

The Church of God

Great Lakes Mountaineer Region



Ohio



West Virginia



Michigan

Issue No. 30

Fall Edition 2024

Great Lakes Mountaineer Regional



News

Official Publication of

The Church of God

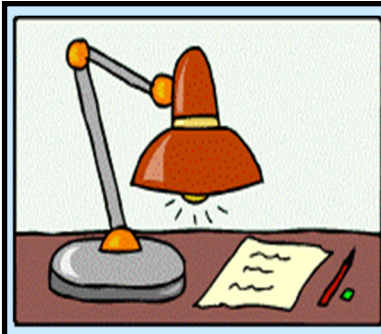
In

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



Put On the Whole Armour of God, That Ye May Be Able to Stand

In our last article “Think It Not Strange” we considered the thought expressed by Peter regarding the role that trials, tribulations, and tests play in our serving the Lord.

“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” (1 Peter 4:12, 13).

Now, we will consider how we should prepare for and respond to these events that will surely come our way. Consider that when we receive severe weather alerts (tornado, flooding, hurricane, etc.), we are admonished to take appropriate steps and actions to prepare for their certainty—that we not only may ourselves survive, but that we also may be in a position to help others!

Fortunately, the Lord has left us with a “plan”—what we should do that we may be ready for whatever spiritual storm may be coming our way. Consider the admonition of Paul to the Ephesian church. He had just presented them with comprehensive instructions regarding the nature of the Church, its purpose, its organization, its operation, etc. He then finishes with instructions on the personal level. In light of what he had just shared regarding the nature of the Church, what should be our response?

Ephesians 6:10-18: “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. (11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (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. (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. (14) Stand therefore, having your loins girt about

with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; (15) And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (16) Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: (18) Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”

First, Paul tells us (vs. 10-11) what we need to do to prepare for what certainly is coming our way *“be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God.”* Having taken these steps, we certainly will *“be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”* Thus, we see that our successful preparation for what is coming (from individually for each one of us, to globally for all of us) is totally dependent upon Him: His strength, His might, and His armour. This is not the time to go looking for other solutions, our future success is totally dependent on Him.

Second, in verse 12 we are told why HE is our only hope: *“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.”* We are in a spiritual warfare. It may have earthly (fleshly) manifestations, but behind those outward manifestations are spiritual forces that only the Lord can overcome. In our own power and might, we are helpless! So, what are we to do?

Third, the answer to our dilemma is clear. Verse 13 reaffirms verse 11: *“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.”* Again, we are admonished to take the whole armour of God (ALL of it!). Each item of that armour has a special role that it contributes to our successfully defeating the enemy.

Four, Paul enumerates in verses 14-17 a sampling of those attributes that comprise the armour of God. The listing includes: truth, righteousness, gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and Word of God. However, just having these is not enough, though. For example, many people own a Bible (maybe several Bibles) that they never read! How much good is this “sword” doing them? Many people have the “truth” but have long ago forsaken it!

Many people treat these elements of our spiritual armour in the same way that the man who received a talent from his lord (Matthew 25:14-30), and immediately chose to bury it. He still had possession of his

talent, which he easily restored to his master when required. However, his otherwise neglect of that talent was viewed as *“wicked and slothful”* by his lord (vs. 26).

Simply possessing armour does not make one a warrior. Are you able to use them, effectively? You will find yourself in the same situation as David when wearing King Saul’s armour: *“And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him”* (1 Samuel 17:39).

For the armour of our Lord to accomplish what He has intended, we must become one with our armour—it becomes a part of us, our way of walking, talking, acting! We would not think of going forth without it!

The Lord not only gives us what we need (His whole armour), but He also will send those experiences (could include the trials that Peter spoke of) that will train us, discipline us, prepare us for the spiritual battles that will surely come our way. If we will permit Him to thus work in our lives, we will be more than sufficiently prepared for whatever spiritual battles lay ahead us.



Sunday School Boost Annette Oglesbee Regional Coordinatoor

Greetings brothers and sisters. It is obvious to most people in the world today, that time is winding up. The corruption of our society is more than we could ever have imagined just a few years ago. Surely Christ will come for His Bride soon. We want to be ready for the rapture. We want to win as many to Christ as possible. Ephesians 5:16 states: “Redeeming the time because the days are evil.” Time is a gift from God. We must seize every opportunity and use it for God's glory. Titus 3:8 tells us to be careful to maintain good works. We do not know how much time we have. The Church must be diligent about teaching and preaching the Word of God. Come to Sunday School and invite others. God bless you all with peace and joy that passes all understanding.



Ronald Robe
Regional
CPMA
Coordinator

“Every member must have a thorough knowledge of the Word of God so that he could have a clear vision of the Church of God in our day. We rejoice over the fact that Jesus established the Church, and we rejoice because John saw it in the perfected state, and if we have a bright vision of the Church, we can be confident about it at this present time, and we can labor to have a part in bringing the Church to the state of perfection outline for it in the Bible.”—*M. A. Tomlinson, Annual Address, 1964.*

Lately I've been thinking about how the Holy Ghost has told us to return to the old paths, in my mind's eye the only way to do that is to return to the Word, and apply it to our lives.

If we want to shine brightly, we must look like Jesus, act like Jesus and be like Jesus. This is not an easy task to accomplish; it takes prayer, fasting and a holy and righteous life. The only way to reach this is through the Word of God and what God instructs.

We're going to have to seek to stay within the boundaries of the Word of God and the multitude of counselors which are over us in the Lord. Those with much vision will serve God with all their hearts (Mark 12:30) and will prepare themselves for the most blessed time that the Church has ever had.

Can we allow the Church, the Word and Jesus to have their way? We must go forward, not backward. I don't want to always go back to the old paths, I want to go forward into the old paths that really glisten for the Lord.

It is time to join the CPMA and support the work of the Lord in this new ASSEMBLY YEAR.

Give your Treasurer \$15 dollars for your membership!

Let's get TO 100% as soon as possible.

Praying for you and I love you, Brother Robe.



Alyce Silvia
Regional BTI
Coordinator

Our General BTI Coordinator, Brother Horton, announced the 2025 new theme of "**The Unmovable, Unchangeable, Unshakable Foundation of God**" Gods words are so profound.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58).

"...but this man [Jesus], because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood" (Heb. 7:24).

"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" (Heb.12:27).

God has not changed His Word for profit, prestige or for membership numbers. He is the same yesterday, today and will be the same for all tomorrows.

It was mentioned at the Assembly, that a place this past year had only one teacher to teach BTI. For anyone who hasn't attended, there's five different subjects. I can't imagine teaching five different subjects, one after the other each and every day. I know that teacher was in God's hands helping him.

There's three BTI's other than the East and West Coasts who already have their dates. Two that are being worked on, are in the Dominican Republic and the Philippines and still in the planning stage is one in Northern Mexico. Southern Mexico was just completed with 250 students; 132 of them were first term students. Let's look at the dedication and devotion of these students. Classes were held outside under a tarp, imagine, no air conditioning in mid-August the hottest month of the year with temperatures over 90 degrees and high humidity. That tells me God is moving, touching hearts and calling His children into His service.

The West Coast BTI for 2025 is scheduled for April 18-26 and East Coast BTI is scheduled for May 18-31. We need to help these instructors financially and with fervent prayer to reach as many people as possible with the whole truth.

—continued on next page

To study and know the Bible we will know the truth. What better place to study than a course that teaches the Bible rightly dividing the Old and New Testaments!

“The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: But the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness” (Prov. 15:14).

“For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee” (Isa. 60:2).

Please be generous with your offerings and prayers for BTI to help spread the gospel to these countries and regions. Also pray for more teachers and students who desperately need the wisdom, knowledge and training needed to finish the work of Christ as set forth, saying in Proverbs 4:5 and 7: *“Get wisdom, get understanding: Forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.”* [7] *“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: And with all thy getting get understanding.”*

If you would like to go to BTI, East or West Coast, Scan the QR code to register for 2025 semesters. We have plenty of time now to start saving up and anticipating the wonderful fellowship and spiritual fulfilling that BTI is guaranteed have.



Let's Keep Our Tabernacle Zeal Running High!

In the November issue of *The Evening Light* you will find instructions pertaining to fund raising for the upcoming Assembly year from the Tabernacle Advancement Committee. Please familiarize yourselves with this information and see how far you can advance this worthy project at your local church. I am excited and am expecting great things this year as we work together to advance this great cause.

At my local church we set aside one Sunday evening offering each month for the Tabernacle. Also I am boosting one dollar for each year each member has been a member of the Church, plus one dollar for each year of their age. Feel free to use this idea in your church if you feel inspired to do so. May God bless all your fund raising efforts.



Kandy Saunders Regional WMB Coordinator

Featuring an example of an Unstoppable missionary of old:

Fanny J. Crosby

Resource: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia from

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fanny_Crosby

She lived most of her life, 83 years, prior to the Arise, Shine event and unfortunately, she did not have the opportunity to hear the Church message. If she had, I'm sure she would have joined the church.

Could she not be compared to David? He was a man after God's own heart. I'm glad to have read her account and I believe she loved God and loved people. What a blessing to learn that she came to a point in her life where she realized that something was lacking in her spiritual life. She knew that she had gotten wrapped up in social, political, and educational reform, and did not have a true love for God in her heart.

After being troubled by a dream, she went to revival meetings at a Methodist Church in New York city where she twice vainly sought the peace with God she craved, but which she finally realized during a congregational hymn of consecration while seeking God alone at the altar. Crosby stated that she then felt "flooded with celestial light."

Oh, that our loved ones would experience an encounter such as this where the Holy Ghost would show them of their desperate state, where they stand and make them aware they need God, now.

Fanny Crosby was mission-minded. She had a love for mission work. In fact, she wanted to be considered primarily as a rescue mission worker. She had a God-given talent to write hymns. Many of her hymns emerged from her mission work.

Amazing to me, she was involved in many types of mission work.

Home missions movement—Rescue missions movement—Urban rescue missions—and Prison missions.

What did she do? She visited the people. She spoke at services. She ministered through her hymns. She shared her testimony. She prayed and counseled. And she raised Funds!

One amazing fact about Fanny Crosby is that she was blind from infancy and just look how God used her and how "unstoppable" she was in the work of the Lord I wonder how many are not using their God-given, God-inspired talent, yet? Let us all get busy and do all we can for the glory of God and His Church.

Luke 10:2 states: *"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."*

Thank you and God bless you for giving in prayer and funds for the October World Missions Drive.

In his annual address to the 30th Assembly in 1935 our former General Overseer, **A. J. Tomlinson** made the following observation: "Efforts have been made at intervals for years to move our headquarters to some other city, but every effort failed, so for the last few years we have seemed to settle down and just conclude it may be the Lord's plan and will for Cleveland to be regarded by us as the Capital of the world for the Church of God."

An Inspirational Mini Sermon

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

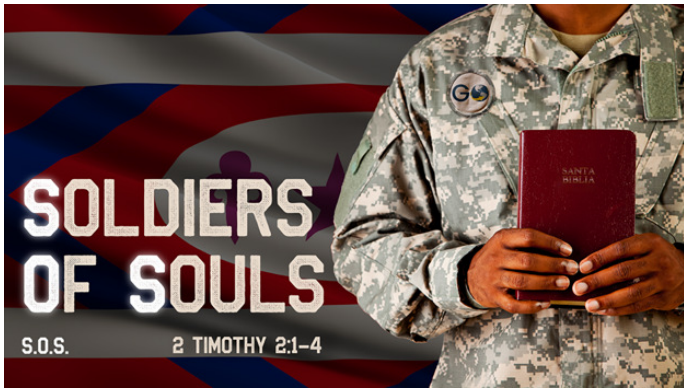
Use the Book rightly

A barrister who trained students for the practice of law was asked why he put his students, from the very first, through the study and analysis of the most difficult parts of the Sacred Scriptures.

"Because," he said, "there is nothing else like it, in any language, for the development of mind and character."

This particular barrister was not a religious man, but he used the Bible to advantage. In his own case, it may have profited him nothing beyond the name of being a good instructor. We would hope that, in time, the subject matter may have reached the hearts of the learners.

But oh, how many there are who use Scriptures out of context for no better purpose than to justify their own prejudices, or to prove themselves right in wrongdoing!



Evangelism Boost

Walter Lofton

Regional Coordinator

I am sharing the following message in the interest of evangelism as it relates to prayer. As you read this please bear in mind our General Overseer's admonition to us in the recent General Assembly: "Before I organize, I will agonize."

PRAYING BOLDLY

By David Mains

[Taken from his book; *The Sense of His Presence*—Word Publishing, 1988]

"Revival and prayer always go together. They are inseparably linked."

I have a conviction that to experience another day of awakening in the Church, leaders are going to have to model what *boldness* in prayer is all about.

Boldness regarding prayer is mentioned frequently in the New Testament, and I'm convinced that boldness for the most part is lacking in the prayers of the Church and desperately needs to be rediscovered. Never has there been awakening without God's people learning the efficacy of prayer.

The Church knows boldness when all its people pray exactly as though they were talking to Jesus face to face. The less Christians sense His presence, the less bold or confident they will be when coming before Him in prayer. This doesn't take the deductive reasoning of a genius to figure out; why put a lot into a conversation if you think the person you're talking to is not listening? Why be bold when your mind hasn't been captured by the majesty of the One to whom you come to speak? The modeling of prayer in our worship services as little more verbalizations says to observing people. "Don't expect much, folks, because we don't really sense that the King is near enough to be responding at the moment."

How would the life of the Church be transformed if we were all actually to hear Jesus say, "My subjects, I'm attentive and receptive right now to what you as a people have to say to me."

I often get a feeling, when people share their prayer requests, that the requests relate more to surface issues than to substantive ones. Seldom do the matters at hand touch in any way the deep concerns of the King who is being addressed. Instead, most of the requests expressed seem to center on the comfort of the subject voicing it. I believe that the Church must learn to refrain from voicing requests that would sound silly were the King bodily present to hear and to respond.

If our prayers in church were actually spoken as though we were talking to Christ face to face, sooner or later a spiritual reality would begin to make itself known. This authenticity would then be caught by Sunday morning attendees, and eventually would make its way into the small prayer groups in the Church, as well as into individual prayer closets and private groanings before the Lord. God's people would rapidly begin to know a new and mighty confidence and boldness. When we realize that this is the King of the universe and that He has truly given us His attention, that realization results in boldness. And before we know it, we see early signs of awakening. Revival and prayer always go together. They are inseparably linked.

Some might think boldness in prayer means storming into heaven's courts demanding attention. This is not boldness in the way Christ taught it or modeled it. Instead, boldness is the picture of a confident servant coming to his master in an attitude of praise. The mindset is one of wanting most of all to serve the Lord well. Knowing God's will and doing it is the primary desire.

How the Church today languishes for this kind of praying. And in order for us to know success in this area, I believe huge adjustments must be made. I challenge all concerned Christians to examine their personal and corporate prayer lives in this light.

I suspect that the way to begin correcting this problem is in the privacy of our own times alone with Christ. And whether it's a short session or a long season of prayer—the question of importance is this: Are you conscious that Christ is there in the room with you, or are you just talking to the walls? Are you *bold* in prayer?

PLEASE BEAR IN MIND that our General Evangelism Coordinator, Brother Jerry Campbell, has announced a **World Wide Revival** for April 11-13, 2025 for every local church around the world. May we all do our best to plan to participate in this event for souls and for the edification of The Church of God around the world. See *The Evening Light* and the Church website for more information.



Psalm 95:1-6

*O come, let us sing unto the LORD:
let us make a joyful noise to the rock
of our salvation.*

*Let us come before his presence with
thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise
unto him with psalms.*

*For the LORD is a great God, and a
great King above all gods.*

*In his hand are the deep places of the
earth: the strength of the hills is his
also.*

*The sea is his, and he made it: and his
hands formed the dry land.*

*O come, let us worship and bow
down: let us kneel before the LORD
our maker.*