

The Church of God

Great Lakes Mountaineer Region



Ohio



West Virginia



Michigan

Issue No. 27

Fall Quarter 2023

Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional



News

Official Publication of

The Church of God

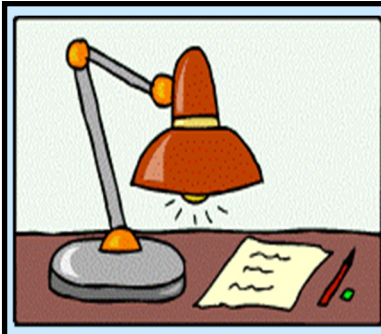
In

Michigan—Ohio—West Virginia

James T. Smith—Regional Overseer

Walter Lofton—Editor

www.tcog-glmr.org



From the desk of the
Regional Overseer
James T. Smith



We Must Declare All The Counsel of God

Our GLMR regional theme for this Church year's labors is "***We Must Declare All The Counsel of God.***" This thought, taken from Acts 20:27, is part of Paul's discourse to the elders of Ephesus with whom he met at Miletus while on his return to Jerusalem from his third mission journey, as recorded in Acts 20:17-38. This special meeting with the elders was an opportunity for Paul to provide much needed instructions and guidance to the Church leadership of Ephesus; especially since he expected this would likely be his last time to minister to them in person (Acts 20:25).

He began his discourse (Acts 20:18-21) by reminding them of what manner of ministering he had shared with them during his three years serving in Ephesus (Acts 20:31). The details of those three years are found in Acts 19. In particular, Acts 19:8-12 provides a record of Paul operating the first recorded *BTI* school from which ministers went forth to serve "*so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks*" (Acts 19:1).

This reminder of his manner of ministering would provide a foundation for his instructing them in what manner of ministers they ought to be, especially in light of the expectation of "*wolves in sheep's clothing*" coming in among the flock (Acts 20:29).

Paul provided a summary of his prior ministering to Ephesus in Acts 20:18-21:—(18) "*And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, (19) Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews: (20) And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, (21) Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Many years later when Paul was facing his imminent martyrdom for the Lord, Paul was still teaching the same instructions to the ministry. His last letter (to Timothy) expresses essentially these same instructions in 2 Timothy 4:1-5: (1) *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;* (2) *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.* (3) *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;* (4) *And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.* (5) *But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.*

We are living in a day when so many who once knew God's truth, believed and practiced it with all their "soul, mind, and strength" (Mark 12:30) are now being deceived and lead astray, individually, collectively (small groups), and as entire organizations (denominations), as Paul warned the Ephesians (Act 20:28-30), and Timothy, and us! (II Timothy 4:3-4).

More now than ever before, we need to commit ourselves to "make full proof of [our] thy ministry"! We must reach them before it is too late with "all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:27). The whole truth rightly divided has been given to the Church. If we do not tell them, who will?



The Gospel Is:

The Gospel is a fact; therefore, tell it simply.

The Gospel is a joyful fact; therefore, tell it cheerfully.

The Gospel is an entrusted fact; therefore, tell it faithfully.

The Gospel is a fact of infinite moment; therefore, tell it earnestly.

The Gospel is a fact of infinite love; therefore, tell it feelingly.

The Gospel is a fact of difficult comprehension to many; therefore, tell it with illustration.

The Gospel is a fact about a Person; therefore, preach Christ.

— Archibald Brown

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)

Have you heard the good news?



**We have now reached our goal of
\$ 1,000,000.00
toward our Tabernacle property
down payment!**

PRAISE THE LORD !!!

We must not stop nor slow down now! There is much work yet to be done. When we acquire the property much renovation and construction projects will be needed and this requires a mountain of finances. God will help us as we work together toward the goal of having a centralized location for our Headquarters and future Assembly Tabernacle. This is God's work and He will help us accomplish this task. I am excited over this project!

Let us all get excited and move forward for this great work!

**Keep up the good fund raising and generous giving and see what
God will do!**

Tabernacle Zeal !!!

Prayer and A Good Hickory

George Stuart, a southern evangelist, tells of a lady who raised seven Christian sons, with not a black sheep in the flock. When asked how she did it, she replied, "I did it with prayer and a good hickory."

On one occasion down in Virginia after a service during which he had recounted this story, a gentleman came to him and gripped his hand. With tears in his eyes he said, "Don't fail wherever you go to impress upon the people that old woman's prayer and hickory method."

Then he told this story. "I was the indulgent father of an only son. I was sitting by the fire at night after my son had been sent home for insubordination to school authority for the second time. My wife asked, "Why don't you come to bed."

"I replied, I cannot sleep."

"Why?" she asked.

I said, "I am thinking about our boy."

She replied, 'It is your fault. You have never controlled him, and how could you expect others to do so?'

"The words were like a dagger to my heart, but I knew that it was true. I sank down on my knees by my chair and prayed, "O God, if you will forgive me the past, I will control that boy in the future.' I slept little that night. The next morning after breakfast I said to the boy, 'Come and go with me.' He was fifteen years old. We walked out into the woodland together near the house."

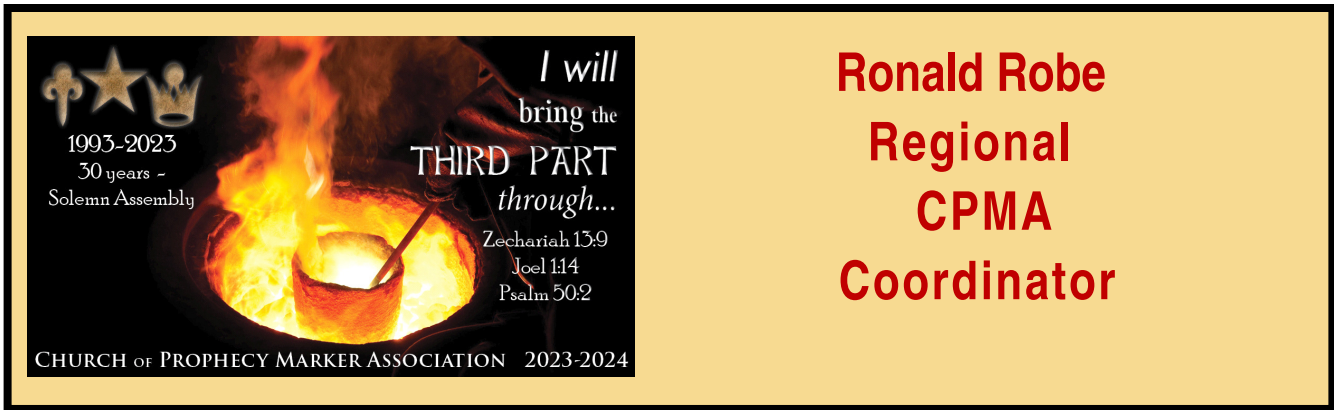
"I cut a good switch and rehearsed to the boy his course of disobedience and explained to him my own mistakes. I told him that I had brought him out here to correct him for his disobedience. I told him to take off his coat.

"He replied, 'I won't do it.'

"I looked him in the face and said, "My boy, I am your father, and you are my son. I promised God Almighty on my knees last night that I would control you, and I will whip you here this morning, or you and I will stay in this woodland. Take off your coat, Sir.' He saw in my eye for the first time in his life the spirit of authority. He drew the coat off in a moment, and I gave him a sound thrashing, at the conclusion of which I said, 'Now knee down with me.' We knelt together, and I told God of my own neglect and of the conduct of my boy and promised God in the boy's hearing to be faithful to my duty the remainder of my life, and prayed God's blessing on my wayward child.

When we arose from our knees, he put his arms around my neck and his head on my shoulder. We wept together for a long time. Finally, he said, 'I will never give you any more trouble.' And from that day to this I have never had a care about him. He has been the most obedient son a father ever had. He is married now, and is an official in the church, and no truer, nobler Christian man walks the earth than my precious son." —*Adopted from a Tract*

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it (Prov. 22:6).



As you know we are now starting a brand-new year, this means that our C.P.M.A. membership is now due. Our new theme is **I will bring the third part through the fire.** This is not a fire like Shadrach went through but it's similar.

Zechariah 13:7-9— “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones. (8) 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.”

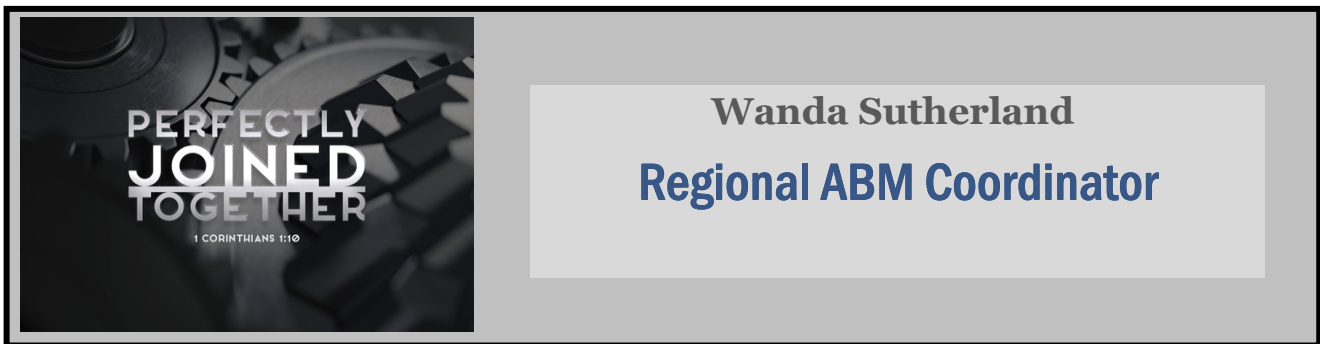
I want to be refined how about you, I want to be is holy and pure as I can be. *Zechariah 3:13— “The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.”*

Look what it says in *Zephaniah 3:13— “The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.”*

Daniel 3:9-17 tells us: *“They Spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live forever. (10) Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musik, shall fall down and worship the golden image: (11) And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. (12) There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. (13) Then Nebuchadnezzar in his rage and fury commanded to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Then they brought these men before the king.”* Does this sound like the world trying to tell us what we should do what we shouldn't do? Shadrach didn't yield and the king was mad, they wouldn't listen to him.

Daniel 3:14: *“Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?”* The king couldn't believe that they wouldn't listen, he decided he'd show them his authority. Verse. 15: *“Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?”* The King's ultimatum was “you bow down and worship my idols, or be thrown into a fire where you will die.”

Daniel 3:16: *“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. (17) If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. (18) But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.”*



We think of First Corinthians 1:10 where Paul writes:

“Now I beseech you brethren by the name of our lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, that there be no divisions among you: but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement.” God will direct us. He will always show us the way we should go. His paths are paths of peace and love.

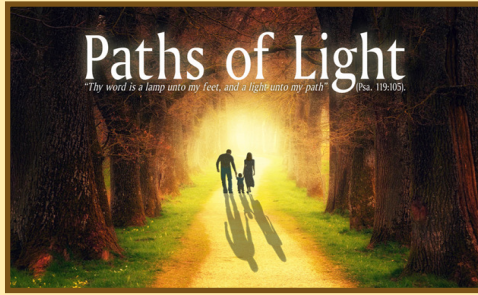
We must remember that Christ is the Head. To go against the head is falling out of unity. How can we reach the goal of perfect unity? I believe it is only through the working of the Spirit. Only the Spirit can change us into his image.

We are the clay, He is the potter, He knows just how to mold us. You surely have seen the beautiful pottery that the Master potter creates. It is with much skill and precision that He creates beautiful pots and bowls.

So, it is with the Lord. The things He creates in us brings unity to the whole body. We are knit together in love. Think of when the whole body comes together. That beauty of the Lord radiates and that sweet smelling aroma before the Lord.

We should not ever want to do or say anything that causes that beauty to be marred. We must strive for the unity of the faith.

May God richly bless each one of you in our upcoming Church year,



Sunday School Theme: “Paths of Light”

Annette Oglesbee
Regional Coordinator

The Hebrew word for light is *ohr*. It means to bring order to something chaotic, void and without form, and darkness. Is that not what sinful man is?

A lamp produces light and chases away darkness. It lights the path for a traveler. Walking in the path is like walking in the truth as revealed by Gods Word. God’s Word brings light and order to a chaotic dark World.

First John 1:5-6 *“This then is the message which we have heard of him and declare unto you, that God is light. And in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness we lie and do not the truth.”*
Psalm 119:105 *“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”*

Now picture someone walking in pitch black darkness with a small lamp to light the way. This world is extremely dark but even when we face many difficulties in dark situations, commitment to Gods word will light the way.

David was completely devoted to Gods Word. He didn’t have the whole Bible that we have today. This book of Psalms that we get so much comfort from was not yet written. All the relationships God had with man is recorded in the Word for our learning.

When sin entered the world man lost something so valuable—that personal relationship with God. Now man himself is in that same condition that was described in the beginning *“...the earth was without form and void and darkness was upon the face of the deep.”* He was dead in sin. Sin covered the earth with darkness and separated man from God.

John 3:16 *“But God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have ever lasting life.”*

John 8:12 *“Then Jesus spoke again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world. He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.”*

With a candle or a lamp or a flashlight, car light, campfire and so on, there is limited visibility of the surrounding area. God does not fully reveal the future. We may not see the path far ahead but the light of God safely leads us. We can’t fall behind the light, and we can’t get ahead of it, we must walk in the light.

How long would you survive if you didn't have daily nourishment for the physical body? We will not survive without the daily nourishment of God's Word. Feasting daily on God's Word causes us to be in tune with the Word if we allow the Spirit to lead us in that truth. Then we will be more like Jesus and reflect His light out into this dark world for others to see.

John 1:1 *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word with God and the Word was God. (3) All things were made by him and without him was not anything that was made."* Genesis 1:1 *"In the beginning GOD created...(2) ...and the Spirit of God moved (3) ...And God said let there be light and there was light."* Jesus is the Word made flesh. The Word created physical light in the darkness and then brought order to things for the good of man. Jesus came to light a spiritually dark world for the good of man that he might have life.

In Matthew 5:14-16 Jesus told his disciples: *"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let you light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven."*

In Revelation the candlestick is the church, a city on a hill. The light of the candle is Jesus Christ the Word. The candle is the instrument that shines the light. Jesus told his disciples *"...ye are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before men that they may see.....and Glorify your Father which is in heaven."*

Light needs a constant source, or it will burn out. It needs to be continually recharged or replenished with oil. Remember the five foolish virgins who let their lamps burn out.

We have a lighthouse near where I live. It is no longer used by ships but when it was, it had a keeper who maintained it and kept it in good working order. If the light was not kept clean it could barely be seen. In a storm a desperate sailor on a ship might even miss it and never find their way in the storm that would surely sink their ship and destroy them.

Sunday School is like that light house. It must be maintained and shining out to those who are looking and guide them safely to the shore where they can be safe.

What a good example for Children's Church. To be a light to help other children come to the shore by the light of the light house (Sunday school), a place of safety in this dark world. A place where light is shining. A place of refuge and hope where they can learn that God loves them so much that he gave his only begotten Son to save them.

Stay in God's Word and let the light shine through our Sunday School and Children's Church work. God bless you all my brothers and sisters.

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Stay in God's Word and let the light shine through our Sunday School and Children's Church work.

God bless you all by brothers and sisters.



Kandy Saunders
Regional WMB
Coordinator

Theme Scripture:

Mark 16:15

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

I would like to recap, in part, Sister Sharon Griffin's message she preached at the General Assembly.

There was a rushing mighty wind. Satan knew the Holy Ghost would change the world and propel the church forward. He surely trembled on the Day of Pentecost when all were in one accord and in the upper room as the Holy Ghost sat upon them with cloven tongues of fire as the Spirit filled them. The gates of hell shook as Satan had tried and tried to stop God's plan. Since the beginning he has interfered and tried to hinder, even stop God's program. But the power had come. The Holy Ghost made His arrival making the Church unstoppable for Christ. The Holy Ghost is the one that makes men and women unstoppable for God.

For example, Joseph was a proper man of God. He faced many trials and suffered greatly, but he was bullet proof. He was faithful, obedient and never wavered or gave up on God no matter the circumstances. He was unstoppable. The heart of this man, Joseph, was sold out to God. Serving God was most important to him. How? Or, why?

Not only did Joseph have the favor of God, I believe God placed something special in his heart and deep into his soul. This "something special" gave him the power to stand and to carry out God's plan for his life. It was God's keeping power. God gave Joseph a dream, a vision and surely he held on to the details of it. We too, must have the vision of the church and hold on to the details of it; for that is part of the keeping power God has given.

Proverbs 29:18 says: “Where there is no vision, the people perish...” We are never and can never be unstoppable on our own. The Holy Ghost is the one to lead us to victory. Let us pray that He stir up within us and go through us. Let Him do His unstoppable work in us and through us and we can stand and see the results of the Lord's mighty unstoppable power.

Please remember our Missionaries and Mission teams in prayer.

October World Mission Drive Goal: \$100,000+

May God bless you,

Ladies Retreats:

Hastings, MN 9/22 - 9/24/2023

Garden Valley, ID 10/13 - 10/15/2023

Costa Rica 3/1 - 3/3/2024 (passport required)

Pigeon Forge, TN 3/8 - 3/10/2024

Argentina 4/12 - 4/14/2024 (passport required)



Theme: Having Done All to Stand

Ephesian 6:13, 14 “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. (14) Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;”

As children we started to school and some go through high school and some through college. As we get into the work force after the training we start going through the ups and downs of life dealing with the work place, paying bills—rent, car payments and etc.— and wrestle with flesh and blood which is a battle. And as saved blood bought children of God, we have to battle the devil who is always around, but thank God as Paul said, we can put on the whole armor of God. I thank God every day for that divine Institution. We can't find anything like the BTI in the denominations. With Bible Training Institute we can enjoy two weeks in Cleveland, Tennessee and will learn how to put on the whole armor of God with the Holy Ghost inspired teachers of BTI.

As Paul said in Ephesians 6:13, we may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore with truth and righteousness.



Walter Lofton
Regional
Evangelism Coordinator

Our Evangelism Theme for this year is **“Into His Harvest”** and is taken from Luke 10:2. *“Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.”*

In speaking for our region, I believe most of us feel an overwhelming sense of helplessness when it comes to going and evangelizing new fields and winning people for Christ and to the Church. This feeling is due in part, if not mostly, to the general age of most of our workers. We are not blessed with many young folks in our region and most of our current worker are retirement age or approaching this age. Due to limited good health of folks in this age category it is harder to get out and go to areas that need evangelizing.

So what are we to do? According to our theme Scripture we are instructed by the Head of the Church to PRAY for labourers to be sent into the harvest. That is our answer.

Prayer is the main ingredient in every work that we are to do for Christ. He, Himself prayed constantly for the work that was before Him while He was on this earth. He prayed all night before organizing His Church. He drew aside many times for prayer when others were resting or sleeping. Just before going to the cross to pay for our eternal redemption He sought to be alone in the Garden of Gethsemane where he spent quality time in agonizing prayer to the point of sweating great drops of blood; getting Himself ready for submission to His Father’s will. If we want— indeed, if we have results—we must pray in earnest for God to help us in the great work before us in winning souls for Him.

Even if we could do the work in our own strength, God would not bless it until we prayed before Him to include Him in our work; for we are labourers together with Him. It takes prayer in all we do to be successful in our work.

We need to grow in our local memberships. We need to grow in the number of churches in our region. Most of all we need to grow in the number of conversions in our evangelistic work. Let us not shirk from doing the best we can and then leaning on the arm of the Lord in prayer for the part we cannot do ourselves, trusting Him for the impossible.