

The Church of God

Great Lakes Mountaineer Region



Ohio



West Virginia



Michigan

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News

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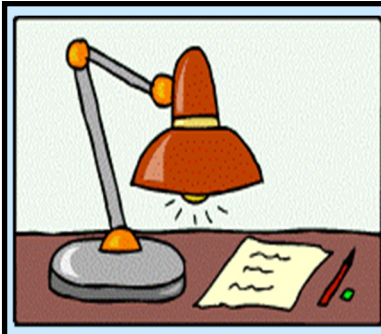
In

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



God's Great Reset

Our convention theme "**God's Great Reset**" is taken from **2 Corinthians 5:17** "*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*"

In the world today there is much talk about an international group, the **World Economic Forum (WEF)** that has been pushing their theme that the world is in desperate need of "*The Great Reset*"—which will lead to a one-world government grounded in man's intellect—a *technocracy*.

All nations (including our own USA) have many people now actively working toward achieving this objective. This group claims that by 2030 "*you will own nothing, and you will be happy*"—a utopian world.

Many of you may think that the "**Great Reset**" is a recently emerging phenomenon. On its website (<https://www.weforum.org/about/history>) the WEF describes a history of some fifty years of working toward their strategic goal—a one-world government grounded in technocratic principles in which man's intellect rains supreme. Most everyone has heard of the WEF's annual **Davos** meeting held in Davos, Switzerland. There, the richest and smartest believers of the WEF gather to plan their next steps to take in achieving their "a one-world government technocracy."

Their belief is that the smartest and most capable should rule the earth, and that man's great intellect is more than sufficient. God has no place in their plans, and anything grounded in our faith, even our family and morals, must surrender to this philosophy.

While the current incarnation of this technocratic endeavor is recent, the spirit behind it goes all the way back to the beginning—in the

Garden of Eden, and even before that when Satan led his insurrection in heaven, and so was cast out along with the angels who followed him.

When Satan approached Eve and then Adam in the Garden of Eden, it was to offer them his "better plan, or reset": **Genesis 3:4-5** "*And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: (5) For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.*"

Another example of this spirit is found in the behavior of man exhibited in their desire to build the Tower of Babel: **Genesis 11:1-4** "*And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. (2) And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. (3) And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. (4) And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."*

Satan even attempted to seduce the Son of God with his scheming: **Matthew 4:8-9** "*Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; (9) And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me."*

And still today, Satan continues his never ceasing endeavor to deceive and to mislead mankind. We already know how their planning and actions will end—see the book of Revelations. Many of the wicked events described in Revelations regarding the beast, the dragon, Satan, Mystery Babylon, etc. have an eerily similar correspondence to the stated objectives of the WEF's Great Reset: a one-world government, replacement of God-believing faith with a man-centered technocratic faith, destruction of all morality, etc.

Fortunately, there is already another greater plan, "God's Great Reset," already provided for us by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. His plan covers all aspects of His creation from the

individual (**2 Corinthians 5:17** "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.") to the world as a whole **Ephesians 1:10** "That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:" to His creating in **Revelations 21:1** "a new heaven and earth."

God's Great Reset is not determined as the result of God being forced to respond to Satan's actions. Rather, God's plan has been from the beginning. **Isaiah 46:10**, "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:"

I have the greatest confidence that everything will happen exactly as God has foreordained. **1 Peter 1:24-25**, "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: (25) But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

Whereas man's Great Reset is destined to failure, God's Great Reset is right on track (right where it should be), and will assuredly reach it's final fulfillment when there will be "a new heaven and a new earth" (Revelations 21:1).

I have no doubt that the greatest deception of Satan is that perpetrated on himself. No doubt, he still believes he will find a way to defeat our Lord. **Revelation 20:7-8** "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, (8) And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea."

We can be assured that Satan's final destruction (and all who join with him) is certain: **Revelation 20:9-10**, "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. (10) And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

On the other hand, God has in store for His people the ultimate reset: **Revelation 22:1-5**, “*And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. (2) In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (3) And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: (4) And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. (5) And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*”

Let God’s Great Reset begin!



Sue Hutton

WMB REGIONAL COORDINATOR

How are we following His (Jesus’) mission?

Are we following His mission, the messiah, the anointed one?

Jesus came to minister in WORD and DEED.

He preached the gospel to the poor.

He healed the brokenhearted.

He preached deliverance to the captives.

He recovered sight to the blind.

He set at liberty them that were bruised.

He fed the hungry.

In Matthew 10 when Jesus called unto him his twelve disciples, He (Jesus) commissioned them to go with the same Spirit Jesus had taught them regarding His mission.

Remember! The Mission was not made for the Church; the Church was established for the mission—His mission—God’s mission.

God's Garden

Reprint from July-August issue of "The Olive Branch"—Pennsylvania and New Jersey Regional Paper—By Assistant Editor, Rebekah Horne

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Jesus described His Church this way: "A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed" (Song of Sol. 4:12). He then describes what is produced in His garden, "Thy plants are an orchard of pomegranates, with pleasant fruits; camphire, with spikenard, Spikenard and saffron; calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense; myrrh and aloes, with all the chief spices" (vv. 13, 14).

This garden brings forth beautiful, flowering plants and precious spices. Most are vibrant and colorful, all are very fragrant, and all contain valuable medicinal qualities. Some of them fight infection, reduce the risk of heart disease, and improve memory. Others are anti-oxidants, anti-inflammatory, and anti-spasmodic, meaning they defend the body against damage, relieve pain, and combat anxiety, promoting peace, calmness, and healthy sleep. Some plants in this garden are beneficial in healing wounds and aiding in the regeneration of cells. Others fight depression and improve mood. Some produce cephalic benefits, having a refreshing effect on the brain, some increase blood circulation, some fight viruses, some boost immune system function, and some treat heart-burn and prevent wrinkles.

Just think of all the spiritual parallels! God knows how to grow the best things, doesn't He? These are the things that abound in His Garden, The Church of God. What a beautiful and blessed place! How greatly we should value the honor of being part of it and want to produce all the sweet fruit, flowers and fragrance He intends for us to!

There is another "garden" spoken of in the book of Proverbs. "I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down" (Prov. 24:30, 31).

Thorns and nettles are prickly plants and weeds with jagged barbs or stinging hairs. They have no beauty, no sweet aroma, and, rather than beneficial medicinal qualities, they irritate, annoy, and provoke. God forbid that this should ever describe the condition of His garden, His Church.

This property mentioned in Proverbs at one time was, no doubt, blossoming and bountiful, but no more. It takes work to maintain a beautiful garden, while thorns, nettles and decay do the work themselves. All it takes is a little slothfulness, a little neglect, and soon what used to be a productive garden is nothing but a patch of dirt with weeds and thorns. Even a strong wall will begin to crumble and succumb to the elements if not tended to.

Notice that God's Garden is "a garden inclosed," but the wall of the slothful man is broken down. The broken-down wall is evidence enough that at one point it was intact, serving its purpose well. How reprehensible it would be should we grow slothful and negligent and become "void of understanding," failing to keep the walls in good repair and tend to the precious plants within.

A wall provides safety and protection. It keeps out the things that need to be kept out, and it keeps safe the things that are within. In the Church of God, we have been given secure walls of government, doctrine, Teachings and Advice—things that draw a line not to be crossed. Those on the inside should never cross them and wander without. And those on the outside should never be permitted to break down the wall to enter in. It is our duty to take good care of these walls wherein grows the precious garden of God.

"The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage" (Psa. 16:6). Naboth knew this to be the case. He dearly valued the inheritance he had received from his forefathers, the vineyard that he carefully tended to and cared for. He knew where the lines were and he protected them, refusing to sell out at any price, even to the king himself. "The Lord forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee" (1 Kings 21:3). Naboth valued the garden so much he thought it was worth dying for.

So did Jesus. "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:25). Harm can come from without or from within. Beware if you have any thoughts of moving or damaging these precious walls that protect the beautiful garden of God. These things have been passed down to us from our forefathers who were given this inheritance by God Himself.

"Remove not the ancient landmark" is still a firm directive to us today. These walls provide the protection necessary for the sweet fruit of the garden to flourish and not be overtaken by thorns and nettles or be wasted by enemies. When the walls are in good repair and the fruit is abundant, the Lord calls out, "Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out" (Song of Sol. 4:16), and the sweet fragrance begins to waft over the walls and the blessings and beauty of the garden begin to call to those on the out-side. Before long, they'll be drawn to it and begin to ask their way, saying, "Come, and let us join ourselves" and find safety within the walls of God's Garden.

Sunday School Average

Attendance for May

Castalia, OH—19

Chillicothe, OH—7

Niles, MI—6

Fairmont, WV—10

Page, WV—7

Seth, WV—11



Sunday School Average

Attendance for June

Castalia, OH—20

Chillicothe, OH—9

Niles, MI—5

Fairmont, WV—8

Page, WV—8

Seth, WV—9



We are living in the day and time of "...they did work wilily..." Plain and simple, those that did work wilily are deceivers.

In Joshua 9 we find strangers, who are external deceivers; outsiders. "...they did work wilily." They had a strategic plan to get what they wanted. They wanted to be inside, covenanted and secure. Slick and sly performers they were.

In Acts 5:3-4, we find Church members, a brother and sister backslidden and full of deceit. From within, these are internal deceivers. All deception is damaging, but deception within cuts to the heart even more.

We cannot afford to be gullible or unwise or we may find ourselves letting down our guard and eventually compromising our walk with the Lord. We've not made it yet. We can lose out if we do not take heed to all of God's Word, seeking all He has for us and continuing to walk in the Light. We all must have and need to have the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. More of God is the answer. We must not fall to deception within or without.

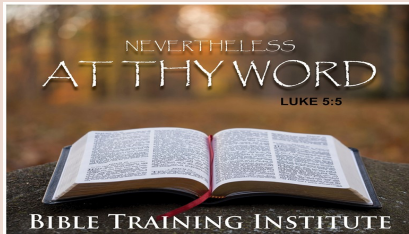
Reading a little further, we find, starting with Acts 5:5, Peter as a true example of being one of His labourers. "... labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building" 1 Cor. 3:9. Peter is God's instrument. The power is not Peter's, but God's. With God's direction and the power of the Holy Ghost, Peter was able to rebuke. "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear" (1 Tim. 5:20). Under the direction of God, Peter did just that.

"And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things" (Acts 5:5-11).

The Church of God is making herself ready and will be perfected. It is up to the individual where they will be standing when Jesus comes. Let us keep our feet planted foursquare in The Church of God, the pillar and ground of the Truth.

“That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 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” (Eph. 5:26, 27).

Let us pray for one another. Let us love one another.



George Atha
BTI REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Theme:
“Nevertheless At Thy Word”

BTI is over for 2021, but we have another year to prepare for next year, God willing. In 11 Timothy 2:15 we are told: *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

So this coming year we could take some BTI correspondence courses. These are really good. My wife and I took some of these courses in the 1970’s and some of these since and we enjoyed them and learned a lot about the Church.

I know it would be even better in classroom studies in person in BTI in Cleveland, Tennessee.

God bless BTI all over the world!

THE 115TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD

will convene August 31—September 4, 2021. It will be held at Westmore Church of God, 24400 Legacy Parkway NW, in Cleveland, Tennessee. The first session will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday. We look forward to seeing you there.

The only way I know how people can prove themselves to be real Church of God material is by heir works. Those who come in and take the obligation and carry in the secret of their hearts thoughts of making some changes to suit their own notions can hardly be the genuine. I have had some experiences with this class by making some discoveries before taking them in. And they are not in yet—with no likelihood of their ever getting in. I have been burnt so much that I dread the fire. Others have been taken in who have proved by their works that they were not true Church of God material and have caused grief, unrest, and disturbance until finally they had to be dismissed. We may have some of this class yet, somewhere hidden away, but, if so, I trust they will have no effect upon the true-blue material.

—A. J. Tomlinson

From Annual Address to the 22nd Assembly in 1927

An Inspirational Mini Sermon

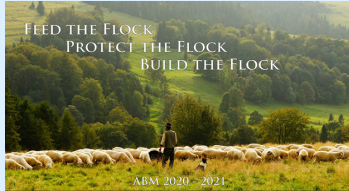
How's This for Sacrifice?

A story related by Milburn H. Miller should make us re-examine our missionary zeal. He tells of a high school youth who was presiding over a meeting of young Communists. A Christian woman, seeing his shabby attire, offered to buy him a pair of shoes.

“Madam,” he said, “I have money to buy shoes, but how can I spend it on myself when all these youths need our Communist literature so badly?”

Now—how about inquiring as to how this current year's offering for translating, printing, and distributing our gospel tracts is coming along? How about re-thinking your mission budget in the light of “sacrifice”?

If you have good shoes and a bulging wardrobe, and want to keep it well replenished, consider that you may have been spending more for candy bars and soft drinks than you have been contributing toward the furtherance of the gospel!



Juanita Atha Regional ABM Coordinator

Jesus warned His disciples of Satan just as we are warned today, yet Peter fell into his trap. *“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: (32) But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren”* (Luke 22:31, 32). This tells me that we cannot pray and fast enough. We need to hold each other up in prayer. Love will keep us together. We have found out that the young converts need even more love and prayer and fasting. We remember how the elders took care of us. I know I had some of the best elders over me in the Lord. I was blessed. We have to take care of the young and teach them with love. I know that the disciples traveled together and slept and ate together. We get to go to the assemblies and the conventions and be with one another and check on each other if they need our help.

When we lost our oldest son we had to depend on God. He was there and so was the Church. God kept us going. If you get low in prayer, Satan is ready to get you weaker than you may know. We need to read the Bible and pray for each other and have faith in God.

Old-Fashioned Religion

Religion, some may say, is old-fashioned,
So is food, so is drink;
So are fathers, mothers and neighbors,
And all things of value, I think.

A new-fangled creed has no power,
Until it is tried by the years.
If good, it endures through misfortune,
And abides in the valley of tears.

True faith, understanding and kindness—
These are old-fashioned virtues, too.
Thank God for old-fashioned religion
In a world where too much is new.

—Birdie Powell

Fanning the

Fires of



Walter Lofton—Regional Evangelism Director

Home Turf Evangelism

In thinking of evangelism we tend to think in terms of foreign mission work and advancing the Church outside of our own country. The whole world needs to hear the gospel and take heed to it in order to be saved, but our own country, our own region and state and district, and our own towns and communities have souls dying also without knowing Christ. Evangelism begins at home and spreads outward to the uttermost parts of the world. When we neglect our local area in preference to the world beyond us we are missing the opportunity to reach souls that are within our grasp. These souls may be our co-workers, our neighbors and friends, even our own families and loved ones.

It is much easier to reach out to the world when we have a broader home base from which to draw funds and resources that will aid us in reaching further out. We have conducted two revivals in Beckley, WV and a home Bible study and then the pandemic hit and that had to be put on the back burner. I wonder if we will be able to rekindle the interest there and go on with that work. We need to grow the Church in our home territory. Let us look to our home front in evangelizing first to help us have help and reinforcement in reaching out beyond us. Souls are souls and we need to reach them wherever we can. Let us not walk over those nearby in preference to some unseen person a great distance away.

We support missions around the world with our prayers and our giving but few, if any of us can go to them. We **can** go to those near us and win them to the Lord. Giving to missions does not get us off the hook with God. We are called to witness to those within our immediate reach. I would love to see a Church in every county of every state. That would be a tremendous growth among us, but at the same time it would not begin to compare with the denominational system who seem to have a church every three to five miles down just about every road you travel on. MAY GOD HELP US to be about our Father's business of evangelizing the world, beginning in our own back yard and taking this message of hope to the regions beyond us.