

The Church of God

Great Lakes Mountaineer Region



Issue No. 31

Spring Edition 2025

**Great Lakes
Mountaineer
Regional**

Niles, MI
Port Clinton, OH
Castalia, OH
Fairmont, WV
Page, WV
Seth, WV

News

Official Publication of

The Church of God

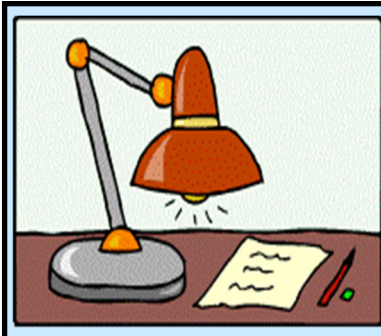
In

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*



Proving What Is Acceptable Unto The Lord

In our last article *“Put On the Whole Armour of God...”* we considered how we should prepare for and respond to the events that will surely come our way as the return of our Lord approaches. Paul in Ephesians 6 gave us a plan: *“Put On the Whole Armour of God, ...”* Having put on all of God’s armour, what then are we to do? Not only are we to appropriate His armour (put it on), we are to go forth and “prove” them. We saw that David could not use King Saul’s armour to go against Goliath, for he had not “proven them.” Instead, he went with what he had proven (a sling shot) and the guarantee of the Lord being with him.

As did David, we too must “prove” the armour that our Lord has provided us. We prove them by allowing the Lord to use them through us—we exhibit the shield of faith, the sword of the spirit, etc. Paul previously to his discussion of the armour of the Lord in **Ephesians 6** had admonished the Church in **Ephesians 5:10** *“Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.”*

How is the Lord’s armour to be proven? First, we must realize that what Paul told us in **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** *“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”*

Our warfare is “spiritual.” Yes, we live in the natural, but we must look at this natural world through spiritual eyes. Then we can see what our Lord is doing. Consider when the disciples came upon the man who had been blind from birth: **John 9:1-2** (1) *“And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. (2) And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?”* Christ’s disciples were looking through “natural” eyes. So, the Lord had to open their spiritual eyes: **John 9:3**: *“Jesus answered, **Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God***

should be made manifest in him.” The Lord then proceeded to heal the blind man.

The Lord provides many opportunities for us to “prove” the armour He has provided. Furthermore, those particular opportunities may not be anything like we may have imagined. Allow me to share another example with you of how we are provided opportunities. In **Luke 10:25-37** we are given the account of the “*Good Samaritan*.”

The Lord began by describing the situation that would provide an opportunity: **Luke 10:30** “*A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.*” This man had been robbed and left in a dreadful condition “half dead.” This sad situation nevertheless represented an opportunity for someone to prove he possessed the right spirit, who would attempt to provide the help that was so needed by this man.

The Master then proceeded to describe how three different people reacted to their opportunity to provide assistance to this man in such great need. The first two men, a priest and a Levite, would be expected to know how the Law taught them to provide help to someone in need (e.g., *Psalms 82:4, Proverbs 3:27, Proverbs 31:8, Jeremiah 22:16*). Instead, the priest could not be bothered with the half dead man: “*when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.*” The Levite did somewhat better; at least, he looked upon him, but ultimately offered no assistance: “*when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side.*”

Now compare the response of a Samaritan who then happened upon this situation: “*But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, And went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him.*” Not only did the Samaritan address the injured man’s immediate needs (“*bound up his wounds*”), he took the injured man to where he could receive additional help (“*brought him to an inn, and took care of him*”).

This was not the end of the story, for then: “*... on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.*”

We cannot imagine what the next opportunity the Lord will provide us to test our knowledge of and usage of His armour. We normally think of soldiers fighting a war. However, all are taught how to administer first

aid while under enemy fire. The embedded medic that goes into battle with his fellow soldiers is highly respected. He puts his own life at risk in an effort to save someone else. What greater call can we answer than to bring help to a fellow soldier (brother or sister) wounded under the enemy's (Satan's) fire? Will you pass by on the other side? Or, will you "*bound up his wounds*" and "*took care of him*"?



The Fence

There was a little boy with a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him to hammer a nail in the back fence every time he lost control.

The first day the boy drove 37 nails into the fence. Then it gradually dwindled down. He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence.

Finally, the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. His father suggested that the boy now pull out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper.

The days passed and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father led his son to the fence.

"You have done well, but look at the holes in the fence," he said. "When you say things in anger, that leaves a scar just like the nail holes. You can put a knife in a person and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say 'I'm sorry,' the wound is still there. A verbal wound is as bad as a physical one."

"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath" (Ephesians 4:26).



Sunday School Boost

Annette Oglesbee
Regional Coordinator

Greetings Brothers and Sisters. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you all to attend Sunday School and all services and to assemble yourselves together in these last days. Hebrews 10:25 tells us to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together.

There are spiritual forces at work that would, if possible, destroy the unity of the Body and our assembling together. These forces use excuses to cause us to lose our desire to come together. These forces want us to bow down to fear, doubt and discouragement, which can result in a hardened heart. First Peter 5:8 reminds us to be vigilant because the adversary walks about like a lion seeking whom he may devour. The lion looks for the one that is separated from the flock. Hebrews 10:24 “...and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works.” (To love even those who are not always loveable.) “Not forsaking the assembling of yourselves together as the manner of some but exhorting one another and so much more as ye see the day approaching” (V. 25). Exhorting (strongly encouraging) Hebrews 3:13 “...exhort one another daily, while it is called today lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” (Heb. 3:13).

Although sickness and weather can make it difficult to always come together, we must examine our hearts and know that we are leaning on Christ and not excuses. We are a blessed people to be able to assemble in Sunday School without fear of harm or even death as some do in other parts of the world. Sunday school is not only an opportunity to increase in knowledge in the Word of God, but also to place fellowship in worship and praise of our Lord and Savior and to encourage each other and strengthen our faith. In Daniel 3:17-18, the three Hebrew children said: “...we know that our God can deliver us but even if he doesn't we will not bow.” We cannot bow to excuses, fear doubt and hopelessness. Come to Sunday School and invite others to come with you. Assemble together in praise and worship and growing in knowledge of God's Word and in lifting each other up in love and encouragement to strengthen the Body in the unity of God's love.

—GOD BLESS YOU.



Ronald Robe
Regional
CPMA
Coordinator

The Word of Life (1 John 1:1-3)

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (V.2) (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) (V. 3) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:1-3).

Walking in the Light (1 John 1:5-10)

“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. (V, 5) If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: (V. 6) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (V. 7) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (V. 8). If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (V. 9). “If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (V. 10). “And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full” (1 John 1:4).

The Word Became Flesh (John 1:1-12)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (V. 1). The same was in the beginning with God (V. 2). All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. (V. 3). In him was life; and the life was the light of men. (V. 4). And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. (V.5). There was a man sent from God, whose name was John (V. 6). The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe (V. 7). He was not

that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light (V. 8). That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world (V. 9). He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not (V.10). He came unto his own, and his own received him not (V. 11). But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” (V. 12).

I guess if I was to say what is really on my mind it would be how I want to make it home. Sometimes life gets rough, life throws things at you that you don't want, but it seems like Jesus is always there, so when things get hard you just have to put your hand in His.

I want to live like him, be like Him, look like Him, act like Him and do as He did. If you read the Scriptures above, you'll see that in the beginning the Word was with God and the Word was God. So, from the very start Jesus was in control. Also, the Word says that He built the world we're in, so He should know how to win in this fight.

It's important to look at the Word. The Word should be your final authority on everything, I noted that Naïve, Matthew Henry, Spurgeon, and all these people are important people and it's good to read in and see what they teach.

But our final authority should be the Word of God in everything. It should teach us how to walk, how to talk, how to live, and teach us how to be a preacher, and teach us what we should do as a minister. Everything should be to the structure with which the Bible gives us. The Word is so important. Read it and pray every day.

To me the Church is so important that I want to pay all my dues as soon as I can. I'm already a CPMA member, already paid my Tabernacle fund and everything else—Minister's expense—everything.

CPMA—Join it today!

—Ronald Robe, Regional CPMA Booster

TOTAL TABERNACLE DONATIONS
from our region as of February 1, 2025

Feb 2025 Report	YTD 2022	YTD 2023	YTD 2024	YTD 2025	Total
Castalia -14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Port Clinton 15	55.00	455.00	220.50	0.00	730.50
Niles-3	0.00	0.00	500.00	15.00	515.00
Fairmont-14	25.00	10,095.00	5,415.00	254.00	15,789.00
Page-8	165.00	770.00	375.00	75.00	1,385.00
Seth-6	5,340.81	11,189.45	6,187.75	1,077.81	23,795.82
Conventions Offering	0.00	1,010.00	5,430.00	0.00	6,440.00
Totals-64	5,585.81	23,519.45	18,128.25	1,421.81	48,655.32



Alyce Silvia Regional BTI Coordinator

Bishop Pimentel recently wrote in the November edition of the *Evening Light* "...a minister of 70 years was asked what would he say to a younger version of himself. The minister responded by saying, I would say to younger ministers today... When the Sadducees saw the boldness of Peter and John, they were amazed ... They (Peter and John) were uneducated, but they had been with Jesus. My advice would be two things, KNOW YOUR BIBLE and PRAY a lot. That's it. ... Many preachers, the only time they read the Bible is when they want a sermon. And they don't KNOW the Word. Some people don't know the Word. ... My deepest desire is that people would start taking the Bible seriously. And when we pray, we get to know God's ways, His Word, the Bible. How do you get to know anybody's ways? By spending time with them." What better way to get to know Him other than studying individually and spending time with a whole lot of other people in one accord trying to learn more about Jesus. The people who were before him following God. The people during His time seeing His miracles and wonders. The people after His death and resurrection, telling other people about Him.

All the way to us, we only know about Him by what we read, feel and experience in our soul. The more we study the more we know and become more like Jesus. Bible Training Institute goes into depths we couldn't begin to understand if he didn't bless the instructors with their knowledge and their willingness to give instruction to us.

Biblical studies are intended for those who desire to be available to God. Availability is more than having the time to labor. It is the state of being ready for use. The principles of the Scripture are applicable to every aspect of our lives; therefore, it is important that we understand the fulness of God's Word in order to do His will. If this is your heart's greatest desire, then Bible Training Institute is the place for you! West Coast BTI this year is March 28-April 5. East Coast is May 18th through 31st.

An update from the field, Spain BTI had its first graduation class with 6 students. PRAISE THE LORD.



**want to love and trust His Holy Word;
I want to sing and pray
And be busy ev'ry day
In the vineyard of the Lord.
I will work, I will pray
In the vineyard, in the vineyard of the Lord
I will work, I will pray, I will labor every
day
In the vineyard of the Lord."**



**I want to be a worker, help me Lord
To lead the lost and erring to Thy Word
That points to joy on high
Where pleasures never die
In the vineyard of the Lord.
Will you work, will you pray
In the vineyard, in the vineyard of the
Lord.
Will you work and will you pray
Will you labor ev'ry day
In the vineyard of the Lord.**

Winter is almost over. Most of us got to experience lots of rain and snow and ice. I'm glad Spring is just in sight. That being said, we are springing into our March World Mission Drive. I would like to encourage us all to get the Dorcas spirit and work, work, work for World Missions. Let's be like Dorcas, full of good works and alms deeds. The Bible says she was a disciple and she made coats and garments. The Bible doesn't say she received offerings, but she did work. Today, for those willing and able, we can come together and work together to raise funds for World Missions. We can benefit our region and the Church worldwide. As we work at holding a hot dog sale or a bake sale or dinners, craft sale, etc.—we have great opportunities to meet new people, invite them to church and sometimes we can minister to them right then and there. This is Mission work.

Lastly and most importantly, let's keep praying for Missions. As our Ministers go, we do not know, if or when they might face dangerous situations. We need to pray for those on the front line and for each other. May God keep us all in the palm of His Hand and keep us from the evil.

Our region's highest amount raised was in October 2020 at \$1859.50. Can we meet that again? With the Lord's help, we can.

God Bless You!



Evangelism Boost

Walter Lofton
Regional Coordinator

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.

The Southern District (West Virginia) is planning to incorporate this revival with our District Convention with services at the Page and Seth churches during this weekend (April 12, 13).

The Northern District Convention will take place at Port Clinton, Ohio on April, 26. The churches in this district are encourage to get together for this special world-wide revival in their area for the week-end of April, 11-13.

REVIVAL and **MISSIONS** (there is little if any difference in the two) **ARE THE LIFE-BLOOD OF THE CHRUCH.** Without either, we cannot grow, but will rather stagnate and loose ground. There are many ways to evangelize and reach souls but the chief element in all our evangelistic efforts are centered around and bathed with earnest prayer and fasting. Isaiah, chapter 58 is a key scriptural component of revival, especially notice the admonition in verses 6-8. I believe the entire Church can obey this scriptural mandate, regardless of any limitations we may have. And remember our General Overseer's advice: ***"Before I organize, I will agonize."***



Let's Keep Our Tabernacle Zeal Running High!

[See page 7 for total amounts raised
from our region.]

Let us be mindful to boost the Tabernacle project and plan for a special fund-raising event for each local church between now and the General Assembly; especially during our Heritage month of June. March is World Missions Month which we are just ending. After this, let it be FULL STEAM AHEAD for our Tabernacle Fund raising!



WANDA SUTHERLAND
REGIONAL
ABM
COORDINATOR

“One thing have I desired of the Lord. that I will seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple” (Psa. 27:4).

The psalmist David had a strong desire to worship God. This made him to want to go to the house of God and hear the Word. There is nothing that can take the place of going to Church, and hearing the Word of God being preached, and the singing and praising to God. This is God's Plan for us.

The times that we are living in are chaotic. If we are not careful, we can lose our vision and hope. But we must remember the many scriptures where Jesus warns us to be ready, for these are signs of His coming. Read Matthew 24.

The true Christian has everything to look forward to, whether in life or death. We have the promises of Him that is faithful.

May God richly BLESS and keep everyone. Love you all.

—Sister Wanda Sutherland

How's This for Faith?

(Turning defeat into victory)

Nathaniel Hawthorne went home to tell his wife that he had just been fired from his job. “Good,” she said. “Now you can write your book.”

“What do we live on in the meantime?” He asked her.

His wife opened a drawer filled with money. “I have always known that you are a man of genius,” she said. “So, I saved a little each week, and now I have enough to last for a year.” Nathaniel Hawthorne used that time to write **The Scarlet Letter**—one of the great masterpieces of American literature.

An Inspirational Mini Sermon

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

When Is the Lord Coming?

Opposing religions have been founded upon the argument about when Jesus is to return. For instance, there are the pre-millennialists and the post-millennialists. The Bible teaches that He will come to set up His kingdom, and that will be the beginning of the millennium. It also teaches that He will come when the Church has made herself ready for presentation unto Christ.

But remember—He may call for us in death at any moment. Someone has hit the point of prime importance in the following words: “It’s not when the Lord is coming, but where I’m going when He comes that concerns me.”

One could get in such a bad spirit about when He is coming that he wouldn’t be ready in a hundred years!

It is not enough to make Christ known in all places of the world, but His Church must be made known also. Not only are the people of every nation, kindred and tongue and peoples to be saved, sanctified and baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire, but they are to know the Church and be taken into it by covenant just as you and I came in where they can be kept also...His Church shall be made known in all the earth! Yea, verily, **THE WORLD MUST KNOW THE CHURCH OF PROPHECY—THE CHURCH OF GOD!**

(Excerpts from the Thirtieth Annual Address to the Thirty-Fifth Annual Assembly in 1940.)

—A. J. Tomlinson