

The Church of God

Great Lakes Mountaineer Region



Ohio



West Virginia



Michigan

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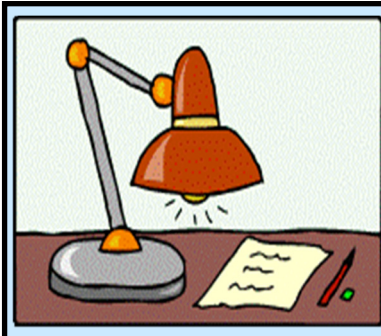
In

Michigan—Ohio—West Virginia

James T. Smith—Regional Overseer

Walter Lofton—Editor

www.tcog-glmr.org



From the desk of the
Regional Overseer
James T. Smith



Isaiah 4 In That Day

During the last session of our overseers' meetings during IYC, Brother Pimentel gave us a slide presentation regarding our church flag. He began by showing a slide with eight church flags (taken from various organization websites) that each seemed to depict the same flag. A couple were only slightly distinct; the others appeared to be identical (from the same source). He then asked us, "Which one is she?" (That is, which one was from our own church website?)

No one could say for certain which one was "She" (The Church of God).

He then showed those same eight flags on another slide, this time with the name of the associated organization underneath each. The point being made was that there are many imposter organizations that claim to be the Church, the Body of Christ! They therefore also use our flag as their own.

You might say, why don't we sue them to stop their using our flag? The legal problem is that we do not have a legal claim (patent, copyright, etc.) to our flag. We have already made the effort to secure such a claim but have failed in court. Our flag is essentially "public domain." Furthermore, Brother Pimentel displayed copies of letters previously received from the Church of God of Prophecy enjoining us to cease and desist from using our flag as it is too similar (indistinguishable) to theirs.

What may be the outcome of this situation (both the duplication of our flag, and its similarity to the CoGoP flag) he could not predict. He did encourage us to be in prayer for God's guidance and intervention in this

matter. With his permission to share this information, I hereby call on you to join in that prayer.

The scripture that quickly came to my mind is Isaiah 4:1 “*And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.*” The study of this scripture by Bible scholars has left them uncertain as to the intent of this verse. Some think that it may even be out of place, belonging with the prior chapter’s events, and not with the remainder of Isaiah 4 where it appears.

This scripture certainly could be viewed as describing the situation we now face regarding our banner. If so, it gives no indication of what the remedy might be. Let’s see if we can apply it and the remainder of Isaiah 4 to reveal God’s plan. Isaiah 4:1 is restated below, but with certain parts emphasized (e.g., with boldface font), as well as the remainder of Isaiah 4 similarly emphasized.

Isaiah 4:1 “*And in that day seven women shall take hold of **one man**, saying, We will **eat our own bread**, and wear **our own apparel**: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.*”

This first verse describes the situation; while, the remainder seems to describe the remedy. Are we sure that the two passages do share a common event or common situation? Note in both verse 1 and in verse 2 (which begins the second passage) they begin with the phrase “*in that day*” (which is underlined and boldened). The second passage (verses 2-6) appears to describe the expected response of the Church to the situation described in the first passage (verse 1).

I have emphasized important points with the use of boldface font. I have also interspersed other verses of scripture that collaborate (agree with) the verses in Isaiah 4.

Isaiah 4:2-3 (2) “*In that day shall the branch of the LORD be **beautiful and glorious**, and the fruit of the earth shall be **excellent and comely** for them that are **escaped** of Israel. (3) And it shall come to pass, that **he that is left in Zion**, and **he that remaineth in Jerusalem**, shall be called **holy**, even every one that is **written among the living** in Jerusalem:”*

1 Peter 2:9 :*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the*

praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”

Isaiah 4:4 “When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the **spirit of judgment**, and by the **spirit of burning**.”

Zechariah 13:8-9 “And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, **two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein**. (9) **And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.”**

Isaiah 4:5-6 “And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence. (6) **And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the day-time from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.”**

These verses are almost self-explanatory to those members who are established in the Church. If we will fulfill verses of **Isaiah 4:2-4**, then God will respond with His approval as described in **Isaiah 4:5-6**. He will leave no doubt who is “She” and who are imposters. I’ll leave you with one more verse to consider, found in **Song of Solomon 6:10** “Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners?”

I hope to share much more regarding these passages in the future. In the meantime, please consider, study, and apply them to yourselves, to your local church, and to the Church as a whole.

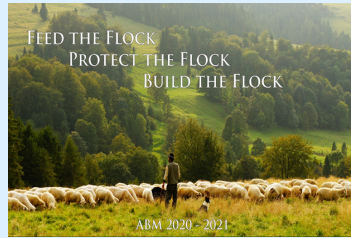
**Sunday School Average
Attendance for July**

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



**Sunday School Average
Attendance for August**

Castalia, OH—17
Chillicothe, OH—11
Niles, MI—5
Fairmont, WV—9
Page, WV—6
Seth, WV—7



Juanita Atha

Regional ABM Coordinator

God has blessed us this year and we are truly thankful. We love The Church of God and the members of all our church everywhere. We pray that we can be pleasing to God and be better prayer warriors in prayer and fasting.

My health has not been good this year but I try to be a help to my husband—our pastor. Sister Glenna and I pray for each other and all the members of our local church. We have had sickness in the Church but we are trying to hold up the arms of our leaders in the Church.

We did not get to attend the Assembly this year but we watched it on line by our computer and really enjoyed it.

We pray that this year we can do some work on our building. We pray also for our children and neighbors and our country. We have enjoyed the fellowship of going out to eat after Sunday School with the members and Pastor.

I would love to get well enough to go to BTI next year. I have studied several courses but the fellowship is very important in being together with our brothers and sisters.

Please pray for Sister Glenna Nicholas and Sister Judy Jones who has been very sick.

An Inspirational Mini Sermon

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

Our Walk Talks

“Faith is more a way of walking than it is a way of talking.”

On the Hebrews 11 roster of the faithful are some names of whom there is little record of what they said, but much about what they did by faith. Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice. Enoch pleased God. Noah, moved with fear, prepared the ark. Abraham obeyed. Moses chose to suffer with God’s people rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin. It was also said of both Enoch and Noah that they walked with God.

Our walk will talk for us!

ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS



The 115th Assembly was different in many ways. First, it came after having missed an annual assembly due to a pandemic. Only one other assembly shares this characteristic—the 14th Assembly in 1919. The time-frame was shortened by three sessions due to the schedule of the local congregation who was sharing their facility with us. It has been many years since our assemblies were on a shorter time schedule. The facilities were smaller than what we had been accustomed to for many decades. And lastly, I feel safe in saying that the registered attendance was the lowest in over 100 years with the possible exception of the 18th Assembly in 1923. The registered attendance was just over 800 with something over 300 who registered and watched on line.

The spiritual tone of the Assembly was not dampened however, as the delegates enjoyed the moving of the Spirit in the midst. The auxiliary programs and the messages were inspiring and were a blessing to all. The worship was genuine and the fellowship was rich.

Each one present and those who watched on line have their preferences as to what they enjoyed best. This is natural and to be expected. However as regional reporter it falls my lot to express a general consensus of this gathering together of God's people from across the world. If I somehow miss your preferences, please forgive me. As relating to our region there were only four in attendance from the GLMR region. Many of our people have been affected by sickness and health problems and could not attend. However, most were able to "attend in spirit" by watching it on line.

Now for the highlights of the Assembly let's begin at the beginning. The Tuesday evening session was different inasmuch as the annual healing

service was moved to this time slot. Not only was the time-frame different but the service itself was different. There were three messages on the subject of divine healing. The traditional healing line was not a “line” per se. It took me a while to catch on to how this was to be operated. On the main floor of the auditorium every other row of seats were vacated. Those coming through the “line” did not line-up at all. Rather the ministers lined up and walked through the rows of empty seats to anoint and lay hands on those desiring to be prayed for who were instructed to stand while the ministers came by them. This worked fine for this particular gathering. However, in a crowded auditorium there would not be sufficient space for such a practice.

The Sunday School program was on Wednesday morning with Sister Shanna Campos, General Coordinator—her first one since being appointed as coordinator. Following the Sunday School the Questions and Subjects Committee came on stage with their report which was carried over into the beginning of the afternoon session. Wednesday afternoon was the time for the General Treasurer’s report along with The Evening Light boost followed by the Bible Training Institute program.

Wednesday evening was spectacular with the presentation of the CPMA program. Brother Ray Dupre preached a sobering message on the shaking of the Church, which seemed to affect all who heard it in a positive way. On Thursday morning we heard another good message by Brother Thomas Brady followed by the Womens Missionary Band Program. Which was powerful and edifying. The Assembly Band Movement program took place on Thursday afternoon and the World Missions Program was presented Thursday evening, which is always inspiring with the Parade of Nations. Throughout the day we heard progress reports from the various nations around the world.

On Friday morning we were excited to hear the General Overseer’s Annual Address followed by the Ways and Means Committee report. There were two more good messages on Friday afternoon. The Victory Leaders Band program took place on Friday evening which is always exciting.

Saturday morning came much too soon with the Evangelism program and various committee reports. Another very important event took place on Saturday morning when the Questions and Subjects Committee came back on the floor once again with a recommendation for an Assembly Tabernacle Committee to be appointed to study the feasibility of the Church constructing or purchasing a

tabernacle for our annual assemblies. This report was enthusiastically received with complete unity and accord. More reports followed along with the General appointments and closing of the 115th Annual General Assembly. I believe we all can say from our hearts with deep meaning to God be the glory for the great things he has done for us in this Assembly.



Evangelism In A Nutshell

What does your mind visualize when you hear or see the word *evangelism*? Perhaps a weeks revival at your local church? Maybe a general campaign in your state or region? Maybe a personal witnessing endeavor where you go door to door to talk to people about their souls? Or could it be a tract distribution effort by your local church? All of these and more are a function of evangelism.

I believe Christ gave the best definition of evangelism when He said: “*...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned*” (Mark 16:15, 16). Evangelism is rescuing souls from a burning everlasting hell—period! When we go and tell them about Christ’s power to save and point out the grave eternal consequence of being lost we are doing evangelistic work in it’s finest form!

The key to true evangelism is soul travail. The key to soul travail is prayer. Prayer does not come easy. We have to work at it. Before we can be effective in winning the lost we must first get alone with God and pour out our souls in travail for the lost souls He puts in our pathway. Until this is done, all the revivals, all the evangelistic campaigns, all the personal witnessing, all the tract distribution will be just empty work without any fruit to show for it. Evangelism is a love for the lost that will reach out to win them to the saving grace of our blessed Lord.

(continued on page 10)



Kandy Saunders
Regional CPMA Coordinator

Here is one last inspiration on this CPMA theme, "**Still Standing—No Compromise.**"

It is a simple thought. If we do not compromise, we will be found standing in His sight and He will be pleased. If we compromise, we will not be able to stand and will have failed God. *"If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help"* (2 Chron. 20:9). If we stand in His presence and in His house, He will hear us and help us. *"Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man"* (Luke 21:36).

Today, right now, we cannot afford to be standing without. Today, right now, we must be watching and praying. Jeremiah 6:16 tells us: *"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein."* We must stand in the good way and stay in the old paths.

We will not be able to stand unless we have on the whole armour of God. *"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness"* (Eph. 6:11-14).

"But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap" (Mal. 3:2).

"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).

We must abide in Him, the Vine, that we may be able to stand the purifying power of God. We need His cleansing power to make ourselves, The Church of God, ready.

Let's all be found standing and fully equipped and ready to go when the Lord returns. We all want to meet Him in the air, Amen. Be ye faithful and stand.

—continued from page 8

Isaiah 66:8 tells us: “*for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.*” Where there is no travail there is no bringing forth of children. (This is true in the natural as well as in the spiritual.) God takes note of our true heart travail and rewards it with new converts for His kingdom and Church. On the other hand, we cannot look for converts without the element of spiritual travail.

We need a vision of the lost—suffering forever in unimaginable torment, pain, and remorse. In these trying times this vision seems to be remote and out of focus, resulting in a lack of soul travail in prayer for the awful plight of the lost. Our first focus should be on getting our hearts broken up in order to pray the travailing prayers that will move heaven to give us souls for our hire.

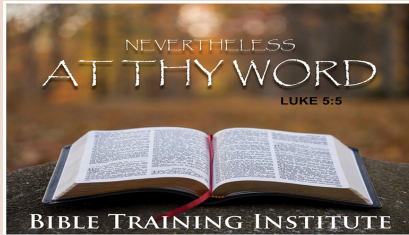
These souls are precious. They are everywhere we go. They are the check out clerk where we shop. They are the professionals we visit when we need help. They are the people we see in the news. They are the never dying souls behind the headlights of the oncoming car you meet on the highway. They are even our friends, neighbors, and family!

May we get a fresh vision of lost souls and begin in earnest to pray the soul travailing prayers for their eternal salvation. Sometimes it is needful that we first pray through before we can expect to see the sinner praying through in our altars. This is TRUE evangelism in a nutshell!

The Ministers Convention

**will be at the Chillicothe, Ohio Church
on Saturday October 16, 2021.**

See you there!



George Atha BTI REGIONAL COORDINATOR

Although BTI is not one of the auxiliaries of the Church it is a very important part of The Church of God. When we think of all the good things it has to offer, it teaches about the Church and has something for all members and non-members alike. The teachings cover about everything from A to Z. It will help us in our visitation and in witnessing in the work place.

In the Book of John, chapter 21 and verses 14-16 after Christ rose from the dead, He told Peter to feed His lambs in verse 15 and then He said “feed my sheep” in the following verses. Peter knew how to feed the lambs and sheep because the Lord had taught him to do this. This is like BTI today. Please pray for BTI this coming year that we will have the biggest and best BTI ever.

O, what a wonderful Man we have at the Head of the Church of God! Other governments and nations can boast of having had great men who sat at their head and held the reins of government in their hands—Many great men of today, who are at the head of great institutions could be named—But of all of the many thousands of famed rulers of all ages, where can one be found that can boast of having been from everlasting, died rose again the third day, and is now alive forever more? But such is He, that is at the head of the Church of God. In fact, it is He, that made the worlds and all things therein, and by Him all things consist. He created all things for Himself and for His own personal pleasure. O, He is the greatest of all. If fact, there is no logical comparison. O, how wonderful that God has given us the opportunity of being members of the very institution of which the Christ is the Head.

—Excerpts from the 24th Annual Address of A. J. Tomlinson to the 29th Assembly in 1934.



Sue Hutton
WMB REGIONAL COORDINATOR
WATCH

'Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garment (preserver in God's way and truth), lest he walk naked, (found not clothed with God's righteousness) and they shall see his shame (His Hypocrisy will appear to all)' (Rev. 16:15).

Those who are in Christ are commanded in God's word to Watch for Christ's return. We are living in a time in which sinners and saints alike, are wrapped up in who the antichrist is, about his number, and his attributes. The scripture lets us know who we are to watch for and what we are to do in the last days.

Blessed is he that watcheth!

Matthew 24:42-44

Mark 13-33-37

Luke 12:35-40

Luke 21:34-36

I Thess 5:1-11

Revelations 3:1-3

Revelation 19:8

During this time of watching, it is vital to keep the garment of His Word and not add or take away from it. The scripture says in Matthew 8:16 *"No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse."* We have to cast our garment away and put on the fine linen.

Let us not be as those that crucified the Lord. They parted His garment and upon His vesture they cast lots. We see in Revelations at the millennial reign the King of King's, and Lord of Lord's, clothed with His vesture dipped in blood (Revelation 19:13-21).

Mark 13:37 "And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch" (Mark 13:37).