

The Church of God

Great Lakes Mountaineer Region



Ohio



West Virginia



Michigan

Issue No. 13

July/August 2020

Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional



News

Official Publication of

The Church of God

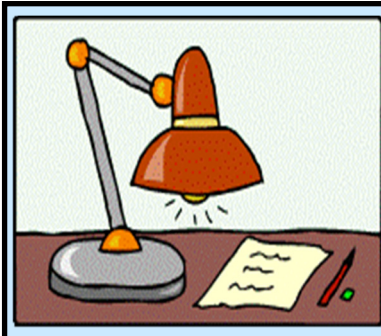
In

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*



What the Lord Says to His Watchmen

In a prior issue of our regional paper we considered the thought “Warning Every Man.” We drew upon the great commandment of our Lord in Matthew 28:19-20 and Paul’s strengthening of the commandment with his instructions given in Colossians 1:28. The focus was upon the urgency with which we should seek to fulfill the great commission.

In closing, the thought was left for us to consider the Lord’s warning to His ministers as He gave through Ezekiel twice: in Ezekiel 3:17-21 and again in Ezekiel 33:1-9. We shall now consider these words of warning directed specifically to His ministers. The Lord explicitly gave a command to those who would be His watchmen in Ezekiel 3:17 *“Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.”*

God’s words to Ezekiel focused on what judgement the minister could expect determined by how faithfully he pursued his “great commission.” A belief held by many people is that they will be held accountable only for what they know regarding serving the Lord’s commands. In particular, they believe that what they do not know cannot hurt them; that they will only be held accountable for what they know.

I have even heard some church members make a statement like: “I know that they are in sin, but if I do not warn them, then they will not know the truth and so will not be held accountable.” Nothing could be further from the truth.

The Word of God clearly rejects this false belief that ignorance of God’s will offers anyone a way to escape His judgment. Specifically consider Ezekiel 3:18: *“When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.”*

In fact our not warning the sinner places both the sinner and ourselves in jeopardy of God’s judgement. The consequence for failing to warn the sinner affects both the sinner and we who were supposed to warn him, as made clear by the end of Ezekiel 3:18: *“...the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.”*

Not only must we warn the sinner who doesn't know God's laws for him, but we also are responsible for the one who in past-time served the Lord, but has fallen into error. The Lord's action in this case is given in Ezekiel 3:20 *"Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand."*

The sinner who never accepts the Lord's mercy and forgiveness, and the backslider who once served the Lord, but has since fallen back into sin; they both will suffer the same consequence: *"because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered"* and the judgment on our part is the same: *"but his blood will I require at thine hand."*

Let us heed the words of the Lord to warn every man, be he sinner or saint. Any of us can fall from grace. We need to continually be reminded that *"...we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip"* (Hebrews 2:1).

If we are faithful to warn both the sinner and the once righteous man who is now backslidden, then we have secured the Lord's approval as given in Ezekiel 3:19,21 *"Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. ... Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul."*

In a future article we will look further into this matter when we consider the warning to the watchman given in Ezekiel 33:1-9. Our instructions go beyond waiting for the Lord to speak to us before we speak to warn.



Juanita Atha
Regional ABM Coordinator

Ephesians 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."*

Being filled means holding all we can contain. God's love can give us this in the midst of the present world conditions. In this stressful world many are fearful. We are close to the end and more prayer and fasting is needful. Being one in Christ is what we need today.

Praying for the lost at any cost used to be a convention slogan and we believe it will still work today. So many have left God and the Church today and we need to pray much for their return. We will have a spiritual feast when we see them returning home again. The Church needs them and they need the Church. Let us all faithfully pray for them.



Kandy Saunders Regional CPMA Coordinator

The Lord knows how we long to come all together and assemble ourselves as His Body and worship Him together in song, in fellowship and in service. That longing we feel is good. Praise the Lord! It's a witness to us that we love the Lord and we love His Church. With God's help, we are making ourselves ready for Jesus' return and He has something spectacular just ahead for His people. Let's keep busy doing the work of the Lord to the extent that we can and hold on, hang in there, keep looking up, watching and waiting, praying and preparing for the inflow work that lies just ahead.

I hope you are blessed with this chorus and the Scriptures that follow:

Better is one day in Your courts!

Better is one day in Your house!

Better is one day in Your courts!

Than thousands elsewhere.

[Better Is One Day lyrics © Songtrust Ave, BMG Rights Management]

My Soul Longs for the Courts of the Lord

Psalms 84:1-12

1 *How amiable ((friendly, sociable, agreeable and admirable and pleasing)) are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!*

2 *My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.*

3 *Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God.*

4 *Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.*

5 *Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them.*

6 *Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools.*

7. *They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.*

8 *O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer: give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah.*

(continued on bottom of next page)



Don Bolyard
BTI REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Theme: Digging Deep,

Greetings to all in the GLMR region. I pray that God blesses every one.

Greetings to all in the GLMR region. I pray that God blesses every one.

Brother Horton has tentative plans to conduct a special one-week LPD (Leadership Pastoral Development) class on August 30—September 5, at The Church of God general headquarters in Cleveland, Tennessee and also a separate LPD Spanish class as well. If you are interested in attending, please contact the BTI department at 423-339-8264 ext. 211 or by email: vsmith@thechurchofgod.org.

The Church of God is Exclusive. It has a Unique History.

The Pre-Arise, Shine Era

A single event in history is much like a penthouse at the top of a sky-scraper. Both are separate units in themselves but neither can exist without many previous levels of development. The exquisite penthouse, the pride of the entire building, cannot become a reality until many under-lying stories precede it. All significant historical events, like the penthouse, are in themselves a product of past experience.

So it is with the significant day of June 13, 1903. On that historical day, the previous levels of development had run their course and the time had come for the fulfillment of one of the most important events of the last days Church of God. Before prophecy could become a reality, the groundwork of the upcoming predicted event first had to occur.

It is in this light that a historical account of what has become known as the “Christian Union” and the “Holiness Church at Camp Creek” can be justified in the historicity of the Church of God. They are not the predicted event itself but they are the necessary “stories of history” for the “penthouse.” Because of the importance of knowing the background of the “arise, shine” of the last days Church of God, they are included in the history of the Body of Christ. (History & Polity— Page 13)

Let’s study the history of the Church !!!

9 *Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.*

10 *For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.*

11 *For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.*

12 *O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.*

Be a new CPMA member today! You can renew at any time!



Sue Hutton
WMB REGIONAL COORDINATOR
How Are We Standing?

We cannot stand in our own strength, our own power, or our own might. The scripture tells us: *"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall"* (1 Cor. 10:12). We stand only in God's power, might, and Spirit. We are to stand in the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1); stand fast in the faith (1 Cor. 16:13); stand in grace (Rom. 5:2); stand fast in one spirit and one mind striving together (Phil. 1:27-28); stand fast in the Lord (Phil. 4:1); stand perfect and complete in all the will of God (Col. 4:12); and stand strong and fully protected in God's armour (Eph. 6:10-18).

To fight against the wiles of the enemy as one, we must stand in pitch battle. To pitch battle (the army is previously drawn up in form (unity), they are (brought into order). Then we are able to join battle (properly meet the attack). Then we can give battle (attack the enemy). Then we are ready to turn the battle to the gate. Turning the battle to the gate is to fight valiantly and drive the enemy, who hath entered, back to the gate.

*"Wherefore take unto you the **whole armour of God**, that ye may be able to **withstand in the evil day**, and having done all, **to stand.**"*

The question is: "How are we standing?"



Jenny Lonz,
Regional Sunday School Coordinator
This Year's Theme:
"Learn of Me"

Growing Up

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things" (1 Cor. 13:11).

There was a time when we were all children, both physically and spiritually. We spoke like children. We understood as children. We thought like children. Then we grew up. We couldn't stay children forever in the physical sense. We cannot stay children in a spiritual sense either. We must grow up in all that the Lord has intended for us to be.

(continued on next page)

Ephesians 4:13-15 says:

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:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

The goal of The Church of God is perfection. When we spend time in the Word of God and learn of Him, we will be spiritual adults. We will be rooted and grounded in the doctrine. Please study your Bible every day. Pray without ceasing. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you!

An Inspirational Mini Sermon

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

Homesteading for the Church of God

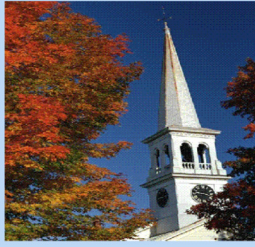
Pioneering has not ceased, as some may suppose. The world is ours through Christ, but we have to *possess the land*.

In the early years in America, homesteaders were encouraged to move onto new land and *stake their claim*. But they had to stay there a certain length of time before the land could be legally theirs.

“Homesteading” for the Church of God is both *like* and *unlike* conditions in those pioneering years. In most cases, we are not invited or encouraged by others to come among them. Rather, we are bidden to GO by Christ, the Great Commissioner. But it is still true that we have to stake our claim and live in the new territory until we make a permanent gain for the Church.

Hundreds of our local churches were gained the hard way, by preachers with the pioneer spirit. Others will be gained in like manner. It takes some “moving in” and standing on the “premises” as well as the “promises.” When we run back to the soft and easy life, we forfeit our claim. We have to weather the storms, and be stubborn in drouth. If “crop failures” threaten to starve us out, and the “grasshoppers” devour our hopes, there is still God’s promise.

Once we have stayed on the soil until it is “deeded in our name,” it will become “home sweet home,” and all the powers of darkness will not be able to drive us out!



Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional Church News

News From Castalia, Ohio

Our VLB leader Sister Jessa, held her annual Vacation Bible School program June 3-5 at our local church. The theme for VBS was "Big Fish Bay Hooked on God's Mercy." The scripture she used was Psalm 103:8 which says *"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy."* Sister Chelsea also helped with the program and so did Sister Becky. We had eight kids total which attended all three days. Praise the Lord it was a wonderful time in fellowship and fun. We provided dinner for the children each night.

We are all excited about, and getting ready for Zac and Chelsea's upcoming wedding. They are to be married August, 1. The Lord has already blessed them with a new house which is where the ceremony will be held. Planning a wedding is a big undertaking, but the Lord has helped in many ways and I believe it will be a most joyous occasion. God is sooooo Good!!!

News From Page, WV

The Page Church has seen some progress in getting our older children in Church who live far away. Sister Glenna needs prayer since her surgery. Also, she desires prayer for her children. Brother Robin Bradford's wife has had surgery recently and is recovering. They need prayer for God to bring them together again and save her and see her in The Church of God. Our pastor, Brother and Sister George and Juanita Atha celebrated their 56th anniversary on June 27th.

News From Seth, WV

The Church at Seth, WV had a short revival during the first week of June with one of our members, Sister Kandy Saunders. We have another revival scheduled after the Regional Convention with Brother Roger Ammons, the General Evangelism Director.

We have been working to beautify our property. Recently we had a bulldozer come in and level the area in front of the Church down to the creek. We planted grass and are looking forward to seeing it green and pretty. This area was a rugged wilderness when we were first organized. We have also put some new gravel on the drive leading to the Church.

Fanning the

Fires of



Evangelism

Walter Lofton, Regional Evangelism Director

Homestead Evangelism

There are many approaches to evangelism with all having the same purpose and that is the winning of souls for eternity. We talk of personal evangelism and mass evangelism and in recent years there is somewhat of a social evangelism when we use the electronic media to reach out to others. In years past our main methods of evangelizing were mass, personal, print, and radio/TV broadcasting. There is another method of evangelizing that is mostly overlooked, at least in our day, and that is probably the most effective of all, which is *Homestead Evangelism* and that is what I will attempt to explore and encourage in this presentation.

I can recall hearing the “old-timers” talk of moving into a new community and staying there until they “dug out” a church. Maybe the reason we are not seeing more new churches established today is because no one is using this tried and proven method to evangelize a new area and get a new church established.

It works like this: A group, generally a family or preferably a small evangelistic team will choose an area after much prayer (and of course with the blessings of those over them in the Lord) and arrange financial support from friends, a sponsoring church, or regional overseer and will move into this new area and set up for the long haul by renting a facility to live in and/or having services in. First, they will spend several days or weeks canvassing the area with visitations and invitations for Bible studies, Sunday Schools, home prayer meetings, and later on for an all-out revival. After the revival their work takes on greater importance by nurturing, teaching, training and establishing their converts in the Word of God and the teachings and practices of the Church. With the proper contact and the favor and interest of the converts a new Church is inevitable. After a pastor is appointed the team will move on into another new area and repeat this procedure again and again. If we had at least three or four such dedicated teams faithfully working this method of evangelism we would see several new churches every year being established. This is not only pleasing to the Lord but it would broaden our home base and make for more support for our world mission outreach endeavors.

The Early Church worked a similar method as this and they reached their entire known world for Christ and The Church of God. While Christ was with His disciples, He sent them out two by two and later He sent out seventy to evangelize. Just before leaving them He gave them the Great Commission and they worked His plan and were successful. If we worked this evangelistic plan today,
.....(continued on next page)

we would be more effective and would see more people saved and more new churches being established.

In my experience as a District Overseer in new field revivals I have seen converts with an interest in fellowship and continuing ministry with no way to follow up to keep the contacts interested and consequently the fruit was lost. This need not be. The Church needs these dedicated teams to go and stay and establish the contacts and get the grain in the barn as it were while time is still on our side. There are others in the Church I have talked with who feel this same burden I am speaking of. It would be wonderful if this burden would grip our hearts Church-wide. This would make a big difference in our net results and most of all, in the eternal blessing to many precious souls.

When night comes, Christ said no one could work. The spiritual night is rapidly closing in on us and we have little results to show when the Master comes and calls us into account. My dear brothers and sisters, may we seek God for an evangelistic anointing to see souls saved and in the Church while there is till a little time left.

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. **The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this**" (Isa. 9:6, 7).*

ORIGINAL MEANINGS

By Damous E. McGee

From: April 13, 1968 WWM

The Cross

Death on a cross was generally practiced in biblical times. It was reserved for society's outcasts, such as: foreigners, slaves and unredeemable criminals. Thus, Christ's death on a cross was a punishment of a shameful nature. And besides the shame attached to this form of capital punishment by the Romans, it further shocked and condemned the Jews, for one of their ancient laws placed a curse on any being whose body hung from a tree. (Deut. 21:22, 23; Gal. 3:13).

It was not until Jesus went to the cross that it lost its shame to some people. Suffering under the reproach of the cross, the followers of Christ lost their worldly pride. The cross became a symbol of sacrifice to the Christians. Paul constantly stated that he gloried in the Cross of Christ. It has become so much a part of Christianity that its influence can be seen in our art, architecture, and every form of decoration and design pertaining to religion and the Church. Also, our hymns, preaching and testimonies are punctuated with the word "cross." (Matt. 16:24; 1 Cor. 1:17; Gal. 5:11; 6:12, 14; Eph. 2:16; Phil. 3:18; Heb. 12:2).

Photos From The Past



General Overseer, M. A. Tomlinson jumping for joy over a large donation for the assembly tabernacle during the Assembly in 1971 in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

So-Called Neutrals

Judging from the pages of history contained in the Scriptures, it is more pleasing to God for a man to stand out boldly for the right than to appear weak and flimsy as if he hardly knows where he is, what he is, and what to do. It is also shown that a man will more likely have the favor of God to be on the wrong side of some things than to remain half-way between. The Scripture that indicates this is Revelation 3:15, 16, which shows that it is sickening to God for a person to be lukewarm (half-way between). Cold or hot, right or wrong, is preferable. So-called neutral people usually fall on the wrong side, unless they are honestly investigating for the purpose of reaching an honest conclusion. And this is wisdom. May God help people to always decide with the Holy Bible. Then they are right.

—A. J. Tomlinson, WWM April 11, 1925

With great sadness, we have determined it best that we cancel our GLMR regional convention. The Lord willing, we will plan another regional service for later this year. Our convention theme would have been ...

"People Need The Lord"



Although our regional convention is canceled, you are invited to participate in the online special services being provided by our General Headquarters media department August 24-29th. You can learn the details of how to participate by visiting our General Headquarters website:

<https://www.thechurchofgod.org/time-of-refreshing/>



**Sunday School Average
Attendance
For the Month of June**

**Castalia, OH—27
Chillicothe, OH—5
Niles, MI—7
Fairmont, WV—8
Page, WV—9
Seth, WV—11**