

*The Church of God*

*Great Lakes Mountaineer Region*



*Ohio*



*West Virginia*



*Michigan*

**Issue No. 25**

**First Quarter, 2023**

# Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional



*News*

Official Publication of

# The Church of God

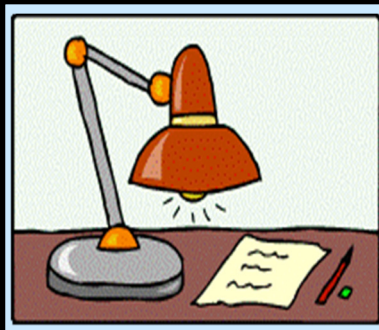
In

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*



## Egypt's Famine Template for Today's Great Shaking

For some time now I have been troubled by the contemplation of how the world's population not only will accept the Mark of the Beast, but will do so willingly and readily. Why cannot the world realize the "train wreck" that is headed our way. Such groups as the *World Economic Forum (WEF)* certainly are the precursor for whatever or whoever ultimately becomes the Beast program of Revelations.

In seeking the Lord on this concern of mine, He reminded me that Satan has NO new ideas—he only can attempt to duplicate or copy what God has already done! Our God has His Trinity, Satan has his own *Satanic Trinity*—the devil, the beast, and the false prophet (*Revelation 16:13*). He has his own church, "a *synagogue of Satan*" (*Revelation 2:9*). He has formulated his own system of theology "doctrines of devils" (*1 Timothy 4:1*). He employs false teachers who are specialists in his "theology," "who privily shall bring in damnable heresies" (*2 Peter 2:1*). I could go on and on with other examples, but you should get the point here.

In particular, Satan has his own version of God's "Great Shaking"—the WEF refers to it as the "Great Reset"! In my examining the goals and actions of this plan of Satan, the Lord has shown me that this too is but an attempt to copy what our Lord has already done!

The Biblical event that Satan is now attempting to mimic is that of the worldwide famine described in **Genesis 41 & 47**. The Egyptian Pharaoh had two dreams that greatly troubled him, and no one was found to interpret them until he sent for Joseph. His interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams described seven years of abundant agriculture, to be followed by seven years of grievous famine—worldwide—as described in **Genesis 41:28-32**:

*(28) "This is the thing which I have spoken unto Pharaoh: What God is about to do he sheweth unto Pharaoh. (29) Behold, there come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt: (30) And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land; (31) And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it shall be very grievous. (32) And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass."*

We now will briefly review the highlights of what happened to the people of Egypt, and then we will relate them to how Satan is now attempting to duplicate the same actions in our day and time to accomplish the same “takeover” of the world that the famine enabled Pharaoh to do to his people.

The plan that Joseph offered Pharaoh (*Genesis 41:33-36*) so pleased him and his court (*Genesis 41:38* “*And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?*”) that he appointed Joseph to the second position in his kingdom, and charged him with preparing for the coming years of plenty and famine.

Joseph’s actions during the seven years of plenty seemed benign (innocent) enough. Surely only good could come from such measures.

### **Genesis 41:47-49**

(47) “*And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls.*  
(48) *And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same.* (49) *And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.*”

**Genesis 41:56-57** concludes with the ending of the seven years of plenty and the beginning of the seven years of famine. The famine did not occur just in Egypt but “*over all the face of the earth.*” Consequently, “***all countries*** came into Egypt to Joseph for to buy corn; because that the famine was so sore ***in all lands.***”

With the commencement of the great famine, this “***Great Shaking***” of all nations thus began. What happened to the people of Egypt under Joseph provides a *type-n-shadow* for what lies ahead with the WEF’s “*Great Reset*” and whatever other machinations Satan pursues in his seven years of attempted lordship over the earth.

Let’s now consider each of the steps that were taken by which the people of Egypt gradually but surely surrendered all their freedom and possessions, and became totally docile and amenable to Pharaoh’s control. These events provide a forecast or precursor for what is surely coming upon today’s world.

The first step was the slow but sure surrender of their money to Pharaoh—not just in Egypt but in Canaan (the rest of the world).

### **Genesis 47:13-14**

(13) *And there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very sore, so that the land of Egypt and all the land of Canaan fainted by reason of the famine.* (14) ***And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, for the corn which they bought: and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh’s house.***

Then with all their money gone, the next step was the acquiring of the people's livelihood—the means by which they earned a living—their cattle, flocks, herds, etc.

### **Genesis 47:15-17**

(15) And **when money failed** in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came unto Joseph, and said, Give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence? **for the money faileth.** (16) And Joseph said, **Give your cattle; and I will give you for your cattle, if money fail.** (17) And they brought their cattle unto Joseph: and **Joseph gave them bread in exchange for horses, and for the flocks, and for the cattle of the herds, and for the asses: and he fed them with bread for all their cattle for that year.**

The following year, with all their money now gone, and with their livelihoods now sold out, what were the people to do? They now sold their lands as well as themselves (became slaves) to Pharaoh! Furthermore, not only did Pharaoh thereby acquire the people as his possession, he also proceeded to relocate them into the cities where they would be easier to “manage.”

### **Genesis 47:18-22**

(18) When that year was ended, they came unto him the second year, and said unto him, We will not hide it from my lord, how that our money is spent; my lord also hath our herds of cattle; there is not ought left in the sight of my lord, but our bodies, and our lands: (19) Wherefore shall we die before thine eyes, both we and our land? **buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh:** and give us seed, that we may live, and not die, that the land be not desolate. (20) And **Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them: so the land became Pharaoh's.** (21) And **as for the people, he removed them to cities from one end of the borders of Egypt even to the other end thereof.** (22) Only the land of the priests bought he not; for the priests had a portion assigned them of Pharaoh, and did eat their portion which Pharaoh gave them: wherefore they sold not their lands.

Thus we come to the sum of the matter. By the end of the seven years of famine, Pharaoh now owned all means of production, he owned the people that dwelt in his realm, and he totally controlled their livelihood. Were the people in a state of rebellion? To the contrary, the people were thankful! **“Thou hast saved our lives: let us find grace in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants.”**

### **Genesis 47:23-26**

(23) *Then Joseph said unto the people, Behold, **I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh:** lo, here is seed for you, and ye shall sow the land. (24) *And it shall come to pass in the increase, that ye shall give the fifth part unto Pharaoh, and four parts shall be your own, for seed of the field, and for your food, and for them of your households, and for food for your little ones. (25) And **they said, Thou hast saved our lives: let us find grace in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants.** (26) *And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt unto this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth part; except the land of the priests only, which became not Pharaoh's.***

**Likewise, shall the end-time of Revelations be with the Dragon, the Beast, and his Image whom the people of this world will gladly worship!** Need to take a mark in one's hand or forehead? No problem, since they gladly worship him!

### **Revelation 13:4**

(4) *And **they worshipped the dragon** which gave power unto the beast: and **they worshipped the beast**, saying, **Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?***

Consider how the people of Egypt came to believe that Joseph's leadership was the greatest thing that could have happened to them. We now are beholding a repeat of this surrender of one's independence to become the servants of the Beast and his program. The people cannot trust in a loving god, but they can trust in the ruthless workings of Satan through his mocking of what God has previously done.

The plans of the WEF with their **Agenda 2030** (which are readily available to read online) now come clearly into view. By 2030, their plans clearly state that **"You'll Own Nothing And Be Happy."**

But how will such a vision be accomplished? Satan cannot control the weather (though the UN and WEF would have you believe so). However, his workers have already begun their willful destruction of all matters involving agriculture. Fertilizer so necessary for crop production has been greatly reduced and even forbidden. Food processing plants (both meat packing and plant processing) all over the world are burning down for no apparent reason. Farmers are required to sell their farms to the government so that their land might be taken out of production. Yes, Satan is doing all that he can to mimic God's working during Egypt's (and the world's) great famine. He must somehow reduce the food supply!

As during the time of the Egyptian/world fame, the future of the world today looks very bleak. Satan most definitely will take advantage of the situation so that he may become the world's great deliverer and provider.

**However, there is another very important aspect of the great Egyptian famine that we now need to consider.**

This one much closer indicates what we can expect from this final great shaking that our Lord will permit. That other event is **the restoration of Joseph with his family** described in **Genesis 42-46** that occurred shortly after the seven years of famine began.

In so many ways, this experience of Joseph and his reunion with his family following a long-time of separation provides *types-n-shadows* for what the Lord will yet accomplish in these last days. We now can clearly see how God used the famine that He permitted to come upon Egypt and the world to also accomplish the restoration of a long broken (in spirit) and separated family.

To consider the many *types-n-shadows* for what God will accomplish in our day and time that come from the experience of Joseph and his brothers would require several more sermons (articles) to adequately present. A quarter of Sunday School lessons could be written! In fact, a two-lesson set (Lessons 9 & 10) appeared in the 2015 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Sunday School lessons “*Mending Offences.*”

However, I encourage you to read **Genesis 42-46** and to observe how the Lord used something that otherwise could be considered evil to serve as the means for the restoration of this dysfunctional family. Allow me to share one particular passage from this account, the words of Joseph as he revealed himself to his brothers. It reveals how God has greater plans than we could ever imagine that He definitely will fulfill in accomplishing His greater purpose.

### **Genesis 45:5-7**

*(5) Now therefore **be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.** (6) For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest. (7) And **God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.***

I am filled with excitement to think that similarly, our Lord will use that which Satan intends for evil to accomplish the full restoration of all God’s family into one fold—the Church—as He prepares for our imminent rapture to the place of safety He has prepared (**John 14:3**)! The family of Joseph did not experience what the Egyptians experienced. Joseph sustained and sheltered his family throughout the remaining years of famine.

### **More than one famine is coming!**

Along with the **earthly famine** that Satan will use to secure his power over the earth, there will be another far more important **spiritual famine** upon this earth: **Amos 8:11**

*Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send **a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:***

This famine for **"hearing the words of the LORD"** will be used by the Lord to accomplish the full restoration of His sheep into His fold, the Church. Just as natural hunger was used to bring together Joseph and his family, a **spiritual famine** will be used to bring together all of God's sheep (***John 10:16***).

Our Lord will work, during this time when evil so abounds and Satan clearly is on course to rule this earth, to also bring together all his sheep from all corners of the world. They will come to where they can be spiritually fed.

Satan thinks by stopping the true Word of the Lord from going forth that he will gain control. In fact, Satan's deception within (false prophets, etc.) and his persecution without only serves to provide that famine for **"hearing the words of the LORD"** (**God's Final Great Shaking**) that will be used by the Lord to accomplish His **Great Inflow!**

Just as God used the Egyptian famine to accomplish the restoration of Jacob's house, God will build upon Satan's attempted Great Reset to accomplish His own Final Great Shaking, and the fruits of His shaking will be marvelous!

**God's Final Great Shaking will be the means to realizing God's Great Inflow!**



### **Fairmont, WV Reporting:**

We are happy to announce that we have a new member, Alyce Silvia (correctly spelled!). She lives in Paw Paw, WV near our eastern panhandle. She attends our services regularly via our use of ZOOM. She was a member of the Church of God of Prophecy since 1974. She is another sheep that has found her way home.

**PRAISE THE LORD!**

## **CONVENTION SCHEDULE**

### **District Conventions:**

**Southern:** Saturday, April 15, 2023—Page, WV

**Northern:** Saturday, April 29, 2023—Port Clinton, OH

**Regional Convention:** June 16-18, 2023—Fairmont, WV

## **An Inspirational Mini Sermon**

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

### **The Grit in You**

There is more “grit” in many people than we know about—or even than they themselves know. The reason is that nothing yet has come along to bring it out. The “training ground” will tell the story.

Can it be that the Church is turning David’s into cowards by never allowing them to kill a lion or a bear, or to face a Goliath alone with God? If we jump in ahead and shield them from the lesser foes, our history may read—“And David fell before the giant, never having learned to trust the Lord his God.”

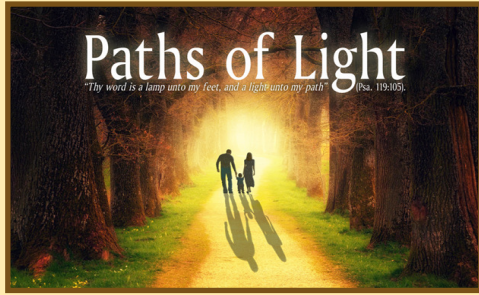
Division is caused by a failure to see alike. When two men are divided one or the other is wrong, or perhaps both. To cavil over things and disagree is a proof of ignorance. All who are right will agree. If we love our brother who is at fault, we will say little about him and simply love him. The best way for a thing to die is to stop talking about it.

We cannot afford to let division come in among us. We must have oneness—a real love for the truth. If we cannot see things alike let us humble ourselves before God and see who is right. Some rise up and say, “I’m going to fight the thing to the bitter end.” But you had better lie on your face before God. The one who raises his bristles first is generally in the wrong, and liable to be a thousand miles behind the other fellow.

At times it would be better for us not to open our mouths. What is the use to cavil over small matters? The ministers who engage in criticizing and picking flaws with one another in private conversation, make me think they have quit the fight against the one great enemy...A set of strong men are needed today who will fall on their faces before God rather than strive and cavil over questions of no value. Let us get emptied of our own wisdom and get God’s wisdom....A real brave soldier is one who takes a stand against his own self-will and puts his hand over his mouth as did old Brother Job, “Once have I spoken, but I will not answer; yea, twice, but I will proceed no further.”

*Excerpts from 8th Annual Assembly Address by A. J. Tomlinson*





**Sunday School Theme:**  
**“Paths of Light”**  
**Annette Oglesbee**  
**Regional Coordinator**

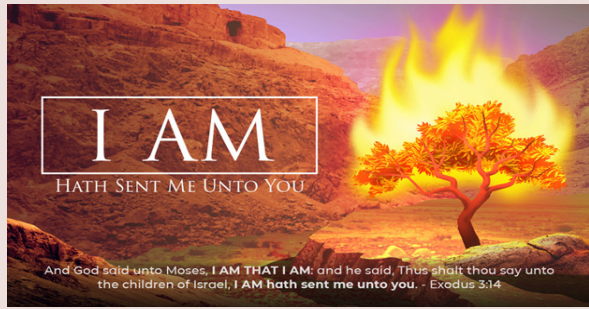
I feel so blessed with our **Treasures of Truth** Sunday School commentary. This quarter's lesson three says "to receive a miracle, we must be in need of a miracle."

As I talked with an 11-year-old child recently I can truly say we are in need of a miracle. She was angry and felt like the world's problems would be fixed if it weren't for Christians. She said that Christians need to mind their own business and leave everybody alone. A woman I work with shared with me a conversation she had with her 10 year old grandchild that was almost word for word of the conversation I had with the 11 year old child. It almost feels hopeless. Truly only a miracle can open these eyes. The things our children are being indoctrinated into in our school systems, movies, games, music, commercial advertising, and just about everything they see and hear is geared toward the deception of sinful lifestyles. The enemy is stealing our harvest.

Oh, do we ever need a miracle! Reach out to the perishing, making full use of the church functions, programs and auxiliaries. SUNDAY SCHOOL, CHILDREN'S CHURCH, VLBS, BIBLE STUDIES, BAND MEETINGS, in HOMES, VISITATION, TRACTS and so on, but always under the direction of the Holy Ghost in obedience to God's will.

Cry unto the Lord as Israel did in Gideon's time when they were living in caves and the enemy was stealing their harvest. God heard their cries and with a few obedient men God's glory was seen and brought them victory.

In 11 KINGS 3 ;16-19, the Scriptures say: “...*thus saith the Lord, make this valley full of ditches, for thus saith the Lord, ye shall not see wind, neither shall ye see rain yet the valley shall be filled with water.*” They were to dig ditches to hold the water where the water could remain instead of flowing away. We need a miracle. Let's prepare. A miracle is coming.



**Kandy Saunders**

**Regional WMB Coordinator**

## **Who Hath I AM Sent?**

### **THE GREATEST GIFT!**

*“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

*Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this” (Isaiah 9:6, 7).*

*“For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me” (John 17:8).*

Please join me in praying for our lost loved ones, our strays, our communities and friends to receive THE GREATEST GIFT that can ever be received, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

May the Lord bless you and your families in the coming new year.



## **Seth, WV Church News**

This photo shows some recent beautification of our Church property. Picture shows new cross and landscaping with some stone work in front of the Church at the end of the parking area along with our new fence made from metal roofing material.

We are rejoicing over a recent stray returning back home to the Church who was with us in Sunday School on the first Sunday in December.

We held a joint Sunday School and Christmas Dinner on the second Sunday of December at the Page Church.

Sister Lofton is in the Marmet Center Nursing Home. Please remember her in your prayers.



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

Have you heard the saying, “There is a right way and a wrong way to do something?” There was a man that wanted to build a boat. He started building his boat. He had a lot of friends that wanted to help, but they all had different ideas how they should build the boat. So, when the boat was finished it looked like a wagon and the man was upset so he told his friends this is your boat. I will take my plans and build my own boat.

There was a man a long time ago that was building a boat (Ark). His name was Noah. He was a man of God. Noah’s plans came from God and he did not change anything. It was God’s plans so in the end it did not look like a wagon. It was an Ark.

In the book of Genesis, the seventh chapter, verse fourteen describes it as being 450 feet long, 150 feet wide and 75 feet high. BTI teaches us all about God from His Word. We need to follow the Word as written. This is the plans to get to Heaven. Do not follow any plan but God’s.

A lot of churches today have refused to do God’s will. Brother Pimentel in his messages in the Evening Light each month can enlighten us in what is going on in this world and our church all over the world. BTI can be a blessing to everyone to study with others and with teachers who love God.

If everyone would read and take the advice, we could live a holy life. Brother Pimentel uses the Scripture in Isaiah 4:1 that this is how some want to live today. The old saying, “You can’t be a beacon if your light don’t shine” is the best way to explain as some use to say. Pray for each of our churches that we all can be a light to the world and to everyone we meet and talk to.



**Ronald Robe**  
**Regional CPMA Coordinator**

### **No Turning Back**

We consider stones and markers when we hear this phrase. Perhaps we should look at The Rock in these hard times. Jesus is The Rock in a weary land, this is an old song but I'm here to tell you that Jesus is our best example of stability ever, and there will never be anyone or thing any better.

Listen to the advice given us by the Apostle in these following verses:

#### **The Whole Armor of God**

(Ephesians 6:10) *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”*

Be strong, don't be a wimpy Christian. The writer here is talking about us knowing the Word and doing the Word. He is the one our power and might comes from. We sometimes think that we know more than God, how wrong we are.

(Eph. 6:11) *“Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”*

You will need all God's armor to stand up to the devil and his deceit that is ahead. Look, that's what is going on in our families today. Trials and tribulations, heart aches, just plain old sin tearing our families apart .

(Eph. 6:12) *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”*

It's not things we can always see but things that are hidden, things like gender issue and mixed marriages. These things will bring us down if we let them.

(Eph. 6:13) *“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.”*

If we have applied everything we have been taught (all) then let nothing sway you. Let not your heart be changed in any way. Stand Tall.

(Eph. 6:14) *“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;”*

Truth here means to live a life as Jesus did, no deception or lies, don't fool yourself or others, be Holy as he is Holy.

(Eph. 6:15) *“And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;”*

Know what the Word of God teaches us about peace and live by it. Read the Word daily so you know what it says.

(Eph. 6:16) *“Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”*

Believe what the Word teaches and practice it. If you cannot believe you will be lost.

(Eph. 6:17) *“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:”*

Salvation keeps you sane in today's world. Followed by God's Spirit (guide) He leads where you should go, all this is God's will.

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

Prayer seems to be key for all these things to work. Allow the Holy Ghost to pray for you. Pray for everyone you know. We all need each other's prayers. Also pray continuously for your loved ones. Chains of sin must be broken and prayers are what will do it.

(Eph. 6:19) *“And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,”*

(Eph. 6:20) *“For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”*

Don't forget to join the C.P.M.A. (\$15.00). The latest stone in Israel may someday lead them to the true Messiah. You can be a part of that. Join the C.P.M.A. You need not be a church member to join.

Happy  
New  
Year

2023

**CARE**  
FOR  
**EVERY**  
**ONE**

1 Corinthians 12:25



**Wanda Sutherland**  
**Regional ABM Coordinator**

Behold, how good and  
how pleasant it is for  
brethren to dwell  
together in unity!

Psalm 133:1

Rejoice in the unity of the brethren



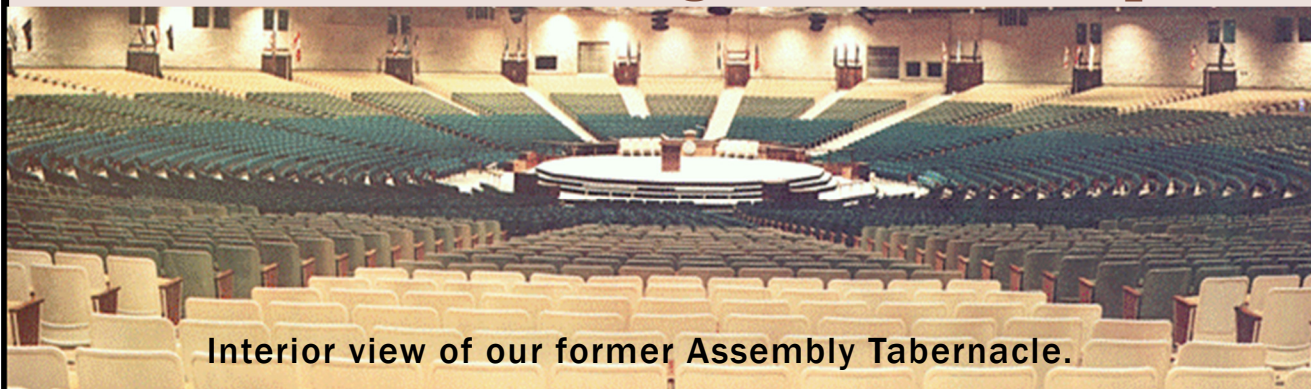
What a wonderful day it is when God's people come to worship and praise the Lord.

There is no greater joy on earth. The ABM strives toward that goal. Surely we want the same care one for another. Not a single one left behind. Jesus is our prime example of love and caring. Let us follow his steps and rise to the challenge that lies before us.

May God richly bless each and every one of you and keep you in his care.

Wanda Sutherland ABM coordinator

## Tabernacle Fundraising Coordinator Update



Interior view of our former Assembly Tabernacle.

Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work. (Nehemiah 2:18)

I have been appointed as Regional Tabernacle Fundraising Coordinator by our Regional Overseer, Brother James Smith. Following are some ideas for boosting this worthy fund. All ideas are being presented on a voluntary basis, but our hopes are that everyone will be inspired and get excited to promote the raising of funds to purchase property and build a new Assembly Tabernacle. One or several of these ideas can be implemented on an individual or a local church basis. I would like each local church to report their progress to me on a regular basis so I can report it in our regional paper and boost the funds for this drive—Walter Lofton, Coordinator.

◆

\*Each Church member donate \$1.00 for each year they have been a member of the Church (including Church of God of Prophecy and The Church of God membership) every year until property is purchased and a new tabernacle is constructed.

\*Individual \$2,000.00 per year worker for each year this project is in progress.

\*Individual \$40.00 per month donation for the duration of this project.

\*One special tabernacle offering each month by each local Church for the duration of this project.

\*Other ideas to follow.

\*If you have an interesting idea for this fundraising project please feel free to present it to me.

**As of the publication of this issue of the paper we have raised over \$600,000.00! Praise be to God!!!**



**An old newspaper clipping from an unknown source showing a person touching a tree in Crystal City, Texas. The tree resembles Christ on the cross.**