

No Indispensable Man

Sometime when you're feeling important,
Sometime when your ego's in bloom,
Sometime when you take it for granted,
You're the best qualified in the room,
Sometime when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow this simple instruction,
And see how it humbles your soul:
Take a bucket and fill it with water;
Put your hands in it up to your wrists;
Pull them out and the hole that remains
Is a measure of how you'll be missed.
You may splash all you please when you enter;
You may stir the water galore;
But stop, and you'll find in a minute
That it looks just the same as before.
The moral in this is quite simple:
Do just the best that you can;
Be proud of yourself, but remember,
There is no Indispensable Man.

The Church of God

Great Lakes Mountaineer Region



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Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional

News

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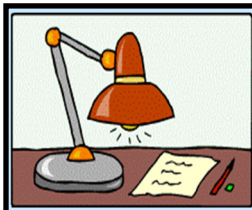
In

Michigan—Ohio—West Virginia

James T. Smith—Regional Overseer

Walter Lofton—Editor

www.tcog-glmr.org



From the desk of the Regional Overseer

James T. Smith



We Are Living In An Unusual Time

The world has been plagued by virus-like diseases throughout mankind's history. But the world is now focused on the Coronavirus as one to be feared as it could essentially wipe out mankind if left unchecked.

The effect of this virus upon those who are infected seems to be wide ranging. Many people appear to barely exhibit any symptoms when infected—they are asymptomatic. On the other extreme, others who are infected may become very ill, to the point of suffering greatly in pain, and even to dying from this virus infection.

Consequently, all manner of efforts are being made to find a treatment or cure for those who become infected, a vaccine to prevent the virus from infecting someone in the first place, and a way to live daily (separation and distancing) so as to reduce the chance and even to prevent that anyone could catch (become infected) or spread by infecting others with this virus.

The fear of how bad this virus could be if left un-checked (if nothing is done) has resulted in all this consternation (great alarm) by essentially all governments (from national down to local) and individuals. Because of this shared common fear, people who otherwise would not so willingly work together are finding common ground and purpose to combat this virus.

I do not wish to downplay this high consternation regarding the coronavirus, but I believe we have another silent killer for which we should be even more fearful and concerned—SIN! Oh, that such a high consternation could capture everyone regarding the gravity of SIN and its consequences to man. *“For the wages of sin is death...”* (Romans 6:23a). And everyone is affected, no one has escaped: *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”* (Romans 3:23).

Fortunately, a treatment already exists, and is freely available to all who will receive it: *“but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* (Romans 6:23b). *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:9)

There also is a vaccine available that will inoculate one to the influence of (susceptibility to) sin—the blood of Christ: *“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.”* (Hebrews 13:12) *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to*



Revival Fire!

Every time you pray, put in something in regard to the need of a revival and say, “Send it upon us, O Lord.” Let us unite in prayer for a great outpouring of the Holy Ghost and fire. Pray about and for it, and talk about it and believe it is coming. Get everybody to praying earnestly for the revival fire to break forth in uncontrollable volume. Pray for the heat to be so intense that people will be affected for miles around every one of our local churches in every state and province. This is not too much to pray for and expect God to give. I believe He is prompting this feeling and stirring us up to pray to this end. O, I surely feel the heat now. It is glorious to be close enough to God to understand and obey His promptings. Revival fire! Yes! Yes! Amen!

(A. J. Tomlinson, WWM January 29, 1927)

I felt it would be good to share the above inspirational boost for revivals by our former General Overseer, A. J. Tomlinson. His whole heart was ablaze with zeal for the promotion of soul winning and church growth. May God move us to a high level of zeal for revival as was experienced back then. As he so ably expressed, prayer is the key to revival success. We will not see revival without a high level of prayer commitment.

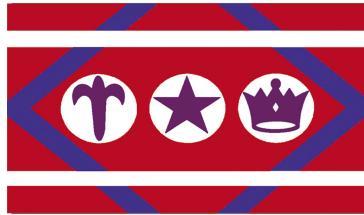
We will see things change when we begin to pray fervently. Our family members and loved ones and complete strangers are dying daily without the Lord. During the past two or three months the world has seen nearly 300,000 souls depart this life for eternity as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. No doubt, many of these have gone out to meet God unprepared. This should move us to fear for the souls yet alive and move us to intreat the Lord for their salvation. Many do not know their right hand from their left, spiritually speaking. It is up to God's people to try to reach them by praying for them and reaching out to try to arrest their attention so as to get them concerned about their lost condition.

God has given many of us several weeks at home without much to do, being laid off from work or cut back on our regular work hours. This interval of being idle is an excellent time to spend in prayer, preparing us for a great revival when we can get back to somewhat of a normal time of regular activity.

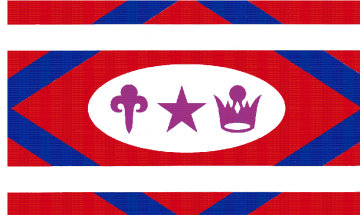
Once a soul is gone it is too late to pray for them. May we seize this opportunity to pray for God to send The Church of God a mighty sweeping revival that will change individuals, our nation, and the whole world.

The Church of God Flag Day—June 13

The Church of God Flag Then and Now



**The Church Flag
as adopted in 1933**



**The Church Flag
as adopted in 2001**

The Banner of Love

(Written by Clemmie P. McAnally)

Come under the banner of love,
The standard of the great Church of God.
Lift up the great ensign today,
And wave to the glory of God.

Chorus:

Come under the ensign of God,
Come now and unite in the fold.
The standard, the great Church of God,
The ensign will wave as we go.

The ensign the approval of God,
Is waving a sign to the world.
She's rose in her day, the set time,
To favor the great Church of God.

Oh, come to the beautiful fold,
The begotten whom Jesus has chose.
The great speckled bird with her wings,
Will spread when the glory bells ring.

He'll present her someday from this world.
She'll be mounted with banners of love.
The last farewell then will be heard,
From the beautiful great Church of God.

The Church Flag Pledge

I pledge allegiance to our Church flag, and to the doctrine for which it stands—one God, one faith, one mind, and one Church for all. Amen

This pledge was officially adopted by the 68th Assembly in 1973.

forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

We also have a path forward, the way we should walk to prevent reinfection by sin: *“Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.” (Romans 6:18, 19)*

The result is life—sustaining: *“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.” (Romans 6:22)*

March World Missions Drive

Offering From Our
Region Was
\$1,142.14

Thanks

**to all who helped
to make this possible.**

Keep working for missions.

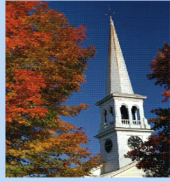
Remember to pray for our National Overseers and the churches under their care. Their work is made even harder with this Covid 19 pandemic. If you haven't already viewed the latest WMB video from headquarters you could pass it around to each home for social-distance viewing.

FULFILLMENT

Dear Lord,

I have knowledge, so will You show me now
How to use it wisely, and find a way somehow
To make the world I live in a little better place,
And life, with its problems, a bit easier to face?
Grant me faith and courage, and put purpose in my days,
And show me how to serve Thee in the most effective ways.
And may I ever be aware in everything I do,
That knowledge comes from learning, and wisdom comes from You;
So that all my education, my knowledge, and my skill
May find their true fulfillment as I learn to do Thy will.

—Carole Ann Stubbs



Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional Church News

Page, West Virginia

We had one service in March. Some of us are going to the Church web-site and enjoying the music and preaching for our encouragement. We have been reading and encouraging others to do the same. We call each other often. We stay strong and keep the faith. God knows where we are with His love. We are His children and we know to keep the faith. I love to re-read The Evening Light or some of our old Sunday School lesson or anything that has the truth in it. Pray for our church. We are all elderly, but we are still in need of togetherness.

Seth, West Virginia

The Church at Seth has continued our regular services without missing any, although we elected to have one afternoon service each Sunday throughout the months of March and April. We have even had visitors during this period of time. Praise the Lord! We had to cancel our revival which was scheduled for March but plan others around the first of June and August. We have all been doing good and are trusting that each of you have been doing well also.

During this pandemic we have not been able to have our usual hotdog and bake sales but God has seen fit to bless us anyway. Instead, some of our ladies have been sewing masks to give out to those in need. Some graciously responded and donated money to us which so far has totaled over \$250.00. As we say at our church often, GOD IS GOOD!

Fairmont, WV News:

We normally meet in the local YWCA. During the current quarantine we have been unable to meet. We have been staying in contact via phone, and have watched other services online (YouTube and Facebook) from our churches in Tennessee, Virginia, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. We look forward soon being able to return to local services later in May.

Castalia, Ohio

The Church at Castalia, Ohio has been having services via the internet during the month of April due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Regional Convention Update

The date for our Regional Convention is August , 7-9 at Castalia, Ohio.

learned to fear no evil, even in the valley of the shadow of death for their master is there to aid them and protect them from harm."

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies.

"David's meaning is a simple one," said D'Alphonso, "when conditions on the Holy Land sheep ranges are known. Poisonous plants abound that are fatal to grazing animals. Each spring the shepherd must be constantly alert. When he finds the plants, he takes his mattock and goes on ahead of the flock, grubbing out every stock and root he can see. As he digs out the stocks, he lays them upon little stone pyres, some of which were built by shepherds in Old Testament days, and by the morrow they are dry enough to burn. In the meantime, the sheep are led into the newly prepared pasture, which is now free from poisonous plants, and, in the presence of their deadly plant enemies, they eat in peace."

Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

At every sheepfold there is a big earthen bowl of olive oil and a large stone jar of water. As the sheep come in for the night they are led to a gate. The shepherd lays his rod across the top of

the gateway just higher than the back of his sheep. As each sheep passes in single file, he quickly examines it for briars in the eyes, snags in the cheek, or scratches. When such conditions are found, he drops the rod across the sheep's back and it steps out of line. "Each sheep's wounds are carefully cleaned. Then the shepherd dips his hand into the olive oil and anoints the injury. A large cup is dipped into the jar of water, kept cool by evaporation in the unglazed pottery, and is brought out—never half full but always overflowing. The sheep will sink its nose into the water clear to the eyes, if fevered and drink until refreshed. "When all the sheep are at rest, the shepherd lays his staff on the ground within reach in case it is needed for protection of the flock during the night, wraps himself in his heavy woolen robe and lies down across the gateway, facing the sheep, for his night's repose. "So," concluded D'Alphonso, "after all the care and protection the shepherd has given it, a sheep may well soliloquise in the twilight, as translated into words by David:

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

True-blue, brave and loyal soldiers similar to Gideon's 300 are all the kind that are in demand now. Fearful, chronic grumblers, dictatorialists, careless men and cowards are not wanted in this great campaign that is to ride the crest of every wave of opposition and plant the Church of God with its standard of principles in every state, clime and nation. Prophecy must be fulfilled!

—A. J. Tomlinson, WWM, March 26, 1927

Basque, "that sheep do not like to drink gurgling water. There are many small springs high in the Holy Land, whose waters run down the valleys only to evaporate in the desert sun. Although the sheep need the water, they prefer not to drink from these fast-flowing streams. The shepherd must find a place where rocks or erosion have made a little pool, or else he fashions with his hands a pocket sufficient to hold at least a bucketful." **He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.**

Holy Land sheep exceed in herding instinct the Spanish Merino or the French Rambouillet," D'Alphonso continued. "Each takes his place in the grazing line in the morning and keeps the same position throughout the day. During the day, however, a sheep may leave its place and go to the shepherd. Whereupon the shepherd stretches out his hand as the sheep approaches with expectant eyes and mild little baas. The shepherd rubs its nose and ears, scratches its chin, whispers affectionately in its ears. The sheep, meanwhile rubs against his leg, or if the shepherd is sitting down, nibbles at his ear and rubs its cheek against his face. After a few minutes of this communion with the master, the sheep returns to its place in the feeding line."

Yea, though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no evil ... Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

"There is a valley of the shadow of death in the Holy Land. It is south of the Jericho Road leading from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea and is a narrow defile through the mountain


range. Climatic and grazing conditions make it necessary for the sheep to be moved through this valley for seasonal feeding. "The valley is four and a half miles long. Its sidewalls are over 1500 feet high in places and it is only 10 or 12 feet wide at the bottom. Travel through the valley is dangerous, because its floor, badly eroded by cloud-bursts, has deep gullies. Actual footing on solid rock is so narrow in places that a sheep cannot turn around, and it is an unwritten law of shepherds that flocks must go up the valley in the morning hours and down towards the eventide, lest flocks meet in the defile. Mules have not been able to make the trip for centuries, but sheep and goat herders from earliest Old Testament days have maintained a passage for their stock. "About halfway through the valley the walk crosses from one side to the other at a place where the path is cut in two by an eight-foot gully. One section of the path is about 18 inches higher than the other; the sheep must jump across it. The shepherd stands at this break and coaxes or forces the sheep to make the leap. If the sheep slips and lands in the gully, the shepherd's staff is brought into play. The old-style crook is circled around a large sheep's neck or a small sheep's chest, and it is lifted to safety. If a more modern narrow crook is used, the sheep is caught about the hoofs and lifted up to the walk. "Many wild dogs lurk in the shadows of the valley looking for prey. After a band of sheep has entered the defile, the leader may come upon such a dog. Unable to retreat, the leader baas a warning. The shepherd, skilled in throwing his rod, hurls it at the dog and knocks it into the washed-out gully where it is easily killed. Thus the sheep have



Don Bolyard
BTI REGIONAL COORDINATOR
Theme: Digging Deep,
Building Strong
Luke 6:48

Greetings to everyone in the GLMR region, I hope our eyes and ears are open to the signs of the times that are upon us that are written in Matt. 24: 6-10: *"And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another."* People are offended about everything now a days, they hate one another and are being encouraged to betray or snitch on their neighbor. Jesus was warning the church that this hatred and betrayal will be turned toward His Church. We must dig deep to find "The Deep Things Of God" revealed to us by the Holy Ghost, as he searches all things of God (1 Cor. 2:10). Have you received his words (John 17:8)? Are you keeping his word (John 17:6)? *"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world"* (John 17:14).

The two B.T.I. Schools in Cleveland have not been cancelled yet, but it could still happen. We don't know what will happen with our conventions or the General Assembly yet, so we need God's help with these things. It would be a good time to get all the home study courses you can and study and teach them to each other. We know God will keep his church through all the things that are coming upon the earth.



Sunday School Average Attendance
For the Month of March

Castalia, OH—22
Chillicothe, OH—7
Niles, MI—15
Fairmont, WV—7
Page, WV—7
Seth, WV—9

S. S. Visitation

Verily, verily
I
Say unto thee.
If the Sunday School
Teachers would visit
As they should
The wonderful results
In their classes would
Overcome the absentee problem
Now facing them.



Kandy Saunders
Regional CPMA Coordinator

ARE YOU IN THE CHURCH? AND IS THE CHURCH IN YOU?

Some of us are having services in our homes; some watching over the internet and some are able to gather in small groups. Sure, it is not the same as it was. Sure, we miss the handshakes and hugs. But, thank God we are not throwing our hands up and quitting the assembling of ourselves together. For some of us, it's just in a different way.

During all of this, we can get to thinking that outreach and missions are hindered. Sure, we cannot get out and visit face to face, but I'm thankful for the messages I see on social media and youtube. And, we can still make phone calls, send e-mails and send letters. These are helps for us during this time. Let's stay encouraged and put forth effort to hold each other up in our prayers and using alternative ways of contact.

"In" has three meanings, here. In the Church physically, in the Church as a member, and the Church in you.

Here are Scriptures I would like to share and I hope will be a blessing to you.

Physical: Church in our homes and anywhere we go

Rom. 16:5 "Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my well beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ."

1 Cor. 16:19 "The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house."

Col. 4:15 "Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house."

Phi. 1:2 "And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house."

In the Church: Membership

Matt.16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Knowledge and Understanding)

Eph. 5:30-32 "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church."



The Basque Shepherd and the Shepherd Psalm

By James K. Wallace

(From: The National Wool Grower, December, 1949)

Old Ferando D'Alphonso is a Basque shepherd employed by one of the big Nevada sheep outfits. He is rated as one of the best sheep rangers in the state, and he should be; for behind him are at least 20 generations of Iberian shepherds. But D'Alfonso is more than a shepherd; he is a patriarch of his guild, the traditions and secrets of which have been handed down from generation to generation. Despite a 30-year absence from his homeland he is still full of the legends, the mysteries, the religious fervor of his native hills. I sat with him one night under the clear, starry skies, his sheep bedded down beside a pool of sparkling water. As we were preparing to curl up in our blankets, he began to quote the 23rd Psalm. There, in the desert, I learned the shepherd's literal interpretation of this beautiful poem. "David and his ancestors", said D'Alphonso, "knew sheep and their ways, and David has translated a sheep's musing into simple words. The daily repetition of this Psalm fills the shepherd with reverence for his calling. We take this poem as a lodestone to guide us. It is our bulwark when the days are hot or stormy; when the nights are dark;

when wild animals surround our bands. Many of its lines are statements of the simple requirements and actual duties of a Holy Land shepherd, whether he lives today or followed the same calling 6000 years ago. Phrase by phrase, it has a well understood meaning for us."

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want

"Sheep instinctively know", said D'Alphonso, "that they have been folded for the night, the shepherd has mapped out their grazing for the morrow. It may be that he will take them back over the same range; it may be that he will go to a new grazing ground. They do not worry. His guidance has been good in the past and they have faith in the future because they know he has their well-being in view."

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures

"Sheep graze from around sunrise until late morning. They then lie down for three or four hours and rest," said D'Alphonso. "When they are contentedly chewing their cud, the shepherd knows they are putting on fat. Consequently the good shepherd starts his flocks out in the early hours on the rougher herbage, moving on through the morning to the richer, sweeter grasses, finally coming with the band to a shady place for its forenoon rest in fine green pastures, for the best grazing of the day. Sheep, while resting in such happy surroundings, feel contentment."

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

"Every shepherd knows," said the



Juanita Atha
Regional ABM Coordinator
Do You Have God's Love?

I would like for our members to write letters to each other and tell how they have encouraged them or did something to help them in some way. If you need help or ideas concerning this please feel free to contact me.

I am submitting the following poem for your inspiration.

Later Than You Think

Too late for worldliness and pride.
 Too late for secret sin to hide.
 Too late to try to fool the Lord.
 Who knows each thought and spoken word.
 Too late 'neath worldly cares to sink.
 It is much later than you think.

It is too late to live for self,
 For worldly pleasure, pride or pelf.
 Too late in indolence to rest,
 Too late to seek some selfish quest.
 While souls are wavering on the brink,
 It's much later than you think.

It is later than you think.
 It is too late my friend to eye,
 Your neighbor's faults, and weakly try,
 To measure self by one or two,
 Who walk along the path with you.
 It's time to break each worldly link,
 It's much later than you think.

The judgment hastens on a pace,
 Today's the time to grow in grace.
 To seek the Lord for Spiritual power
 To do His bidding hour by hour.
 Salvation's cup to deeply drink,
 It's later than you think!
 —from *The Yellow Jacket*

Photos From The Past



This is the first assembly tabernacle built by The Church of God. It was erected in 1920. Three assemblies were held here, 1920—22. It was located on Montgomery Avenue in Cleveland, Tennessee.

ORIGINAL MEANINGS

By Damous E. McGee

From: July 6, 1968 **WWM**

“Forty Stripes Save One”

Deuteronomy 25:2, 3 sheds light on this subject: *“And it shall be, if the wicked man be worthy to be beaten, that the judge shall cause him to lie down, and to be beaten before his face, according to his fault, by a certain number. Forty stripes he may give him, and not exceed: lest, if he should exceed, and beat him above these with many stripes, then thy brother*

should seem vile unto thee.”

To avoid the chance of accidently exceeding the forty stripes, they decided to stop at thirty-nine. And to insure the exact penalty, they invented a scourge of thirteen thongs. The condemned was struck three times, By this method, the law's demands were met and the prisoner was assured against excessive punishment. This helps us to understand the scripture pertaining to Paul's punishment: *“Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.”* (2 Cor. 11:24).

Exo.19:8 “And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do.”

Spiritually: The Church in you

Heb. 3:6 “But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.”

Eph. 4:13 “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”

Eph. 5:27 “That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

1 John 3:1 “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”

1 John 3:2 “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

1 John 3:3 “And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”

1 Peter. 2:5 “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.”

Let's be in Church everywhere all the time and most importantly may the Church be in you!

Remember to join the CPMA is only \$10.00 and is effective from Assembly year to Assembly year.

An Inspirational Mini Sermon

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

Shielding Tender Childhood

The following analogy can speak to parents—if they will only listen:

“A *bud* is seldom unprotected: it is usually covered with *thick and firm scales*, which shield it from the cold winds and frosts of early spring, as safely as a brood of chickens under the protecting wings of the mother hen. Like this is the protection the Heavenly Father throws around *childhood*, in the family relation, and the influence of the Sunday School. The helplessness of childhood appeals to us for instruction and care.”

But, O Great God! *Look at the parents who strip those tender “buds” of their God-ordained coating*, exposing them to conditions and influences that could damn them later on, even if they should perchance escape in childhood! Take just one example:

So many modern mothers (evidently with the approval of the fathers) bring their children up almost nude. They say, “Oh, the innocent little things are so much more comfortable—cooler in summer, and unhampered at play.” But think—by the time they reach adolescence, even though they may still be “innocent,” *not everyone around them will be so innocent!* Stripped of all *modesty* from childhood, they are *ready-made targets* for every fleshly lust of the evil eye and mind, and are subject to the terrifying attacks of Satan’s (and Adam’s) henchmen!

And, if you think they will retain their “innocence” *don’t count on it!* You know, don’t you, that they were “conceived in sin.” just like every child of Adam? But if *parents—especially Christian parents—*refuse to be the protectors God has willed them to be, the stabilizing ground work they so much need will not be there when they face life head-on!

“Too much protection is not good,” some say. We do not mean “too much” protection. We mean “enough”—regardless of how much that is, or for how long.

If the Song Fits, Sing It!

We sing “Sweet Hour of Prayer,” and then content ourselves with 10 to 15 minutes a day.

We sing, “Onward Christian Soldiers,” and then wait to be drafted into His service.

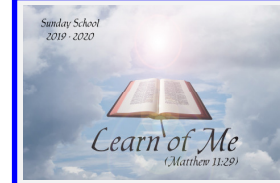
We sing, “O for A Thousand Tongues,” and we do not use the one we have.

We sing, “There Shall Be Showers of Blessings,” but do not come when it’s raining.

We sing, “Serve the Lord with Gladness,” and gripe about all we have to do.

We sing, “I love to Tell the Story,” and never mention it to anyone.

We sing, “We’re Marching to Zion,” but fail to march to Sunday School and church.



Jenny Lonz

Regional Sunday School Coordinator

**"Learn of Me" and ye shall
find rest for your souls.**

Our theme this year is found in Matthew 11:29. We will begin at verse 28.

(28) *"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

(29) *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

(30) *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Jesus said to come to Him all that labour and are heavy laden. Laden means to be over burdened. Do you feel this way? Especially in these difficult times, as all those around us are so fearful about the current condition of our world.

Fear is debilitating. Debilitating means to cause serious impairment of strength or ability to function. Our entire world has ceased to function as it did just a few short months ago. Many millions of people have lost their jobs. They are trusting in the world's governments to supply their needs. "Essential businesses" are allowed to stay open, while some churches are mandated to be closed. This certainly feels like a bad dream.

However, the world is just fulfilling the scripture spoken to us by Jesus in Matthew 24:8 *"All these are the beginning of sorrows."* Pestilences are mentioned in verse 7. A pestilence is defined as a contagious or infectious epidemic disease that is virulent and devastating.

While the loss of life is tragic, even more is the loss of a soul in hell for eternity! Souls are dying as this is being written. Every soul is precious to God. That is why He sent His only begotten Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. Our only hope is through God's Son, Jesus Christ!

Come to Him and learn of Him. Trust in His Word. His Word is precious. His Word is life. Matthew 4:3, 4 *"And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread." But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."* Nothing else matters! Just God's Word.

Jesus was not interested in proving who He was to the devil. He was proving that we must live by the Word of God! We must not just want to live on this earth but to live in heaven with Him eternally. Jesus promised us abundant and eternal life if we trust in Him and not to fear anyone but God. Then He will give us rest for our souls.