

The Church of God

Great Lakes Mountaineer Region



Ohio



West Virginia



Michigan

Issue No. 23

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**Great Lakes
Mountaineer
Regional**

News

The map shows the Great Lakes region with three areas highlighted: Michigan (green), Ohio (yellow), and West Virginia (blue). Red dots indicate specific locations: Niles, MI; Port Clinton, OH; Castalia, OH; Chillicothe, OH; Seth, WV; Fairmont, WV; and Page, WV.

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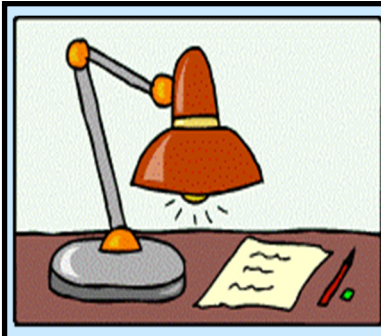
In

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*



Am I My Brother's Keeper?

Sin in The Camp

Wrath Fell on All the Congregation of Israel

This question was Cain's answer to God's question: **Genesis 4:9** "*And the LORD said unto Cain, **Where is Abel thy brother?** And he said, **I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?***" So many since then have used this answer (or one similar) as their excuse for ignoring their responsibility to their brothers and sisters in the Lord. We certainly should not be a busybody, sticking our noses in everyone else's business. However, the Lord has provided for righteous discernment and judgment among His people since the time of Moses.

The Lord gave to Moses, through his father-in-law Jethro, a plan for judging the affairs of His people in Exodus 18:8-26, even before He gave His commandments in Exodus 20. The Early Church followed the same principles of government (1 Peter 2:9). Christ stated specifically in John 16:7-15 of how the work of the Holy Ghost would include the elements needed for a righteous government. That the Holy Ghost "*will guide you into all truth*" includes not just true doctrine and teaching, but also provides discernment of matters so that righteous judgment could follow.

One important aspect of the Church reaching perfection, and hence a focal point of God's "*Great Shaking*" includes the proper functioning of His righteous government! To help us understand what His shaking in this area might be, let us consider an example from the time of Joshua when His government functioned to bring needed judgment (from recognition of a problem to discernment of its cause and resolution, to its righteous execution).

In Joshua 22:10-16, some of the tribes of Israel (Rubin, Gad, Manasseh) were about to commit iniquity in building their own altar. The rest of Israel's tribes came up against them, even to go to the point of war, to prevent this error from continuing.

The warning to those about to commit such grave error included a history lesson of two past experiences wherein the Lord judged (corrected and punished) their acts of inequity. The first example mentioned is described in

Numbers 25 that occurred under the leadership of Moses. There many of the children of Israel committed whoredom with the daughters of Moab, and worshipped their god Baalpeor. The Lord's response was to call for Moses to *"Take all the heads of the people, and hang them up before the LORD against the sun, that the fierce anger of the LORD may be turned away."* (Numbers 25:4), and to send a plague upon them from which 24,000 died (Numbers 25:9). The Lord's wrath was turned away only after the righteous action of Phinehas who slew with a javelin some of those committing such iniquity (Numbers 25:4-12).

The second example occurred during the leadership of Joshua. The warning regarding that event is given in Joshua 22:20 *"Did not Achan the son of Zerah commit a trespass in the accursed thing, and wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel? and that man perished not alone in his iniquity."*

This is an interesting example—differing from the first example. The first example involved many who sinned in worshipping Baalpaor. This second iniquity and the Lord's judgment of it is described in Joshua 7. This time, there was an individual unique person involved in the actual commitment of the sin—Achan. The key verse describing Achan's sin is Joshua 7:1 *"But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for Achan, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed thing: and the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel."*

We see that all of Israel was held accountable for the sin of this one person! How could this be? Why would the Lord do such a thing? How would He show His wrath and judgment? *"...wrath fell on all the congregation of Israel"*

Achan seems to have sufficiently hidden his sin such that no one else was aware of this problem. In Joshua 7:2-5 Israel attempts to take the little city of Ai. To their shock and dismay, this little city was able to put mighty Israel to flight.

At this point all of Israel realized that they had a problem. But what could it be? How could they learn what had so displeased the Lord? Joshua knew where to turn for the answer: *"Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads. And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us?"* (Joshua 7:6-7).

The Lord was quick to declare what was wrong, why they had lost His favor: *"Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff"* (Joshua 7:10).

But their problem was worse than a single sin. The Lord further declares the consequence that Israel now faced: *“they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you”* (Joshua 7:12).

Somehow this sin crept into the camp with no one detecting or responding to it. There was no *“Phinehas”* (see first example) to come forward to deal with the matter. We don’t know the full background regarding Achan. Had anyone realized what Achan had done, but chosen to remain silent (not get involved)?

To deal with this matter, the Lord would invoke His theocratic government! Everyone first had to sanctify themselves, each person was responsible for himself. *“Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel”* (Joshua 7:13).

The Lord then would systematically reveal who the cause of their trouble was: *“In the morning therefore ye shall be brought according to your tribes: and it shall be, that the tribe which the LORD taketh shall come according to the families thereof; and the family which the LORD shall take shall come by households; and the household which the LORD shall take shall come man by man”* (Joshua 7:14).

The Lord could have simply revealed to Joshua and the elders that the offender was Achan. Instead, the Lord chose this method to reveal Achan. I cannot help but wonder as each tribe, then family, then household was examined how many of the people were fearful that they might be the one who has offended, or knew who it might be.

One point that should be clear for us, as we near the second coming of our Lord and Savior, we know He is coming after a bride that is *“not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish”* (Ephesians 5:27). If one sin by one individual could cause all of Israel to be defeated, might not one sin by one individual prevent the bride reaching that state of perfection? No wonder the Lord has a Great Shaking (Hebrews 12) planned as He brings us unto that *“glorious church”* that cannot be shaken from walking perfectly before Him!

It seems the answer to Cain’s question for us is a big YES! We must heed the admonition of Hebrews: *“Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it”* (Hebrews 4:1).



George Atha
REGIONAL BTI
COORDINATOR

This year's BTI session will be from May 29-June 11, 2022. Let us all pray for the staff and students.

BTI is not like your old school days which have some good memories. BTI is the school that has all good memories—all anointed teachings and preaching and Holy Ghost manna from heaven. All the things you will take away with you will be priceless and you will be talking about them until next year. So let us go thinking and praying that the nine gifts of the Spirit will fill Cleveland with the conviction of God so we will see many get a divine revelation of The Church of God. As we leave Cleveland let us go teaching and preaching as the Apostle Paul said in the book of Romans; “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Rom. 1:16). See also Matthew 28:18-20. “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Let us keep “pressing toward the mark.”

An Inspirational Mini Sermon

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

Age Doesn't Matter

It has already been proven beyond reasonable argument that making a success of living a godly and holy life does not depend on one's age. If the transforming grace of God has done its work in the heart, it matters not whether we are sixteen or sixty, nineteen or ninety. All things will have become new.

If there is even a “smidgeon” of the old life of sin remaining uncovered by the blood of the Lamb, the whole vessel will be re-contaminated in no time at all. And again, age matters not. Filth is filth—at eighteen or eighty; and likewise, purity is purity.



Kandy Saunders
Regional CPMA
Coordinator

CPMA—No Turning Back

In following Brother Horne’s inspiration to give honor where honor is due, I would like to reserve this month’s article for that purpose. I know I cannot put into words or fully express my thankfulness to those who have impacted and helped shape lives, including mine, by their walk with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and their faithfulness to the Church of God both past and present.

Every service when we can be together is like a “Glad Reunion Day.”

And, I know there’s a fuller “Glad Reunion Day” when all will be together “...basking in the love of Jesus, beholding His face.”

Honoring the Faithful Saints of Today

Psalms 92:12 - 15

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;

To shew that the LORD is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

There is no age limit in the kingdom of God. Whether young in years or older in years, we all have something to offer. This is a beautiful description of growing old. Growing in grace, full of sap (spiritual vitality), rich in trust, love and contentment, living memorials of God’s faithfulness. We can still bring forth fruit in our old age. There is no such thing as retirement in the kingdom of God. We can never retire from being a Christian. Even though we may not be able to do some things we did when we were younger, we can still have a vital role in church life and bear much fruit. In this way, we are living memorials. What an awesome label that is to wear - a living memorial. We’re living memorials in our old age, still bearing fruit, though hair may be grey.

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Juanita Atha
Regional ABM
Coordinator

The way of Love—

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing” (1 Cor. 13:1-2).

Divine Love—

It suffers long.

It is kind.

It has no envy.

It does not vaunt itself.

Is not puffed up.

Does not behave itself unseemly.

It seeketh not her own.

It is not easily provoked.

This year and part of last year has really been hard on our church but God’s love has held us together. We have had some health problems but God is always there with us. We have work to do but God will keep us together. We love The Church of God. Without it we would be lost. Pray for us.

BOILING IT DOWN

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN

Lip-Service

and

Heart-Service

FALSE
PHARISEE
WON'T PUT UP WITH MUCH
DO AS I SAY BUT I'LL DO AS I PLEASE
COMPROMISE
SKIMPY GIVING
WANTS TO BE SEEN (Brag)
EASILY OFFENDED
BOASTS
HATEFUL, SARCASTIC BELITTLING

REAL (True)
SAINT
ENDURE, BEAR, SUFFER
BE HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE WORD
STAND FOR THE TRUTH
GIVE TILL IT HURTS
HIDE AND SEEK GOD IN YOUR CLOSET
PERSEVERES
LETS GOD EXALT YOU
GENTLE, KIND, COMPLIMENTARY

Fanning the

Fires of



EVANGELISM

Walter Lofton—Regional Evangelism Director

Many live in spiritual darkness and think they are alright with God when they have never actually repented and felt the peace of God within their heart as a result. The following poem is my evangelism boost to encourage each of us to pray for those in this lost condition.

The Thing That Tickled Him So

The devil climbed up in a sycamore tree,
And he laughed and laughed in uproarious glee;
He laughed out so loud, and kept at it so long,
He attracted the imp who was passing along.

Said the imp, "What's the news; Has some saint gone astray,
That has caused you to laugh in this boisterous way?"
Then he laughed all the louder, and answered, "Oh no;
It's the meeting up yonder that tickles me so."

"They wished a revival up there on the hill,
And sent for the preacher the pulpit to fill;
I know that this preacher was true to his God;
If sin needed exposing, he'd spare not the rod."

"I heard he was coming; O how I was scared!
My bravest of legions I brought, well prepared
To fight 'gainst these meetings, their good to o'erthrow;
But now I am laughing—it tickles me so."

His heart is aglow with love for lost men;
To bring them to Christ, he will do all he can;
He is fervent in prayer and is full of God's love;
He tells men of hell, and of heaven above.

"His preaching is weighty, and powerful enough
To damage my kingdom; tis just the right stuff.
But one thing is lacking, I very well know,
And that's why I'm laughing—it tickles me so."

“He shows them they’re sinners and doomed to despair;
They see they need mercy; their hands raise for prayer;
They kneel at the altar; a few Christians pray;
Then they rise to their feet, and go their own way.”

“No heart-cry for pardon, no penitent’s plea;
None earnestly pleading, ‘Have mercy on me.’
No clear testimony—no witness from heaven;
No personal knowledge that sins are forgiven.”

“Just a Bible verse quoted; why, I could do that,
With a face as angelic as e’re you looked at..
They think they’re converted—that’s just what they do;
But they’re only convicted, and never pray through.”

“They think they are saved, and most folks think the same;
They pat them on the back—they are Christians in name.
But the fact of it is—and that’s what tickles me—
They are blind to the truth—just as blind as can be.”

“I saw how ‘twas going, and bless me, I know.
I have most died of laughing, it tickles me so.
The preacher may preach and pray all he please,
For we’ve plenty of room for such ‘convers’ as these!”

—Selected

Excerpt from A. J. Tomlinson’s speech at the first Anniversary Celebration of the Dedication of Burger Mountain and the Fields of the Wood, September '7, 1942 with 620 in attendance. From the book; **A. J. Tomlinson—Prophet of Wisdom.**

"Years ago, I did not know about today and never thought of ever having such a gathering as this here at this place when I stood right there by the fire place. There was a house here then and it burned down. It just made room for us because we couldn't all get in that house. I didn't think about anything like this when Brother Spurling gave me the Bible and asked me if I would take this Bible as the Word of God. I told him I would. He asked me if I would believe it and practice it. I said I would do that. From that time to this the story of Burger Mountain has been increasing. I didn't think about this but it has turned out to be this. I don't know what else is going to be, but if there is any more in the Bible to practice, I will do it. I never expect to stop until every bit of it is fulfilled."



Sunday School Theme:

“Treasuring The Truth”

We welcome our newly appointed
Regional Sunday School Coordinator
Sister Annette Oglesbee

Sunday School

A Tool of Great Work for the Church Of God

You can see all these children who were happy to be in Sunday School. They were not brought by loving parents, but they were allowed to come if we would come by and pick them up. You would never know from the smiles on their faces, the lives that some of them lived. Some came hungry so we fed them breakfast, before church. And before returning home we fed them lunch.

One little girl had been molested, one had mouth cancer, and had to have all her teeth removed. Four of the children were taken from their mother, who was deemed unfit. A little boy and girl had a dad who had gone on a killing spree in our area. He was sentenced to life in prison. One little boy was abandoned by the ones he thought loved him. His feet were bleeding, because his shoes were too small and rubbed the skin off of his toes, heels and the sides of his feet. The Church bought him and his brothers clothes and shoes.

Pastor, Brother Aucoin from Kentucky would send money to help feed and clothe all who were in need. Some of these children were from loving families. No matter their status all were loved and cherished by the church. I don't know where they all are today. But I know the Bible says in Proverbs 22:6: *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”*

Making a difference in these children's lives, brought not only joy to them, but we were so blessed to teach them the Word of God.

First Corinthians 3:7 tells us that one sows the seed and another waters but it is God who gives the increase. Sunday School may be our only opportunity to sow seed in some lives. Children are truly a gift from God, our own children or those who don't have the benefit of godly parents. It is our responsibility and joy to teach the Word of God and be the example of His love.
(continued on next page)

It is hard for a child to comprehend the reading of the Bible or what a preacher is preaching and even some adults may not understand. Sunday School is for all ages and everyone who enters our church doors should be treated with love. Sunday School gives the Church an opportunity to teach God's Word on every level. It is a place where questions can be asked and hopefully answered.

God's Word is never boring. It is life, it is powerful, it is exciting. Teaching a Sunday School lesson is more than reading it and coloring a picture. If we treasure God's Word it will be reflected in our teaching. Matthew 6:21 says: *"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* Psalm 119:11 tells us *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee."*

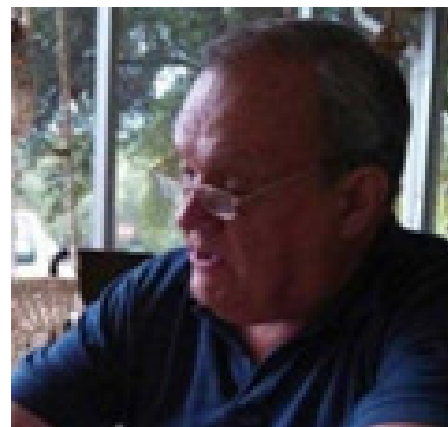


Photos of the Children in their Sunday School Class activities.



JUNE RINEHAMMER

Sympathy is extended to the Edinger family of Wheeling, WV who lost their mother and grandmother on April 26, 2022. She was 93 years of age.



Gary L. Chapman of Dayton, Ohio passed on to his heavenly home on February 18, 2022 at the age of 78 years old. Sympathy is hereby extended to his family.

NEWS FROM THE SETH, WV CHURCH

We accepted an invitation to meet with our friend, Adrienne at her Prayer Room meeting on May 7th at the Rand Community Center about 30 minutes from Seth. Adrienne advertised on the Rand Community Center Facebook page and received several responses. However, we only had a total of five, yet we had a good season of prayer together.

We, then, began to discuss holding Sunday School on a couple Saturdays every month. We shared children's church material and explained that we have Sunday School lessons ready to go.

She has a portable karaoke machine for music and she said we need to teach the old gospel songs in which we agreed. We handed out invitation packets Adrienne had prepared and personally invited many to come.

The Lord willing, the prayer room will be held on the first Saturday of every month 2:00-4:00 and part of that time will be for Sunday School. We are in the process of aligning our calendars to determine the second Saturday to meet.

There is a possibility of having a tent revival sometimes this summer in this area. Please help us pray for this outreach. We are excited for this opportunity to minister once again in this community.

Remember These Dates

GLMR Regional Convention

July 15—17

2019 Pleasant Valley Rd.

Fairmont, WV

The General Assembly

August 30—September 4

Meadow View Marriott Conference Resort

Kingsport, Tennessee