spanish First & Second Term, May 6-13, 2020 in Cleveland, TN. The third school is English, May 3-June 13, 2020 in Cleveland, TN.

Our Theme is **“Digging Deep / Building Strong”** (Luke (6:48)).

“A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength” (Prov. 24:5). *“If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small”* (Prov. 24:10).

Adversity means—Misfortune; Trouble; Disaster; Suffering; Affliction; Tribulation. Our March 1, Sunday School lesson told us that “ Those who are weak and indecisive will not make it.” So let’s be wise and be strong in the work of the Lord!



Jenny Lonz

Regional Sunday School Coordinator

How Will They "Learn of Me"?

Romans 10:8-15:

- 8** *But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;*
- 9** *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*
- 10** *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- 11** *For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*
- 12** *For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.*
- 13** *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*
- 14** *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*
- 15** *And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

We read in these scriptures the way to salvation. Whosoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. But, how shall they hear without a preacher? Our world is lost and dying. Souls need to hear the whole gospel message of Jesus Christ. The Church of God is commissioned to go into all the world and preach the gospel (the whole Bible, rightly divided). This is how they will learn. Live a life blameless before all the world and tell them about the way to the Father. Jesus! He is the only way. If we lift Him up, He will draw all men to Himself. I encourage you to let your light so shine before all men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven!

Too Much Too Late

A professor at a medical school asked a student how much of a certain drug should be administered to a patient, and the young man replied, "Five grains." A minute later he raised his hand. "Professor," he said, "I would like to change my answer to that question."

The professor looked at his watch and said, "Never mind, young man; your patient has been dead for forty seconds."

How about the many souls who are killed with an overdose of false doctrine today by those who speak first and think later...???



Kandy Saunders
Regional CPMA Coordinator

As we have read and know, David was not permitted to build the temple for the Lord. *“But God said unto me, Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood. And, the Lord chose Solomon”* (1 Chro.28:3).

“And he said unto me, Solomon thy son, he shall build my house and my courts: for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father.” (verse 6).

This house, Solomon's temple and the last days Church of God has some similarities. *“... and they brought great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones, to lay the foundation of the house”* (1 Kings 5:17). The house Solomon built was a physical house, but the house Jesus built is a spiritual house.

“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:5).

“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit” (Eph. 2:20-22). Both houses were to follow God's pattern—a covenant-people governed by God.

“Concerning this house which thou art in building, if thou wilt walk in my statutes, and execute my judgments, and keep all my commandments to walk in them; then will I perform my word with thee, which I spake unto David thy father: And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake my people Israel” (1 Kings 12:13).

“And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people” (2 Cor. 6:16).

Do you see her? Are you thankful you know who she is and what she is not. She is not building material, but she is a pearl of great price. Jesus purchased her with His own blood. Praise the Lord!

“Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? Saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?” (Acts 7:48-49).

“For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it” (Psa. 132:13).

Oh, that people would seek the Lord to know and come to join the one Fold, His Habitation, the Church of God.



Sue Hutton

WMB REGIONAL COORDINATOR
A Trumpet Blast of Liberty

In the Old Testament we read of the tradition of Jubilee. Every 50th year was to be a year of Jubilee when all debts were written off and land or other property that had been taken in payment of a debt was returned. In the Greek translation Jubilee becomes “A trumpet-blast of liberty.”

Praise God! We don't have to wait 50 years for our debts to be written off. Jesus when he was at the synagogue in Nazareth proclaimed *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."* Jesus blew the trumpet (shofar) of liberty when he stood in the synagogue proclaiming the acceptable year of the Lord.

The Jubilee presents a beautiful picture of the New Testament scriptures of redemption and forgiveness. Christ is the Redeemer who came to set free those who are slaves and prisoners to sin (Romans 8:2; Galatians 5:1; 3:22). The debt of sin we owe to God was paid on the cross as Jesus died on our behalf (Colossians 2:13-14), and we are forgiven the debt forever. We are no longer in bondage, no longer slaves to sin, having been freed by Christ, and we can truly enter the rest God provides as we cease laboring to make ourselves acceptable to God by our own works (Hebrews 4:9-10).

MISSIONS is simply winning souls for Christ. Every born again child of God is a missionary. May we all be faithful to our heavenly calling.



Sunday School Average Attendance

**For Month of
January, 2020**

Castalia, OH—17
Chillicothe, OH—6
Niles, MI—6
Fairmont, WV—8
Page, WV—9
Seth, WV—10

**For Month of
February, 2020**

Castalia, OH—22
Chillicothe, OH—7
Niles, MI—8
Fairmont, WV—9
Page, WV—7
Seth, WV—9

An Inspirational Mini Sermon

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

Scattering for Increase

“There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty” (Prov. 11:24).

It is not always what we stash away that makes us rich. The economy of a nation would soon go on the rocks if all its citizens hoarded most of the money they received. Scattering abroad, or keeping money in circulation, makes for prosperity. This is none the less true in the life of a Christian. Putting his talents to use is the most sensible way to increase them.

The miserly hole-digging method of becoming rich brings little satisfaction. The man who might have felt rich twenty-five years ago because he has \$10,000 in hiding would realize today that he could live, by the average standard, only a year or two on his precious “nest egg,” for times have changed. Had he kept his money invested, it would have been increasing in proportion with the economy.

So it is with the child of God—even more so with the member of the Church. As the end approaches, we find that our responsibilities for the execution of the work bear more heavily upon us, and it takes everything we have within us to keep the “spiritual economy” on the increase sufficiently to satisfy our souls with respect to our indebtedness to Christ.

All that we are, and all that we have, should be in circulation for the furtherance of the gospel. Withholding more than is meet (suitable) could tend to spiritual poverty.



Juanita Atha

Regional ABM Coordinator

Do You Have God's Love?

Today the word LOVE is an empty word for some unless you are serving God and have the love of God in your heart. God gave his only beloved Son for us that we could go to heaven. When you say “I love you,” to someone, can you feel the love? If not it is best not to say it because Jesus knows if you really do. Worry and the weight of the world is hard on people today. Prayer is the only answer, lots and lots of prayer. Pick a brother or sister and ask them to pray for you and your family for strength. We are concerned about members straying away from Church, not supporting the Church and making it harder on the few faithful ones that try to keep the Church going in order to gather in the sheep to hear the Word of God. *“Bear ye one another’s burdens...” (Gal. 6:2).*

Photos From The Past



This was the home of our former General Overseer, M. A. Tomlinson on Georgetown Road in Cleveland, Tennessee. This photo was around the year 1953. In later years another more spacious home was purchased for him by the General Church where he resided until his death in 1995.

Does a Thief Sound a Trumpet?

It should be remembered that the Bible says that the “*DAY OF THE LORD so cometh as a thief in the night,*” and not the Lord Himself. Our people should bear in mind that the day of the Lord and the coming of the Lord in person are two different things. A close study of 1 Thessalonians 5:2, and 2 Peter 3:10, Amos 5:18-20, Joel 2:1, 2, 1 Thessalonians 4:16, and other scriptures will surely show anyone that these are two distinct events. Who would think of a thief sounding a trumpet as he entered the house to steal? Then the Scripture plainly states that every eye shall see the Lord when He comes, but not so with the day of the Lord. Read Revelation 1:7.

— A. J. Tomlinson, WWM April 12, 1930

ORIGINAL MEANINGS

By Damous E. McGee

From: August 3, 1968 **WWM**

The Sanhedrin Court

The origin of the Sanhedrin is unknown; however, it is believed to have originated with Moses and his seventy elders (Numbers 11:6-24). After the days of Ezra the number of this group was established as seventy or seventy-one members, which included both Sadducees and Pharisees. During Christ's ministry, the Pharisees (doctors of the law) were more influential than the Sadducees (former high priests or candidates for the office of high priest). If a member of the Sanhedrin was neither a Sadducee nor a Pharisee, he was referred to as an "elder." The Scribes were the legal experts (Matt. 26:57).

The high priest was the president of the Sanhedrin. Caiaphas was president at Jesus' trial and Ananias at Paul's trial (Acts 23:2). The Sanhedrin was the supreme court of the Jews. It had its own police force, authority to arrest, try, and execute in all matters except the death penalty. However, the death penalty could be exercised on a Gentile if he entered into the forbidden part of the temple. The Sanhedrin could make the death penalty binding in all cases, if such action was ratified by the procurator. In death-penalty cases, the youngest member of the Sanhedrin had to vote first (by standing) so they would not be influenced by the older men. One-half plus two of the members were required for passage. When the death sentence was given, it was to be carried out the next day. Such sentences were never passed on the day preceding the Sabbath, because it was against the Jewish law to execute a person on any Sabbath. Jesus' is the only death-penalty case in the New Testament account.

During sessions, the men sat in a semicircle so they could see each other. Two secretaries stood in front, and one recording evidence in favor of the person on trial, the other the evidence against the person. The policy was that the benefit of doubt be on the side of the accused. (This is the origin of the American law that a person is innocent until proved guilty.) Twenty-two members constituted a quorum.

After the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, this council of the Jews had its authority taken away by the Romans. However, the Sanhedrin was later permitted to re-establish itself as a panel of arbitration on religious matters only.

HELL

THE PRISON HOUSE OF DESPAIR

Hell, the prison house of despair,
Here are some things that won't be there;
No flowers will bloom on the banks of hell,
No beauties of nature we love so well;
No comforts of home, music and song,
No friendship of joy will be found in that throng;
No children to brighten the long, weary night;
No love nor peace, nor one ray of light;
No blood-washed soul with face beaming bright,
No loving smile in that region of night;
No mercy, no pity, pardon nor grace,
No water, O God, what a terrible place!
The pangs of the lost no human can tell,
Not one moment's ease—there is no rest in hell.

Hell, the prison house of despair,
Here are some things that will be there;
Fire and brimstone are there, we know,
For God in His Word hath told us so;
Memory, remorse, suffering and pain,
Weeping, and wailing, but all in vain;
Blasphemer, swearer, hater of God,
Christ-rejecter while here on earth trod;
Murderer, gambler, drunkard and liar,
Will have his part in the lake of fire;
Yes, more than humans on earth can tell,
Are torments and woes of eternal hell.

—*The Evangelist*

Fanning the

Fires of



Walter Lofton, Regional Evangelism Director

Prayer is the key to revival. No successful revival has ever occurred without a substantial season of earnest prayer. First of all, prayer cleanses the heart of the ones praying to get them in earnest with the Lord's perfect will. Prayer washes out all self-will and lukewarmness and puts an earnest Spirit-filled unction into the heart so the heart of the earnest seeker will find God's power operating to the saving of the lost.

Prayer is hard work. But prayer in the Spirit is joyous and profitable. We must pray until we can pray. A moment of prayer without the Spirit seems like an hour, but an hour of praying in the Spirit seems like only a mere moment. The time spent in the prayer closet is the most valuable time one could spend. Without it all our work is strictly mechanical—with no spiritual benefit. The pulpit may allow someone to show off their talents and abilities but there is no showing off in the prayer closet. It is a place where we wrestle alone with God in baring our souls before Him and pressing through the barrier of natural strength into the realm of spiritual power. Without concentrated prayer a revival is just a series of meetings which amounts to little more than a social meeting. Souls of people are too important to relegate to social contact when we can subject them to the saving of Holy Ghost convicting power, the only thing that can change them and get them ready for Heaven.

No one is greater than his prayer life. All great moves of God in the past were preceded with earnest prayer. Before Jesus organized the Church He spent the whole night in prayer. Many of His miracles were preceded with much prayer. The apostles of the early Church spent time in prayer. This is why they were so successful in their work. In fact, the reason they recommended the appointment of deacons was so they could spend their valuable time in prayer and the Word. If we are to be successful in our work today we too must pray as they did. Prayer changes things. Prayer changes us. Prayer changes people. Prayer can make a difference in your Church and your family.

We need revival in the Church today. Revival will not come until each one does their part in the prayer closet. Two great biblical examples of revival can be found in Isaiah chapter 58 and Joel chapter 2. Isaiah 66:8 says: "*...as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.*" If we truly desire to see souls saved and added to the Church today we must prevail before God in our prayer closets. For this is the price of revival and revival is the key to seeing souls rescued from eternal hell fire. Are we willing to pay the price? Church it is time, yea, passed time that we get serious in meeting God's condition for soul-saving revival. Will you join me in this most important work in praying for revival?