

The Church of God

Great Lakes Mountaineer Region



Ohio



West Virginia



Michigan

Issue No. 14

September/October, 2020

Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional



News

Official Publication of

The Church of God

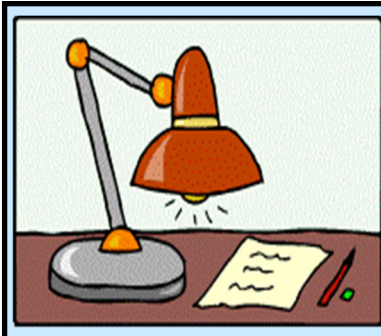
In

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*



The Role of the Watchman

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.

We then considered the Lord’s words of warning directed specifically to His ministers in Ezekiel 3. 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 in Ezekiel 3 focused on what judgement the minister could expect determined by how faithfully he pursued his “great commission” to deliver the specific words (message) he had received from the Lord.

We now turn to Ezekiel 33:1-9. Here the Lord does not give a specific warning (message, *“the word at my mouth”*) to be delivered. Rather, the Lord now focuses on the *role* the “watchman” is to fulfill. The Lord describes how a watchman is expected to conduct himself if he is to be an effective watchman, and in particular the consequences of his failing to see and to warn.

Ezekiel 33:1-9 *“Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, (2) Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: (3) If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; (4) Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. (5) He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. (6) But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the*

sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. (7) So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. (8) When I say unto the wicked, O wicked man, thou shalt surely die; if thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. (9) Nevertheless, if thou warn the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

A watchman plays a critical role in defending his people from the harm an enemy might bring. He is to be in constant vigil (alert to everything happening around him). He must give his undivided attention to watching. A slightest momentary distraction from watching could allow an enemy to gain a strategic advantage, and so possibly to win in the warfare that would ensue. He may not have second chance to get it right (watch and warn). The potential harm could be unrecoverable.

To be an effective watchman, he must do more than simply be alert (wide awake). He must be fully aware (knowledgeable) of that for which he is to be watching—what might the enemy do that could be used to defeat his people. The enemy's actions might range from outright overt attacks that can be seen approaching from afar, to the slyest sneakiest activities intended to deceive and to confuse, until it is too late—the enemy has gained the advantage.

To be able to recognize such a wide range of possibilities, the watchman must be well studied in the wiles and tricks of his enemy (II Timothy 2:15). He does not want to mistake what he sees and so sound false alarms; but neither does he want to fail to recognize and to give warning when there is indeed a real danger to be detected.

So, what is the watchman to do when something worthy of warning is detected? He is to blow a trumpet that all his people can hear. He is to blow loud and long—to blow and then to keep on blowing until everyone has heard and has responded by awakening (if asleep) and by coming to engage in the battle about to ensue.

The watchman has definite orders to blow, but NO orders to stop blowing! For one thing, the enemy will know that he has lost the element of surprise. Everyone now knows of his approach and is prepared to engage the battle.

In Ezekiel 3, the watchman is given a specific word of warning to deliver, and so to complete his task of warning. In contrast, in Ezekiel 33 the watchman's assignment is not about waiting for the Lord to give him a word of warning to share, and then to share it. No, the watchman now is on his own! He is to be vigilant, ever on guard for any event or condition that could represent danger. And when such is recognized, he is to take the initiative (not wait for the Lord's prompting) to sound the alarm—loud and long—until everyone has been alerted.

Timing is also important here. One cannot assume that they can wait to sound the alarm. The alarm could be too late for the people to respond before being overwhelmed. How many times have you seen situations that looking back you wish you had spoken up and sounded the alarm before that love-one, family member, church member, friend, or even stranger had been overcome by some snare of Satan?

Let us arise to the task the Lord has set before us as his watchman! Be constantly on guard, ever vigilant. Be ready to sound that alarm long and loud.

ORIGINAL MEANINGS

By Damous E. McGee

From May 11, 1968 WWM

Does “Peculiar” Mean “Odd”?

“That he might...purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works,” (Titus 2:14).
“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people...” (1 Peter 2:9).

Have you ever heard these scriptures given as an explanation for doing something strange or appearing odd? Yes, I am sure you have. However, in 1611, the year of the Authorized Version, the general usage of the word “peculiar” did not mean strange or odd. It meant “one's very own,” and was applied to private personal property as distinguished from what was owned in common or by all.

In the Old Testament the word for “peculiar” means “special” in Deuteronomy 14:2, 26:18; and 7:6 reads, *“For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all the people that are upon the face of the earth.”* “Peculiar treasure” is the rendering in Exodus 19:5, Psalm 135:4, and Ecclesiastes 2:8.

Hence, in Titus 2:14 and 1 Peter 2:9, God is saying the Church occupies a special place with Him. It is a special treasure or possession of the Lord in comparison with what is held in general.



Kandy Saunders
Regional CPMA Coordinator

The vision is the same, it never will change. It's the same from the beginning. It is the same in 2020 and beyond. Do you have the vision, the revelation of The Church of God? If so, you have 2020 vision! If not, keep searching and praying for it. Do you have questions unanswered? God will show you if you want to see!

HIS VISION WAS REAL

"One that finds and retrieves a gold coin, that was hidden for years among the earthly debris, rubs, shines and polishes it until it is a glaring spectacle cannot be convinced by those who ever saw such a coin that it is not pure gold . . . the real thing. So, it was with the Church. Bishop Tomlinson, following the Lord as best he knew, found The Church of God as supported by the Scriptures, June 13, 1903, and from that time forward spent his whole life rubbing, shining and polishing it until it shone like a jewel of splendor. He knew what he had found ... he recognized it for Holy Ghost-filled foundation stones—Apostles, with Jesus the Chief Corner Stone, had left records of it. The Lord alone knew where it was hidden and He seemed to lead A. J. Tomlinson to it. So, who could expect him to preach and declare anything else but what God had revealed to him. Not only was he ready and willing to preach it and live it but he was ready and willing to die for it. There was nothing else for him!" (Davidson, C.T, (1974), Upon This Rock, Vol. II, Cleveland, TN, White Wing Publishing House and Press.)

If you haven't done so already, it's time to renew your membership. Let's strive to be 100%! Thank you for being faithful in this work and all you do for God's Glory! God bless His Kingdom and His Church, everywhere!



Juanita Atha
Regional ABM Coordinator

We can if we agree together. If your heart is weak, then we must agree together as one. This has happened and will happen again if our hearts are right. God gave us a right heart by His Son. Our heart is like a garden as we weed out any dislike of anyone by prayer. If we water it with tears in prayer, if we have kind hearts, kind thoughts, kind words and kind deeds to everyone; not just to family and friends. Love comes from a godly heart. We need to pray for each other each day in this world of unrest. See James 1:22. *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”*

Nobody Did It!

Fred Somebody, Thomas Everybody, Pete Anybody and Joe Nobody were all neighbors, but they were not like you and me. They were odd people and most difficult to understand.

The way they lived was a shame. All four belonged to the same church, but you couldn't have enjoyed worshipping with them. Everybody went visiting on Sundays or stayed home to entertain friends who visited him. Anybody wanted to worship but was afraid Somebody would not speak to him, so Nobody went to church. Really, Nobody was the only decent one of the four. Nobody did the visitation; Nobody was the only one who worked on the building. At one time they needed a Sunday School teacher. Everybody thought Anybody would do it, and Somebody thought surely Everybody would do it. Guess who finally did it? That's right...Nobody.

It happened that a fifth neighbor (an unbeliever) came to live among them. Everybody thought Somebody would invite him to Sunday School and church. Anybody could have at least made an effort. But guess who finally invited him? That's right...Nobody!

An Inspirational Mini Sermon

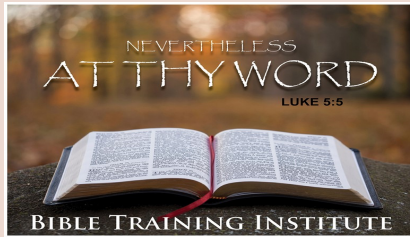
From the book, MUSE WITH ME by R. O. Covey

Obey What You Know

An old man once said, "For a long period I puzzled myself about the *difficulties of Scripture*, until at last I came to a resolution that reading in the Bible is like eating fish. When I find a difficulty, I lay it aside and call it a 'bone.' Why should I choke over a bone when there is so much nutritious meat for me? Some day, perhaps, I may find that even the 'bone' may afford me nourishment."

This is timely advice for all who feel impelled to preach things not approved; things contrary in the light of the rightly divided Word of Truth."

The 'bone' that will choke the spiritual life out of a presumptuous individual now, may be vital nourishment after it has been properly processed and made "edible." We may not be able to persuade others not to try to swallow "bones," but *we can refuse to swallow them ourselves!*



Don Bolyard
BTI REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Theme:
“Nevertheless At Thy Word”

“Nevertheless at thy Word”

“And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, and saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon’s, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake” (Luke 5:1-6).

The Church has been toiling for 117 years since the Arise, Shine of 1903. Peter, Andrew, James and John along with and their fathers and all their servants on the ships toiled all night in the darkness. And now we see the gross darkness upon the people of this world. But as Jesus showed his glory unto all those on those two ships that day, He will arise upon His Church and His glory shall be seen upon Her. Isaiah 60: 1–5 says: *“Arise, Shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be even upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. Lift up thine eyes round about, and see: all they gather themselves together, they come to thee: thy sons shall come from far, and thy daughters shall be nursed at thy side. Then thou shalt see, and flow together, and thine heart shall fear, and be enlarged; because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee, the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee.”* “Nursed” means trained, encourage, further, advance, assist, help, stimulate, safeguard, keep alive. **B.T.I.** is designed to do all these things for the members of the Church. God will get the Church clean and ready, and she will move at His Word. God is getting ready to bring the *“abundance of the sea”* into the *“Ole Ship of Zion.”* Praise the Lord!



Sue Hutton
WMB REGIONAL COORDINATOR

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" Matt. 5:14-16).

The natural sunlight helps boost a chemical in the brain called serotonin. Serotonin can give you more energy, helps keep you calm, positive, and focused. The sun can have definite benefits if we let it in.

One of the first things that God created was light. *"And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And He saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness" (Gen. 1:3, 4).*

By inviting the **Sonlight** in and walking in Him everyday, you will find you'll have more energy, calmness, positivity and focus in your life. So, let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven.

Let them see your Spiritual Serotonin at work! God Bless You !



Covid-19 has put a hold on most activities including mass meetings such as revivals. At some point this will be behind us and I trust that everybody is ready and anxious to get back to the work of the Church. While waiting let us pray for revival zeal. We should start planning even now for an all-out revival effort at each of our churches. During August the Seth Church had a three-night revival by Brother Ammons as Evangelist. God blessed and we were encouraged. We now have a new General Evangelism Director, Brother Jerry Campbell. Let us get behind him and support evangelistic efforts Church-wide. The new theme for the 2020-21 Assembly year is: Ready—Set—Go! When this terrible virus is lifted, and it will be, may we all be ready and get set to Go for The Church of God!

A Short Story From



By Ora Mae Willing, Managing Editor

October Moon

John Taylor looked steadily down the middle of his cotton rows. Then heaving a weary sigh, he rose slowly from his knees and slung his bulging sack across his tired shoulders. They sagged beneath the weight, and he hung on to a stalk near him to get his balance. In spite of his weariness, a look of satisfaction had settled over his grim-streaked face.

He had finished getting out the bale. Tomorrow he would rattle off to town and have it ginned. Then he would scout the town to find the prettiest dress he could possibly afford, for the prettiest girl in the world, Janice, his wife. For tomorrow night she would be going away. Would be boarding the train for the city where her sister would be waiting for her.

Suddenly John's steps grew heavy, and a knot tied in his throat. Looking toward the wagon, his eyes blurred. He wondered if he could even make it on to the scales and through the field to the shack where she was bustling around, making preparations for her journey. John knew that she would be going out of his life never to return.

After a while he staggered up to the scales, and suspended his sack on a tripod made from the wagon tongue. On any other occasion he would have been happy to dump his cotton atop the mound of bolls in the wagon, watching it grow higher and higher, but not now. As he trampled the fluffy locks around the side boards of the wagon, he watched the full October moon rise above his shack in the field and a hundred memories flashed across his tired brain. It had been four years ago that he and Janice had come to the farm after a speedy courtship and marriage. Their plans were rosy then. Together they had stood and watched the harvest moon climb the skies. In a few years, he had told Janice, they would tear down the shack and build a rambling farmhouse with every convenience. Janice had been radiant with happiness then.

But when the next October had found them still in debt and rendered poverty-stricken by crop failure, Janice had laughed merrily and said that it didn't matter. Next year! But now, with two other crop failures added to the first, Janice had begun changing the subject whenever he had mentioned prosperity. Yet, she had not complained...Had said nothing of her meager wardrobe, but several times he had caught her crying.

And then to make her more restless and add to her unhappiness her sister had begun to write regularly, telling her of the opportunities the city afforded. Then

had come the letter that dealt the blow. Would Janice please come for a short visit? Maybe she would even like to stay awhile and work until John got on his feet. If she would like to come her sister would send her railroad fare.

That letter had made something rise up in John. His pride had been wounded. The thought of not being able to support his own wife without her having to go to the city to work, and of her being pitied by her sister, her haughty sister...That was the last straw! He had made up his mind right there and then that he would scrape another bale of cotton from his drought-destroyed acres. He would buy clothes for Janice to wear on the trip. He would buy a round-trip ticket for her and have her arrive in the city with a few dollars in her purse. Whatever happened to him after she had gone didn't matter. Janice would have the best. He would have no sister of hers pitying her...Not as long as he had breath in his body.

John threw a fleeting glance across his shoulder; the moon was riding high in the sky now. His fingers were stiff as he thrust his hands in his jumper pockets and groped his way in the darkness toward the shack. Seeing the light gleaming through the window just ahead made him shudder at heart. Tomorrow night he would see Janice off on the train, then he would return to the bleak shack alone. He would not sleep, but would sit on the step looking into the heavens thinking, hoping, and wondering. But she must not know. He would not tell her; he would not stand in the way of her trip.

The cool wind was blowing a gale as John pushed open the shack door and glared in unbelief. She was gone! His trembling voice failed to locate her; he called her name; he searched every inch of both rooms. His big hands were clammy; and a cold sweat glistened on his forehead. His knees buckled under him and sent him to the floor. He clutched at the chair for support. Then his low voice penetrated the shadows of the humble kitchen. John prayed as earnestly as he knew how while sobs shook his whole body. If she had died, he would have been more reconciled, but she was gone. Janice gone! When at last he dragged himself to his weary feet, he rubbed the dust from the old Bible his mother had left with him. Until tonight he had never felt his need of it, but he had a feeling that from now on God was going to play a big part in his life. Without some special help John knew he could not exist. He would ask Jesus to be his friend. The verse before him stood out from the others in bold black letters: "*A friend loveth at all times.*"

He would be a friend to Jesus; and he would try to please Him starting now. He had tried to please Janice and failed miserably.

John's tear-streaked face turned toward the window. Headlights from outside flashed across the panes. He shot to the door and turned weak as she entered. He opened his mouth to speak, but his lips were mute.

Janice was talking, her voice merry and soft. "Mrs. Snyder came and took me to her house to answer a phone call...from my sister. That's where I've been."

Her eyes widened as they noticed the Bible in John's hands. "So," she said, you—

“you’re getting to be religious.”

John’s face colored. She was watching him. “Just had a talk with the Lord,” he said, swallowing, “and—well, from now on I said I’d count Him in on—the future.”

Janice cut her eyes toward him. “You mean that you—intend to start paying attention to what that Bible says, like—like your mother did.”

“Exactly,” he said firmly, and his hands clasped the Book to his heaving breast. “Without Him I couldn’t have stood this tonight, finding you gone...”

“My sister called to say that she married her boss this morning; they are en route South on their honeymoon. So, looks as if you might have to contend with me from now on...”

John’s heart skipped a beat. She had said what?

“Let’s buy a rug for this floor instead of the railroad ticket to the city,” Janice said. “Maybe by next fall...”

Blinking back a tear John reached for her hand. “We’ll start building a house,” he interrupted. “We can’t do it ourselves, Janice, we’ve tried for four years and failed. But tonight I’ve made contact with a Friend who can do everything. Let’s count on His help.”

“We will,” Janice smiled, as together they parted the kitchen curtains and watched the October moon scale the clouds.



Sunday School Average Attendance for July

Castalia, OH—22
Chillicothe, OH—5
Niles, MI—8
Fairmont, WV—7
Page, WV—8
Seth, WV—11

Sunday School Average Attendance for August

Castalia, OH—23
Chillicothe, OH—5
Niles, MI—8
Fairmont, WV—7
Page, V—8
Seth, WV—10

It is time to renew our CPMA memberships and pay our Emergency Dollars for the coming year. One Church in our region is already 100% for the new year. Who will be next? Can we make our entire region 100% by Thanksgiving? Yes, by God’s help we can!

CPMA Membership is \$10.00 per member and \$5.00 is what is needed per member for the Emergency Dollars.

Photos From The Past

1925
Chattanooga, Tenn., ... May 18 ... 1993

Received by/from The Council of the Living God

MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM TIVOLI THEATRE \$ 2000.00

the sum of Two Thousand Dollars 00/100 Cents

For July 23 - 25, 1993

Signed Walter Lefter

By David E. Johnson

A copy of the receipt for the initial deposit for the rent of the Memorial Auditorium for the Solemn Assembly.

No Poison Needed

Some people have wanted to join with us to inject some of their own poison into the truth we have been standing for many years. They have wanted to teach us instead of wanting straight and correct teaching from us.

We already know who we are and what we have to do according to the unadulterated Scripture, and we do not need any false theories mixed in. There are too many false theories in the world now, without any more. We had a mighty job to pump the poison out of a lot of honest hearts, but it has to come, because none but the pure hearts are safe to entrust with the mighty message we have. And this we have found has been given to us in the proper manner. The Holy Spirit has been given to guide us into all truth, and that means out of all error, if there is any error. —A. J. Tomlinson, *WWM*, August 16, 1941