

*The Church of God*

*Great Lakes Mountaineer Region*



*Ohio*




*West Virginia*



*Michigan*

**Issue No. 21**

**First Quarter, 2022**



The map shows the Great Lakes region in green, with Ohio in orange and West Virginia in yellow. Specific locations are marked with blue diamonds: Port Clinton, OH; Castalia, OH; Chillicothe, OH; Fairmont, WV; Page, WV; and Seth, WV.

## Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional

*News*

Official Publication of

# The Church of God

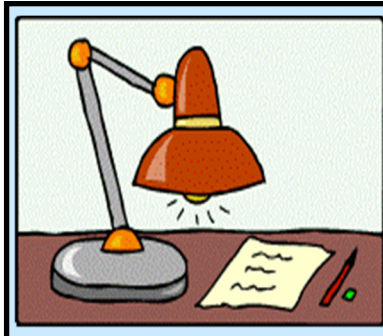
In

## Michigan—Ohio—West Virginia

**James T. Smith—Regional Overseer**

**Walter Lofton—Editor**

[www.tcog-glmr.org](http://www.tcog-glmr.org)



## From the desk of the Regional Overseer

*James T. Smith*



### ***Hast Thou Considered My Servant Job?***

We noted in our last article that introduced our theme “God’s Great Shaking Is Coming”:

Throughout time, the Lord has shaken His people in a variety of ways. But there is yet one more great shaking that will result in the purging of all those who cannot or will not stand firm in the Lord, so that those who remain will be acceptable for His perfect bride:

Hebrews 12:27-29 (27) *And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. (28) Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: (29) For our God is a consuming fire.*

So, what is the expected result of God’s great shaking? Everyone who can be shaken loose (because of some failure in their spiritual lives, etc.) will be shaken! “*He will thoroughly purge*” that which will not (refuses to) be tried and proven, so that those who remain are truly perfect in His eyes! My prayer is that all of us be found remaining.

This great shaking will be comprehensive—all will experience this shaking. The shaking can be viewed as serving many different purposes of GOD. His shakings could be intended to awaken those who are at ease in the Lord (who do not take his calling and commands to heart). Then there are those who have become caught up in heresy who need to be shaken to awake to God’s truths. Those who have let down their guards against the wiles of Satan need to turn back to a true walk with the Lord.

We all probably know someone we would place in one of these categories— who stand in need of God’s Great Shaking to bring them back into alignment with God’s Word and His will for them. But what about all the others? In my thinking about who the Lord would shake and how He would shake, I thought to myself: “What about those who are not gone astray, who are giving the Lord their all—walking in all the

light He has shined on their path. Will they too be shaken?” Without any hesitancy, the Lord’s response to me was “*Hast thou considered my servant Job?*” (Job 1:8). This response of the Lord set me to thinking differently about the Lord’s purposes for His Great Shaking. Allow me to share my new insight with you now.

We are told regarding Job “*that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.*” (Job 1:1) We know what manner of man he was—he was considered perfect in the sight of the Lord. He did not need a shaking to return him to the straight and narrow path. Yet we find that he had to go through a mighty shaking and testing of his commitment to the Lord.

If even Job could face the Lord’s shaking, then how can any of us expect to avoid His shaking? What was the purpose of his shaking Job? So, let’s take a look at the shaking of Job. Consider the words of Satan describing Job: (9) “*Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? (10) Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. (11) But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face*” (Job 1:9-11).

Satan had made the claim that Job served the Lord because of an ulterior motive (God’s blessings in an earthly sense—wealth, health, etc.). Satan postulated that Job would quit serving the Lord if these blessings were removed: “*...he will curse thee to thy face.*” So, we have here another instance of God’s shaking—to see why Job truly served the Lord. Was it for earthly gains, or was it something much deeper that provided the basis for Job’s worship of the Lord?

Indeed, the Lord permitted great testing of Job’s faith and his commitment to serving the Lord. Job’s initial response to his shaking well vindicated the Lord’s confidence in Job: “*And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD*” (Job 1:21).

After enduring the judgments of his friends, Job’s response declared his continued stand for the Lord and the salvation found in Him: “*Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him. (16) He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him*” (Job 13:15, 16).

We can expect that our faith and trust in the Lord also will be tested for its veracity and dedication. Consider the words left to us by Peter regarding the Lord's judgments: *"For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? (18) And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? (19) Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator"* (1 Peter 4:17-19).

We can put our trust in Him! We need not know what the outcome may be, but we do know who is in control. Satan could do no more to Job than what the Lord so permitted. Job did come through his great shaking, victoriously. Job fully vindicated his Lord's trust in the man that he was proven to be: *"that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil."*

May we likewise be proven faithful to our Lord in all that He would have us to face.



**George Atha**  
**REGIONAL BTI**  
**COORDINATOR**

*"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 3:14). We are pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Paul said in Philippians 3:16 *"Let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. (17) Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example."* Paul said in chapter three to walk by the same rule and mind the same thing and mark them which walk so as ye have us for example. The prize will come after the perfection so let us press on and let us be faithful. Let us press on Sunday morning to get to Sunday School and to support the local Church on Wednesday night services and our offerings that support the Church.

I had a foreman at one company who would sing a song to his men as we were working. The name of the song was "Keep on Pushing" and it worked. We got the job done. So let us sing, "Keep on pressing" for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Church, let us not forget the covenant; "Will you sincerely promise in the presence of God and these witnesses." I better quit for now. Pray that we will be able to go on, for we must.



**Kandy Saunders**  
**Regional CPMA**  
**Coordinator**

*“While traveling through this world of sorrow,  
I’m on my way to Glory Land.  
I’ll not turn back for some tomorrow,  
My trials here I’ll understand.”*

Be strong! Stay the Course! Just ahead—Perfection! We have much to look forward to!

Knowing our Lord and Saviour, we do understand why we suffer sorrows and trials.

Peter said: *“Beloved, THINK IT NOT STRANGE concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: (13) But REJOICE, inasmuch as ye are PARTAKERS OF CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS; that, when his GLORY SHALL BE REVEALED, ye may be glad also with EXCEEDING JOY. (14) If ye be REPROACHED FOR THE NAME OF CHRIST, happy are ye; FOR THE SPIRIT OF GLORY AND OF GOD RESTETH UPON YOU: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part HE IS GLORIFIED”* (1 Peter 4:12-14).

The Lord is with us and will be with us all the way. First Peter 3:12-16:

*“For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. (13) And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? (14) But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; (15) But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (16) Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.”*

If we suffer with Him, WE WILL REIGN WITH HIM. Second Timothy 2:1-13:

*‘ Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. (2)*

*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. (3) Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. (4) No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. (5) And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. (6) The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits. (7) Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. (8) Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: (9) Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. (10) Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. (11) It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: (12) If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: (13) If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.”*

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

*“Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. (16) Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, LET US WALK by the same rule, LET US MIND the same thing. (17) Brethren, be followers together of me, and MARK THEM WHICH WALK so as ye have us for an ensample. (18) (FOR MANY WALK, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: (19) Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) (20) For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: (21) Who shall change our vile body, THAT IT MAY BE FASHIONED LIKE UNTO HIS GLORIOUS BODY, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”*

Be strong! Stay the Course! Just ahead—Perfection! We have much to look forward to!

*“On Wings of Love, we'll soar away.”*

**NO TURNING BACK!**

**Fanning the**

**Fires of**



Walter Lofton—Regional Evangelism Director

## **DIVINE HEALING**

### **A Vital Component of Evangelism**

Divine healing and evangelism have had inseparable connections since the beginning of the grace dispensation starting with Christ and the Apostles. In most instances of Christ' ministry He taught the people and healed them of their diseases during the same setting. Matthew tells us of Christ: *“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people”* (Matt. 4:23). Luke gives this account of Christ's instructions to His disciples concerning the preaching of the Word and the healing of the sick in Luke chapter nine. (Verse 1) *“Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. (2) And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. (6) And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.”*

The Early Church ministry preached the gospel and healed the sick in every place where the Church was established. After the Arise, Shine of the Church in these last days we see this same pattern unfolding. All great revivals in our time period included the preaching and practicing of divine healing. Ministers in those days were careful to include the aspect of divine healing in their advertisements when promoting revivals. God placed His approval and favor upon the Church and the results was great growth.

Many, if not all ministers, practiced divine healing even at the threat of persecution and God always met their expectations and honored their faith. A. J. Tomlinson in *“The Last Great Conflict”* said: *“Hundreds, yea thousands have given up physicians, thrown away remedies, wheel chairs and crutches, and have been suspended on this wonderful branch [of divine healing].”*

The practice of divine healing has waned somewhat in the last several years. Along with this we have seen little growth in our evangelistic

efforts. Of course, God still heals today the same as He ever did, but we see fewer cases. Why is this? Could it be that we have grown to rely on the abundant supply of medical aid through government sponsored Medicare programs and easy insurance programs that we take this as our first course of action instead of waiting on God to come through for us? Are we afraid of persecutions from governmental and societal agencies if we do indeed practice divine healing?

With the turn of events brought about by the current pandemic many are re-examining their position on divine healing and its place in our lives. Many are waking up to the real threat of the government “owning us” by taking away our personal freedoms while using the pandemic as a means to force everyone to become vaccinated and take any other steps they deem necessary.

There is little if any credibility in these programs since we are getting mixed messages concerning the dangers of this current pandemic and the remedies for it. It seems that whatever our actions are we will be breaking some of their rules since these are in conflict with each other. Many feel that these requirements are a prelude to the “mark of the beast” and they very well might be. But the Church will not be here when that time comes. Nevertheless, all these things are producing fear in the hearts of many and if we, as Christians, are not careful we will find ourselves yielding to these pressures against our conscience and knowledge of the truth of God’s holy Word.

We have preached for years that there will be an end-time revival that will sweep many souls into the kingdom of God and The Church of God. Our evangelistic results in the last few years have been so meager that they could not in any way be called a magnanimous revival such as we believe will come before the return of the Lord. When events in society gets to the breaking point where we are backed into a corner, we will have no other choice than to come out fighting or lose our souls. Many in society feel the same way that we in the Church feel. When they see us standing up and fighting for the principles of God’s Word they will be compelled to come and join us in this fight. It will be for their safety as well as ours, for there is safety in numbers. Could this be how this great end-time revival happens?

When the pressures of society bare down so heavily upon us and we are faced with a do or die choice, will we make the right one? I believe A. J. Tomlinson did in his lifetime. I believe my parents also did in theirs. What about the three Hebrew Children? Daniel in the lion’s den? The



Early Church in the face of their persecutions? The post-arise, shine ere of the Church? What about modern-day ministers such as our former General Overseer, Stephen Smith? I believe we could say of these what was said of those in the faith chapter of Hebrews—*"not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:"* and *"these all... obtained a good report through faith."*

I don't know exactly why, but it seems that faith is hard to come by for most people. The Scripture tells us that *"...where sin abounded, grace did much more abound"* (Rom. 5:20). When these times come upon us may we be strong enough to muster the faith to fight this battle to the finish and obtain our crown of life.

## News From Seth, West Virginia

We had a three night revival at Seth on Thanksgiving weekend beginning on Thanksgiving night. Our evangelists were Kriston and Clarissa McMillens from Alexander City, Alabama. We were excited to meet their new baby son, Daniel who was only 10 days old at the time. This was little Daniel's first revival. The Lord blessed during Friday evening's service with a great move of the Spirit of God. On Saturday afternoon the sisters of the church gave Sister Clarissa a baby shower. Brother Kriston had not long been over Covid but he was determined to come for the revival. Most of our readers are acquainted with Sister Clarissa who has been in West Virginia several times while traveling with the Shelton Evangelistic Team in revivals in our area.



**We just had to share this adorable photo of our precious new little friend, "Brother Daniel."**



**Christmas Dinner at Fairmont, West Virginia, Sunday December 26, 2021**



**This photo shows the new Port Clinton, Ohio mission saints and our Regional Overseer and his wife, Sister Nancy along with Brother and Sister Hutton from Chillicothe, Ohio.**

The above photo was taken at a luncheon at Port Clinton, Ohio at the time of their organization as a mission on December 4, 2021.

The Port Clinton, Ohio mission was set in order on the above date by the Regional Overseer, Brother James Smith. Sister Wanda Sutherland, was appointed as the mission pastor and her husband, Brother James Sutherland is the Deacon.

The two photos on the opposite page shows their place of worship located at 319 Laurel Avenue, Port Clinton, Ohio 43452.



**Exterior and interior scenes of the new Mission at Port Clinton, Ohio**



## I DIDN'T HAVE TIME

I didn't have time today to smile on the folks that I met.  
And I failed to kiss someone as I rushed away,



And I caused her to worry and fret.  
I didn't have time to say how are you  
Or note that the weather was fine.  
Tomorrow I plan all these things to do,  
But today, I didn't have time.

I didn't have time to stop with a friend  
Who needed the help I could bring.  
I didn't have time a moment to spend  
Where loneliness had left its sting.  
I didn't have time to visit the sick  
Or write to poor sad ones of mine.  
I'll wait till tomorrow or maybe next week,  
But today, I didn't have time.

I didn't have time amid heart-breaking thoughts,  
Not even a moment for prayer.  
And I feel that my whole life is gone just for naught  
And now its too late that I care.  
When we trod life's final mile  
And stand at the portals of time,  
Will God close the gate and say with a smile,  
"Remember, you didn't time."

—Selected

## An Inspirational Mini Sermon

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

### Wherein Lies Happiness?

Do you want to be happy? Read the beatitudes (Matthew 5:2-12). It has been said, "God does not promise roses always, but He does promise happiness."

The "**blessed**" of the beatitudes are often translated as "happy." Of course, the formular's success would probably depend on the kind of happiness one was seeking for.



**Juanita Atha  
Regional  
ABM  
Coordinator**

I thank God so much for The Church of God. I have been following Him since I was six years old and when my family moved to Ohio, I could not find a church, it was awful. After I was married, we moved back to West Virginia. I started back to the Church. I was saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. My brothers and sisters were so good to us. I wish sometimes I could go back to that time. I have felt that time since we have been at Page, West Virginia. All the elders have gone on now since those times but we have new elders now and I am satisfied again and I have my husband by my side and his sister and some of my family so I really love to go to church and visit our other churches. I love to fellowship with all of the members of our other churches everywhere. God has blessed us so and we are thankful. Pray for us that we will stay in His will at all times and stay knit together like years ago. When I was young, I was appointed the Church cleaner and I am still cleaner with my husband's help but we enjoy our time together with God.

**See if you can find the names of 16 books of the Bible  
hidden in the following paragraph.**

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu. Kept people looking so hard for facts, and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam. Especially since the names of the books are not always capitalized or are part of another word, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. I want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some easy ones to spot. Others might require judges to help you. I will quickly admit it usually takes a while to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations, when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can complete this. Relax now, for there really are 16 names of the books of the Bible in this story.

**(See list of the books on page 14)**



*Sue Hutton*

**REGIONAL WMB  
COORDINATOR  
SONLIGHT**

## **Prayer and Supplication**

*"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Eph. 6:18).*

The nature of supplication is much more heartfelt than a casual request. The word "supplication" means a humble, earnest request. If a request is not made in a heartfelt, fervent, and earnest manner, it would not be supplication.

*"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God" (Phil. 4:6).*

*"EXHORT therefore, that, first of all, supplication, prayers, intercession, and giving of thanks, be made for all men" (1 Tim. 2:1).*

We are to pray the prayer of supplication for all saints, believers and all men.

If ever there was a time to let our requests be made known unto God in the spirit of supplication it is now. Let us cry out before God with an humble and earnest request from the heart like we have never cried out before!

Such prayer makes tremendous power available!

Let the Son shine through our prayers.

**Here is the list of the books of the Bible you should find from the paragraph on page 13.**

Peter, James, Mark, Titus, Hebrews, Acts, Job, Revelation, Amos, Lamentations, Luke, Ruth, Kings, Esther, Numbers, and Judges.

The Church must be a place for protection. The innocent and weaker ones must be protected. We are in the last days, the very time when lust and greed are running rampant, but the Church members shall not be partakers of the nature of the world. They must be pure and holy, and reverence God and love one another with a pure and holy love. There must be a unity of spirit and oneness of purpose, and the shame must be cleared away by a bolder stand for the right. We must be so pure and spotless that one of these days we may hear our Bridegroom say, "Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away." And by His grace we will!

*Excerpt from A. J. Tomlinson's Annual Address to the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly in 1919*

## **Important Dates to Remember**

### **2022 District Conventions**

**Southern District—April 23, 2022—Seth, WV**

**Northern District—May 7, 2022—Castalia, OH**

### **Eastern International Ladies Retreat**

**March 11-13, 2022—Pigeon Forge, TN**

**BTI—May 29–June 11, 2022—Cleveland, TN**

**Heritage Day—June 13, 2022—Cleveland, TN**

### **GLMR Regional Convention**

**July, 16-18, 2022—Fairmont, WV**

**IYC—August 26–29, 2022—Cleveland, TN**

**General Assembly—Aug. 30–Sept.4, 2022**

**Meadow View Marriott Conference Resort, Kingsport, TN**

# *The Church of God*

## Sunday School Marches On



Sickness and inclement weather is a hinderance to our church services at times but the Sunday School of **The Church of God** moves on. The Seth, WV church did not have Sunday School on January, 16th, but made up for it on Wednesday evening. God has been gracious to them allowing them not to miss a Sunday School service all throughout this pandemic. They even had visitors from other churches at times when their services were canceled.

The Fairmont, WV church has held Sunday School on ZOOM when they could not get together. The photo above is a screenshot of those who attended their meeting on January, 16. Their service included folks from Louisiana and Mississippi joining in with them. The Pastor was recovering from Covid during this time but the Sunday School was able to move forward through this technology.

The newly formed mission in Port Clinton, Ohio had 9 in their Sunday School recently.

May God continue to bless the work of the local churches everywhere and may each one recover from their recent sicknesses and be able to resume their normal schedule.