



# The Evening Light

A Publication of The Church of God

June 2019, Vol. 27 No. 8

## Our Father

*"...that ye should shew forth the praises of him  
who hath called you out of darkness  
into his marvellous light"  
(1 Peter 2:9).*



*Happy Fathers' Day!*

# Editorials

Oscar Pimentel  
General Overseer



**Happy Father's Day** to all our Fathers! We pray that the Lord will bless all our faithful fathers who labor and diligently strive to teach their children the ways of the Lord. *"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up"* (Deut. 6:6, 7).

**Join us at the Heritage Day** service at Fields of the Wood on June 1, 2019, in North Carolina. The service begins at 12:00 noon. General CPMA Coordinator, Bishop James Horne, will be in charge of the service. We encourage all Overseers and pastors in the surrounding areas to do their very best to be with us at this very vital and inspirational service. Great things are in store for us at this unique and significant location!

**The Church of God Flag Day** is June 13. Let's remember to pay tribute to the Banner of Truth during our Sunday services as we celebrate the Arise, Shine of the Church. *"Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah"* (Psa. 60:4). The Church is the *"pillar and ground of the truth."* This precious ensign is not yet waving in every nation, but the Church is advancing, and it won't be long!

**Pray for the State and National Conventions.** All of our Conventions are vitally important; it is there where we receive instruction and inspiration in our work for the Master. This is a wonderful time of fellowship with other members of the Church and a time of being in the presence of God together in a special way. Do all that you can to attend your State or National Convention.

**Continue to Pray for our Committees.** Our standing committees (Questions & Subjects Committee, Ways & Means Committee, and the Counseling Committee) need your prayers. This time of the year, especially, your prayers are much appreciated for God's guidance in their work.

**International Youth Camp** will be held at the Smoky Mountain Resort, 2525 Goldrush Road, Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, August 2-5, 2019.

**Pre-Assembly Presbytery Meeting** will begin at 9:30 A.M. on Tuesday, August 6, 2019. All State and National Overseers, be sure to make plans to be in the Presbytery Meeting in Kingsport, Tennessee, at the MeadowView Conference Center. Please be on time.

**Annual General Assembly** will be held August 6-11, 2019, at MeadowView Conference Resort & Convention Center in Kingsport, Tennessee. The first session will begin at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday and, before we conclude, the service will be sealed with a season of prayer by all Assembly delegates. Don't miss it, but make plans today to be in attendance for this annual gathering.

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# Love Not the World

Oscar Pimentel, *General Overseer*  
The Church of God

*"Love not the world" is the instruction given by the Word of God in 1 John 2:15, but it does not stop there; this verse plus the two following verses say, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."*

The word "love," as we know it to be defined in modern language, means an intense feeling of deep affection. In the Bible, the Greek root word is *agapao* and its biblical usage when speaking of a person means to welcome, to entertain, to be fond of and to love dearly. When speaking of things, it transmits the idea of being well pleased and to be contented at or with a thing.

It isn't difficult to understand what the Lord is telling us not to do when we put these definitions together and reread the Scripture. If I may, allow me to paraphrase, "Do not have an intense feeling of deep affection for the *world*. Do not welcome the *world*, don't entertain it, don't be fond of it and love it dearly. Don't be pleased with it or in it, nor contented with it."

We all have a good idea as to what the word love means and how it is used in different circumstances and in different contexts, but what about the word "*world*"? It is taken from the Greek root word *kosmos* and, in biblical usage, some of its meanings are: order, government, the universe, ornament, decoration, the arrangement of the stars, the circle of the earth, the ungodly multitude, the inhabitants of the earth, *world* affairs.

If we will carefully consider each of these meanings, it will help us gain a good understanding of what the writer meant when he said "*love not the world*."

Firstly, the Word of God is not telling us to not love the *world* as it pertains to the ungodly multitudes or the inhabitants of the earth. We know this because John 3:16 says, "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*" What *world* is this? The *world* of the inhabitants of the earth. Christ asked to be received into the home of Zacchaeus who was a publican and a thief, and He was joyfully received. Christ loves the sinners and has come to save

them saying, "*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost*" (Luke 19:10). In Romans 5:8 we read, "*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" Paul wrote, as he preached the gospel to the *world* of people, "*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief*" (1 Tim. 1:15). God, Himself, loved the ungodly and sinner to the extent that He sent His Son to die on the Cross that they might be saved.

Secondly, "*world*"—when defined as the arrangement of the stars, the circle of the earth and the universe—we understand were all made by God for man's benefit and pleasure. When He created it in the beginning God saw "*that it was good.*" Psalms 89:11 says, "*The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them.*" They are the work of His hands! Praise God! In Psalms 19:1-4, it is the heavens that declare the glory of God, and they show His handiwork. God is not telling us to scorn His wondrous works and that we should not be content and happy with them; but as children of God, we stand in admiration and great satisfaction as we glance upon the starry skies and earthly wonders that He has made for our enjoyment and amazement.

Thirdly then, let's consider "*world*" when defined as order, government, ornament, and *world* affairs. Again, the Greek root word *kosmos* is where we get the word *world* from, which entails the definitions above. So, it is fair to say that we are talking about the appearance, arrangement and order of things in what one may also call the "*moral world*." This *moral world* includes people who are indifferent or even hostile toward the true God and who reject His ways. Paul spoke of the "*god of this world*" (2 Cor. 4:4), and on two occasions Jesus referred to Satan as "*the prince of this world*," and he rules in this God-hostile *world*.

In Genesis 6:12, 13, we are told about the state of that *world* prior to the flood, "*...all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth...the earth is filled with violence through them,*" and in the New Testament Jesus said, "*so shall it be in the days of the Son of man.*" The rejection of God and the *world's* hostility toward the God of heaven is what brought about all the violence,

corruption and evil. Since that time to the present not much, if anything, is different as, once again, this *world* continues to increase in violence, corruption and evil, especially toward “religion.”

In the time of Jesus, the *world* was also a hostile environment. He said in John 7:7 that this *world* hated Him and later on in John 15:18, 19, He informed His disciples that if the *world* hated Him it would also hate them. As Jesus reported back to the Father in prayer He said, “...the world hateth them, because they are not of this world, even as I am not of this world” (John 17:14).

This *world* is governed and ruled by the enemy of men’s souls, “...this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world” (1 John 4:3). There should be no doubt in our minds that there is a subtle, elusive, rebellious dark spiritual being who hates God, you and me, who rules this *world* and this *world’s* directive, statute, route or pattern “is after the working of Satan” (2 Thess. 2:9).

In addressing the Ephesian brethren, the apostle Paul states that “in times past,” that is to say in the “old life,” when they were “dead in trespasses and sins,” they use to walk “...according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Eph. 2:2).

In the above passage of Scripture Paul seems to point out the general disposition of ungodly men and women, which is to walk according to the rule of the prince of this *world* and partake of the corruption of this *world*—the indulgence of carnal lusts and passions.

What is the course of this *world*? What is the sequence of this *world*? What is the system or pattern of this *world*? Today, more than ever before, all can clearly see that the “order of the day” is anything SINFUL—adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like!

In times past, when we were spiritually dead, we also lived and did according to the whims and impulses of this *world* yielding ourselves over to the directives of the prince of this age. “But God,” praise the Lord! Doesn’t that sound good?! “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:4-6). Why, if one has been made to sit in “heavenly places,” would one willingly stoop so low as to follow and yield to the order, system, arrangements and appearance of this God-hostile *world*?

Today we are to reckon ourselves “dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God” (Rom. 6:11-13).

The command is, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.” One may say, “I don’t love it,” but I wonder if they’re not tangled up in it? “No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier” (2 Tim. 2:4). According to Paul, we are not capable of pleasing the Lord if we are entangled, i.e. twisted together, with this *world’s* affairs.


“...know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4). It is impossible for one to truly love God and this evil and corrupt *world* at the same time!

“Love not the world,” was not written to the pagans and sinners, it was written to the Christian “children,” “fathers,” and “young” as a warning, an admonition and an encouragement to them that they should rather love the more permanent and eternal blessings of God over any temporal momentary pleasure this *world* offers.

“Christianity,” so called, is comprised of far too many who have a deep commitment and affection for secular activities, but show no commitment to their Christian duties or obligations. Others regularly have their minds more on this *world* as they prepare to continue living here and give little thought, if any at all, to prepare for the new heavens and the new earth. Yet others have more invested in stocks, bonds, lands, homes and cars but no treasure stored up in heaven. Some exercise the corporal body to stay fit and healthy, but pay little attention to the inner man and his spiritual wellbeing. This cannot be, this must not be, the testimony of the Church of God member.

I’m not against those things mentioned in the above paragraph, but in the words of an old Church minister, “You better watch your step!”

It’s no wonder that on another occasion Paul would write, “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:2). We have no power in and of ourselves to transform ourselves. The only way we can be transformed and not conform is by willingly yielding ourselves over to God and to consider ourselves dead to this *world* and self.

By the power of God, if the believer so desires, he can be kept from the evil and corruption that is in this *world* by placing his trust and faith in Him. By God's power the Christian man or woman can be in this *world* yet not be of this *world*. Don't conform, but be transformed! Love not the *world*, give it up and give yourself wholly to God! Allow Him to transform you from who you used to be, where you used to go, what you used to delight in, how you used to spend your time, what you used to occupy your mind with and what you used to live for to that of being "...*crucified with Christ*," abandoning the "self-life" and as Paul, "...*live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God...*" (Gal. 2:20). 

## A New Day Dawning

There is very soon coming a day  
When time as we know it will end  
The long dark days will be over  
And a new day dawning will begin

All our heartaches will be past  
And no more tears to dim the eye  
The pain and sickness will be gone  
To our friends and loved ones never say goodbye

When you're out on life's ocean  
And fierce winds begin to blow  
You look around for a haven  
A safe place in which to go

If you're going through heartache and pain  
Remember it's darkest just before dawn  
If you'll keep looking for the dawning  
The trials you're going through will soon be gone

So don't let the darkness of the night  
Steal your peace from deep within  
For very soon the night will be gone  
And the dawning of a new day will begin

Carolyn Hughes  
Shawnee Oklahoma

The Northeast Region is in need of pastors. Please pray about our area and if you are available and feel led, please contact the Regional Overseer as soon as possible at: [jhorne@thechurchofgod.org](mailto:jhorne@thechurchofgod.org)

## VICTORY LEADERS BAND



JOSHUA FARTHING, *GENERAL VLB COORDINATOR*

Jesus said, "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel..." (Mark 16:15). He also said, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14). The world was a BIG place when Jesus told this to His disciples, but the magnitude of the request did not hold them back from trying. Perhaps they wondered how this task would be accomplished, and the world only got bigger with time. What the disciples didn't realize is Jesus had insight into the future. He knew they couldn't reach the entire world at that specific time, but a time would come when they could. That time was in 1903.

The Church of God arose from the Dark Ages at the beginning of the most technological century the world has ever known. Until the 1900's, man could only travel as fast as a horse could run. What used to take days now only takes hours by land, sea, or air. Maybe the Church in 1903 had a better understanding of how this gospel would be preached in all the world, and without a doubt, they had a vision for it!

In 1990, the World Wide Web was invented. Since then, communication and information is easily accessible to nearly every person on the globe. In 2019, the words of Christ should stir us more now than ever before! We should have the determination of the disciples, the worldwide vision of our predecessors, and embrace the technological possibilities around us. The Holy Ghost will help us with the means we have available, as He did the early Church, with the means they had available to them. Will you join with me in taking this gospel to the whole world?



*"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross"* (Phil. 2:1-8).

In the passage above, Paul was writing to the Church at Philippi, exhorting them in the love of the Lord.

We are to love, comfort and encourage one another even as Christ has us. *"Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God"* (2 Cor. 1:3, 4).

We are to be of one accord and one mind working together. *"For we are labourers together with God"* (1 Cor. 3:9). We are to esteem others (have a higher regard of others than we do of ourselves). We must have the mind of Christ. He was a servant. *"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister; and to give his life a ransom for many"* (Mark 10:45).

*"That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another"* (1 Cor. 12:25).

Let us pull, pull, pull, all together  
Let us pray, pray, pray all together  
For there's coming a time  
when we all must work together  
Let us pull together now



**ASSEMBLY BAND MOVEMENT**  
DEBORAH PERKINS, General ABM Coordinator

(The following is an excerpt from the booklet *Organize Your Band for a Powerful Force*)

**Organize**—Put into working order, get together and arrange

**Powerful**—Strong

**Force**—Body of persons working together to overcome evil

A band "put into working order" will be "strong," and able to "to overcome evil." Organizing the band for a powerful force is the band leader's responsibility. When the members are connected together, motion will auto-

matically be transferred from one to another—provoking them to love and good works.

**ORGANIZE:** Help your band members get acquainted with each other by sharing names, addresses, birthdays, etc., with all on your band. This will promote a knitting (fitting) together of members one of another.

Have specific goals for members on your band:

- All saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost
- Acquainted with and praying for each other
- Attending Church functions (local, state/national, general)
- Participating in regular worship services and church activities
- Reading the Bible regularly (assign passage to study for future band meetings)
- Subscribe to and read *The Evening Light*
- Acquainted with the Sunday School Literature, *Assembly Minutes*, State/Regional paper, tracts and BTI Correspondence courses;
- Know the purpose of the auxiliaries (especially the Assembly Band Movement)
- Every member taught the blessings of giving offerings and paying tithes
- Involved in a special ministry in the home, workplace, community, church and "Every member a worker and a special work for everyone"—(motto often referred to by A. J. Tomlinson)

Churches reporting 100% in Emergency \$:

Mountain View, AR

Miami, FL

Rossville, GA

## Happy Father's Day





Sharon Griffin, General WMB Coord.

Total funds raised for March World Mission Drive:

**\$87,189.30**

Thank you to our women throughout the Church, our WMB leaders, Regional Overseers, Pastors, and to all who dedicated their time to fundraising! Many have pledged dollar amounts and given so generously to missions! As in the words of Boaz in Ruth 2:12, I express my gratitude, *"The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust."*

The Bible proves over and over again that God blesses those who give. Some give of their time; some donate their skills to make items to be sold for the cause of missions; others give when they barely have anything to give, yet they "sow generously" to further the spread of the Gospel. Jesus saw the poor widow's mites when she placed them into the temple treasury and said, *"Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all"* (Luke 21:3). God notices when we put Him first, even in our tithes and offerings. I know of a faithful missionary woman who had no money to give towards missions, but she prayed and asked God to give her a way to raise her missionary offering. She looked around in her home for something, anything, that could be used as a fabric to make pillowcases. God blessed her desire to give and provided the fabric (cotton flour sacks) to make the pillowcases, which she bleached, embroidered and sold, (every one of them) for missions. Poverty doesn't have to be a barrier to giving when your heart's desire is to honor the Lord through giving. This faithful WMB sister proved the principle of stewardship and her devotion to God. She testified many times how God spoke to her and said, "You will never be this poor again!" And she wasn't.

Whatever resources we have to offer, when you give freely to the Lord, God will take notice and recompense the giver. *"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again"* (Luke 6:38).



Bettie Marlowe

General Sunday School Coordinator

## I Have an Idea

Some people have vision. Some people have ideas. There is a difference.

I have to admit I have had many ideas—some grand, I thought. But without an incentive (vision), they really came to naught. I remember years ago, I really enjoyed drawing house plans. I had so many ideas, I just had to put them on paper and, sometimes, I would get so caught up in the action, I would actually rather draw than eat. But that's all it was...until. There came a time when I was drawing plans for my own house. It went from ideas to vision. And from that vision, a house for the Marlowes was built.

I'm reminded of Jonah. When God told Jonah to go to Nineveh and give the enemy a chance to repent, Jonah had a better idea. He knew God's mercy concerning the people of Nineveh, so he felt justified in not doing the duty God assigned to him. "Are you sure about this, Lord?"

It seemed an odd thing to ask—to go to Nineveh and "give" the enemy a chance to repent. They were a ruthless enemy bent on destroying Israel. But Jonah, a native of Gath-hepher, a statesman and prophet, was given this dread mission. No wonder he didn't want to go. "Who, me?"

He went down to Joppa and booked passage on a boat in the opposite direction. He was determined not go. But nothing worked out for him.

First, a storm came up—Jonah's fault—and when he was cast overboard, God had a big fish to gulp him down.

After a "little pushing" from God, Jonah went—not without resentment and with no mercy. That was all right though, God had plenty of mercy, and it was always apparent with His judgment.

God never does anything without a reason. Not only was the preaching of Jonah to Nineveh necessary for their being brought to repentance, it also showed Israel that God was not interested in them only, He also was the Deliverer and Saviour of other nations. In fact, Joppa, the city that Jonah headed to first to avoid the encounter, was the very place, where 800 years later, Peter was told to receive men of other nations.

Isn't it amazing how God orchestrates events!



# South Korea, Myanmar,

Our World Mission Coordinator and National Overseer of South Korea and Myanmar, Robert Hawkins, was blessed to travel with our General Treasurer, Jason Hill, on an extended trip in January and February, 2019, to the continent of Asia. Since the route took them through Seoul, South Korea, Brother Hawkins would leave a few days early to visit with our contact there, Pastor Pau Pi and his two congregations in the Korean capital city. Pastor Pau Pi is originally from Myanmar and so are most of his congregants, some of whom are family and friends of The Church of God in the country of Myanmar. Brother Hawkins reports that each visit with our Christian brothers and sisters in Korea gets deeper and



Korea

sweeter and a strong bond of trust and friendship has been formed. Lives have been touched and changed by the truth, and it is humbly requested that you remember this outreach endeavor in your prayers, that God would enlighten hearts and minds with a glorious vision of The Church of God!

Brothers Hawkins and Hill connected on the Korean Peninsula and then traveled to the country of Myanmar together where they would meet up with Myanmar Field Secretary and Pastor Chin Sian Mung and some of our pastors, leaders, members, and visitors for three days of training in which 32 students studied and completed the Bible Training Institute Correspondence Course *The History of The Church of God*. Praise the Lord! The power of the Holy Ghost was present in the classes to give knowledge, understanding, and revelation. The attendees testified to having been greatly blessed and receiving enlightenment from God. The care taken by our Burmese brethren in the spending of God's money for these classes is commendable and humbling; for \$15 each student received his own book, 3 lunch



Myanmar Field Secretary  
Chin Sian Mung



Myanmar Pastor Gin Lam Suang

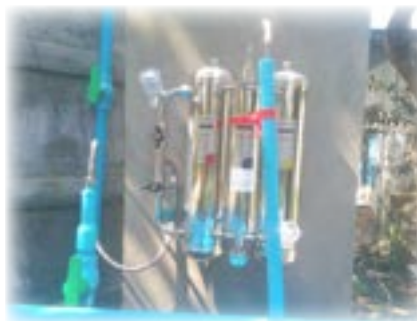
meals, bottled water during the classes, and daily transportation. The Sunday after the conference, the brethren visited the local church of one of our faithful pastors, Gin Liam Suang, and had a beautiful service and fellowship with the saints. There they would hear the testimonies of those who had been saved during the brethren's visit last year and



Myanmar Training

the passionate testimony of an elderly sister who had never understood the divine healing power of Jesus Christ. She stated that she will take this doctrine to a very dangerous place—Rohingya State—where she ministers, and where the Buddhist government of Myanmar is killing many Muslims.

The Church in Myanmar is very thankful to Pastor Thomas Brady and all the members of our local church in Crossville,



Well Water Filter

Tennessee, who so generously gave \$500 and enabled Pastor Suang and his local congregation to purchase a filtering system for a ground well. Now, his family, members and visitors to the local church in that area have access to clean

and safe water at a very reasonable cost. Praise the Lord!

From Yangon, Myanmar, our brethren flew to the capital city of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, for a glorious first in The Church of God since the reorganization! There they would meet up with our trusted contact, Pastor Sunthon Rawang of Thailand, who had a ministerial associate whom he wanted us to meet and to share the truth with. (This was

meals, bottled water during the classes, and daily transportation. The Sunday after the conference, the brethren visited the local church of one of our faithful pastors, Gin Liam Suang, and had a beautiful service and fellowship with the saints. There they would hear the testimonies of those who had been saved during the brethren's visit last year and



Myanmar



Cambodia/Brother Hill with Pastor Petros



# Cambodia, & Thailand



Cambodia children

vently, and miracles began to happen. About three and a half hours away from the capital city, in countryside unknown to any of the brethren, but directed to by the Holy Ghost, they were taken to a group home where women who were widowed by the horrors of Cambodia's former communist rule were taken care of. And to the surprise of Pastor Rawang, there he met two sisters in the Lord whom he and his wife had met in Thailand years ago at a Christian conference and who had spent time in his home! At this moment, the brethren knew God was in control, guiding everything with His eye. *"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye"* (Psa. 32:8). This visit opened the door to visit a house church in the area and a group of saints in a very rural location. God wasn't finished! A Cambodian man named Pastor Petros, one of Pastor Rawang's spiritual children whom he had won to the Lord in a Cambodian refugee camp in Thailand, heard about the brethren's visit and traveled 7 hours by bus (one way) to come and fellowship with them, lead them to the home of someone he knew in the area,



Cambodia

and interpret for them as they ministered the Word of God. And as our General Treasurer spoke about the false doctrine of eternal security and the truth of obtaining our eternal reward after completing a faithful course, the hearers were greatly blessed. However, the brethren didn't realize the depth of the work that the Holy Ghost was doing. After the message, Pastor Petros spoke to our brethren and stated that he had never heard this type of teaching and preaching in his life. He stated that the other missionaries who visit Cambodia do not bring the truth and depth of God's Word. He then went on to say, "If you will come back to Cambodia and visit my area, I will gather 40 pastors and local churches to hear these truths." And we are glad to report that the World Mission

Pastor Rawang's first visit to this part of Cambodia.) Not long after arriving, the Holy Ghost revealed to our missionaries and Pastor Rawang that this man was not a true Christian. With no other contacts to work with, the situation looked unfavorable, but the brethren sought God fer-

Department is in continuing communication with this Cambodian pastor and plans to go back sometime after the General Assembly. A wonderful note—another miracle occurred at this meeting, similar to the previous one—Pastor Sunthon met up with one or two people in this second house church that he was acquainted with many years ago in Thailand. And this was an area hundreds of miles into Cambodia that none of the brethren knew anything about. God is so good!

Rejoicing in and refreshed by what God had done and started in Cambodia, Brothers Hawkins, Hill, and Pastor Rawang flew to Bangkok, Thailand, and then drove to an



Thailand

area named Sri Racha where they would have a glorious weekend revival with Pastor Sunthon and his congregation. The saints literally sat on the edge of their seats as the Word of God went forth and many beautiful testimonies were heard. One sister testified, "I realize that to enter the Kingdom of God one must be born again. And to join The Church of God, one must take the covenant. I want to take that covenant!" Another sister proclaimed, "I never knew the first marriage was the holy marriage. I will begin to teach the children that, so they will be protected." And how touching it was to see the hearts of the brethren changed by the messages as evidenced by the Holy Ghost prompted removal of the ways



Thailand Worship

of the world from their lives! They were glowing with the glory of God! Amen! After the revival, Pastor Sunthon and his congregation gathered together, and it was joyfully agreed upon by all that the next meeting in Thailand would be an organizational meeting of The Church of God! Until then, Pastor Rawang will be going over the Prominent Teachings and Advice to Members with his congregation so that on that glorious day they can all, with one heart and one mind, place their hands on the Holy Bible and proclaim with one voice – "I WILL!" *"They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten"* (Jer. 50:5).



Thailand Baptism

Words are inadequate to describe my association with these two great men. I was not a Christian when I first became acquainted with them in 1931; however, I was saved and joined the Church of God in December of the same year. At this point I began to receive a personal knowledge and understanding about salvation and the Church of God as I conversed with them.

When I would ask a question about some particular Scripture or subject, neither of them would approach it from an argumentative standpoint. On one occasion, I asked the father about the meaning of John 3:5, as I was a new convert and was somewhat confused about the matter. He always carried a small testament, which he gave to me and asked me to read the 5<sup>th</sup> verse of this chapter. When I had read it, he told me to read the 6<sup>th</sup> verse. After I read it, he said that this was self-explanatory, and the Bible will always explain itself if you read it right. Then he explained that Jesus was answering Nicodemus' question in regard to the natural and spiritual birth. You must first be born of a woman, or of the flesh, before you can be born of the Spirit. No prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation. You must always look for another verse or Scripture to corroborate or confirm it, as two witnesses are required to establish evidence.

When the regular local church business conference decided to recommend me for ministry, I felt somewhat reluctant in accepting the responsibility. The son of the General Overseer, who was serving as clerk of the local church, very humbly addressed the moderator and asked for permission to speak. He explained that after the recommendation of the conference it would take time for the examination of the presbytery, and that I would have plenty of time for training and preparation. He assured me that everything would work out all right. His attitude toward the matter gave me courage and confidence to accept the responsibility. Since that time, I

## My Years with Father and Son

E. H. Griffith

White Wing Messenger, Jan. 31, 1970

have observed him very closely in connection with his father.

He served as leader of the young people's organization for many years. There was no limit to his initiative, and he would not accept defeat in anything. When things did not go too well, it did not change his optimistic attitude. When others would frown, so to speak, he would smile and say, "Come on now, and let us get into the service. We must depend upon the Lord for our help."

When he served as pastor of the local church at Henderson, Kentucky, I had the privilege to conduct a revival. We had the opportunity to visit many homes. He worked without partiality and would help the needy and those less fortunate. The second chapter of James says, *"My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?"*

"Like father, like son" is a very true statement in this case. As I have heard the former General Overseer say so many times, "The poor people heard him gladly." He was standing on the corner in a strange city

with his arms around a man who was under the influence of alcohol. One of the ministers who was traveling with him became rather excited and said, "Brother Tomlinson, that man is intoxicated." He laughed and replied, "Yes, I know." The Bible says, *"...Perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."*

After the former General Overseer had deceased, the State Overseers were called together on Thursday morning at 8 o'clock, October 7, 1943, as recommended by the General Assembly. In the event of the disability or death of the General Overseer between Assemblies, they were to select a person to serve in this capacity until the following General Assembly, at which time the General Assembly in regular business session would endorse or choose someone to serve as General Overseer. In this meeting, after much prayer, discussion, and deliberation, the son of the former General Overseer was selected to serve until the following Assembly in September 1944. On Friday of said Assembly, September 15, at 10:29 A.M. the report of the meeting of Overseers was unanimously accepted without any question or discussion. The General Overseer gave plenty of time for anyone who was not satisfied to speak. All were of one accord.


Here are the excerpts from that meeting, as shown in the Minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly, pages 28 and 29:

"After the report had been accepted the General Overseer said, 'We have come to a time on program in which every member of the Church of God has a part. I might say for myself, I had rather take the smallest church we have and be the pastor of it this year, if it is the Lord's will. I want God's will to be done in whatever is done or said. As I have said before, I want everyone to have an open heart to know the will of God. Not our will, but God's will. I may not have done everything just like you

thought it should be done, but I have done my best...' A message in tongues and interpretation was given to show that the Lord had chosen the present General Overseer and anointed him to lead His people. The people were admonished to follow him and obey him...

"The General Overseer asked the congregation to pray in concert... He told those present that he was depending upon them and asked them to tell the people at home who couldn't come to the Assembly he loved them and was depending on them.

"This was truly a wonderful morning in the service of the Master... Jacob stated that, 'Surely the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not.' His statement was just the opposite of what was realized in this service. God was there, and His presence was so real until all must have felt they should tread softly...He was in the midst, moving and directing according to His will."

I felt that his own words would better explain the spirit, vision, and understanding of our present General Overseer, M. A. Tomlinson. These are two of the greatest men that I have ever known. 

#### GENERAL EVANGELISM COORDINATOR'S SCHEDULE

(See The Church of God / Evangelism Department Facebook page for details.)

June 9 Athens, TN  
June 12-15 Revival at Hickory, NC  
June 22 Evangelism Convention at Boise, ID  
June 23 Mission in Ogden, Utah  
July 12-14 Haiti National Convention  
July 19-21 Georgia State Convention  
July 26-28 Mexico National Convention  
August 2-5 International Youth Camp  
August 6-11 General Assembly

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E. Roger Ammons—(423) 310-1042  
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or (419) 709-0578  
Herman Ard—(423) 457-9554  
Ted Cogburn—(256) 405-7833  
or (828) 337-3836  
Roger Garrison—(615) 462-8879  
Abraham Ramos—(706) 767-0422  
Mary Shelton—(931) 224-6659  
Ashley Baldwin—(864) 483-6878

In the historical account of the Arise, Shine on June 13, 1903, Brother A. J. Tomlinson said, "Well, if you take the whole Bible, rightly divided, that makes it the Church of God..." He became the first covenanted member this side of the Dark Ages with the understanding and revelation that it wasn't going to be, but is The Church of God. The glorious light of the Arise, Shine and the vision that God revealed there was not to be dimmed. Those victorious days of enthusiasm and vision are not just history, because this light and revelation is to only shine brighter, unto perfection and through the fulfillment of our mission!

Do we grasp the fact that *"thou shalt see greater things than these"* and that *"The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former"* (Hag. 2:9)? There are greater glories ahead, and vision to shine out from us into this world! We must keep pressing forward. No doubt, the Church reaching that glory will require us to operate in the Spirit today as they did in times past. As with the early Church, in the years after the Arise, Shine, and in the years after the disruptions; to have those blessings we must **LIVE AS THEY LIVED, WE MUST WALK AS THEY WALKED, WE MUST PRAY LIKE THEY PRAYED, WE MUST FAST LIKE THEY FASTED, WE MUST MAKE SACRIFICES LIKE THEY MADE SACRIFICES, WE MUST WORK LIKE THEY WORKED**—to name just a few. Are we willing? Let's not limit the Lord and what He can do through the Church in these last days. Let's not think we can't, when God has called us to shine, He has called us to more. There's no time for pulling back. The spiritual battle on Burger Mountain with the covering removed, emanating His light into the darkness wasn't just for the Arise, Shine hour! Even today that light, that glory, is shining, and it must continue to do so with even greater intensity. As M. A. Tomlinson stated in his Annual Address in 1973, "Our Marker Association is still about keeping the message and vision clear. If we will obey this high and holy calling, we will be the light to this world that Jesus said we must be."

Our heritage is wonderful and cherished, but now is the time for God's Church to make history! Amen!

We hope to hear good reports from our June CPMA workday. Please send me your testimonies and pictures. Join the CPMA and help this great last day's work fulfill its mission! Time is winding up for this Assembly year so don't delay, join today!

Churches 100% this month:

Aurora, CO  
Miami, FL

Rossville, GA

Lawrence, MA  
Siler City, NC

### Church of Prophecy Marker Association

James R. Horne  
General CPMA Coordinator





## DESTROYED BY A FALSE PEACE

Speaking of the beast, the anti-christ, Daniel has this to say, “*And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many...*” (Dan. 8:25) Peace at Any Price?

The following quotation from J. C. Ryle is worthy of sober thought: “Many people will put up with anything in religion if they may only have a quiet life. They have a morbid dread of what they call ‘controversy.’ They are possessed with a morbid desire to keep the peace, and make all things smooth and pleasant, even though it be at the expense of truth. So long as they have outward calm, smoothness, stillness, and order, they seem content to give up everything else. I believe that they would have thought, with Ahab, that Elijah was a troubler of Israel: ‘*And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father’s house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim*’ (1 Kings 18:17, 18).

“Perhaps they would have helped the princes of Judah when they put Jeremiah in prison, to stop his mouth: ‘*Therefore the princes said unto the king, We beseech thee, let this man be put to death: for thus he weakeneth the hands of the men of war that remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking such words unto them: for this man seeketh not the welfare of this people, but the hurt*’ (Jer. 38:4).

“I have no doubt that many of these men of whom I speak would have thought that Paul at Antioch was a very imprudent man, and that he went too far: ‘*But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts*’ (Acts 13:50).”

Ryle went on to say, “I believe this is all wrong. We have no right to expect anything but the pure Gospel of Christ, unmixed and unadulterated—the same Gospel that was



Robert J. Hawkins, Jr.  
General World Mission Coordinator

taught by the Apostles—to do good to the souls of men. I believe that to maintain this pure truth in the Church, men should be ready to make any sacrifice, to hazard peace, to risk dissension, to run the chance of division. They should no more tolerate false doctrine than they would tolerate sin. They should withstand any adding to or taking away from the simple mes-

sage of the Gospel of Christ. Peace without truth is a false peace; it is the very peace of the devil. Unity without the Gospel is a worthless unity; it is the very unity of hell.

“Sometimes controversy is necessary if truth in doctrine and holiness of life is to be preserved. Some controversy and dissension is better than compromise of truth. Outwardly, there may be turmoil, but the conscience will enjoy peace. Compromise may effect a false peace, but it brings no peace of mind and soul. Rather, it brings guilt and shame! When the cause is right, ‘war’ may be the only thing that will give the heart and conscience real peace.”

PEACE WITH GOD means WAR WITH SATAN. The same apostle who declared, “*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Rom. 5:1), also admonishes us in the well-known passage: “*Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. 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*” (Eph. 6:11-13).

Yes, justification by faith brings “peace with God,” but even so, most of our lives must be spent “warring” against the world, the flesh, and the devil. Jesus told The Church of God in John 14:27, “*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*” STAND FOR THE TRUTH! (Taken largely from the former BTI Study Course, *The Fruit of the Spirit*)



I get a blessing out of each *Evening Light* I receive. But the April issue has just blessed me so. I read and re-read it. The General Overseer's write up makes me cry and pray for more. It has blessed me from front to back. Keep up the good work. I am praying for each of you, and I thank The Church of God in Cleveland for praying for me and my son, Jimmy Bostic to get a liver, and he did, just in time, praise God! I know He answers prayer.

I'm 88 years young, and I thank God He is leaving me here to pray for myself and others.

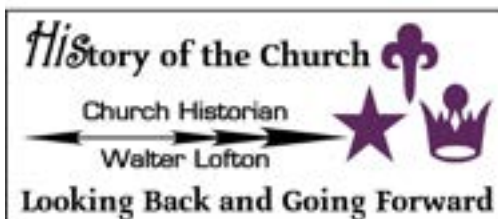
Love and prayers  
Martha Bostic, Cleveland, TN

(Mrs. Bostic is not a member of the Church, but someone shared *The Evening Light* with her, and she has been enjoying it for the past few years.)

After the disruption in the Church in 1923 A. J. Tomlinson had no other choice but to move the operations of the Church back into his home at 2525 Gaut Street. That same year he purchased a lot on Central Avenue and constructed a temporary building to convene the 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly. The following year this building was torn away and a larger building was constructed for the Assemblies which seated 2,000 people. This building was enlarged in 1933 and further improved up through 1940. During the Assembly of that year General Overseer, A. J. Tomlinson formally dedicated this memorable Assembly Tabernacle. The **Assembly Minutes** reports an estimated seating capacity of around 8,500. [NOTE: In my years of attending the Assemblies there, it seems that the allowable seating capacity was much smaller than this number since the city fire Marshall was adamant about letting in only what was deemed a safe number of delegates.]

Meanwhile, in 1926, three brethren; A. J. Lawson, A. D. Evans, and Homer A. Tomlinson purchased a lot across the street from the Assembly Tabernacle and, the following year, constructed a two story brick building which they rented to the General Church for \$480.<sup>00</sup> per month. The Church administration moved into this building on February 1, 1928. In 1940 the property was transferred to the General Church and an additional lot was purchased and the building was enlarged. A new addition was constructed on this lot in 1946 and these properties became known as the "World Capitol Building." (These buildings were all connected together as one building). The Church occupied these buildings until the new Capitol Building was constructed on Keith Street. In February, 1978 the Central Avenue properties were vacated as the Church moved into the new office building on Keith Street. These Central Avenue buildings served as headquarters for the Church for fifty years.

The White Wing Publishing House occupied one of the headquarters buildings until 1948 when a separate



## Our General Headquarters Part Two



**General Headquarters at 303 Bible Place, Cleveland, Tennessee**

building was constructed across the street adjacent to the headquarters complex. This building was dedicated at the Assembly that year and served the Church publishing needs admirably until it was destroyed by fire in February, 1967.

Following are some interesting excerpts from Brother Tomlinson's Annual Address to the 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly in 1940 under the heading, Our 303 Bible Place Property:

"The name, Bible Place, was very appropriate because the street running north from Central Avenue on the west side is named Bible, and we were using the building for a place to handle Bibles, and the Church of God, for which it is headquarters, stands for the whole Bible rightly divided. With all of these things taken into consideration what could have been more appropriate for a name than Bible Place? And the post

office department gave us the number 303 on Central Avenue. Then when it was all put together it just naturally became 303 Bible Place, Cleveland, Tennessee, U. S. A."

"All of these deeds show the title made to the trustees and their successors to

have and to hold for the Church of God over which A. J. Tomlinson is and was General Overseer, with headquarters at 303 Bible Place, Cleveland, Tennessee, U. S. A. And this headquarters is around five thousand miles west of Jerusalem, the headquarters of the early Church. It is evident that we are fulfilling prophecy in being established a long distance from the place of the destruction of the early Church." (Here he quotes the Scripture in Isaiah 49:19.)

"I fully believe that God, by His spirit and providences has located us here. Why not think of it in that way? We have not tried to establish ourselves here and build up something great for ourselves. But God has kept working, here a little, and there a little, as spoken by the prophet, until we are here as you see now this day—this thirteenth day of September, 1940."

...stay tuned

# Our Father

Kryss Barick, Assistant Editor  
Cleveland, TN



It is a sad reality that most of us were not blessed with perfect fathers. Indeed, throughout this country we seem to be experiencing a drought of good fathers. Now, I'm not saying that none of our fathers were good fathers, but even the best of fathers we may have ever known pale in comparison to our Heavenly Father. Good fathers are critical to the proper upbringing of their children.

The family unit has been thoroughly devastated by the enemy of our souls for many decades. Homosexual union is only the most recent attack being perpetrated upon the family. Through World War II, marriages were on the increase at a much greater rate than divorces, but in the late 60s and early 70s, the trends began to mirror one another much more closely until the middle 70s, when marriages dropped, and divorces continued to rise. Since then, divorces have been on the decline, but it would only seem that this is because marriages are declining as well.

In recent history in the U.S., 50% percent of first marriages, 67% of second, and 73% of third marriages end in divorce. As with any other sin, it gets easier, the more often you do it. With all of the hype concerning the high divorce rates and debate as to what actually constitutes a marriage, more couples today are choosing to simply live together. In this situation, the idea of life-long responsibility is almost completely done away with. This is the state of the union of marriage in our country today.

It is no wonder children grow up and behave as they do. The stability of a loving family, the centralized government of parents making unified decisions in their upbringing, proper discipline—for correction and not abuse and a Christ-centered outlook on life all work together to help form well-adjusted young adults. It is possible—I have seen it happen. But without God as the center of the family, it is all but certain that things will quickly begin to fall apart.

***“...Our Father which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name” (Matt. 6:9).***

This is where it all begins. “Our Father”—He is our perfect example of what a father should be. I recently heard a devotion, where a father was describing an outing to the beach with his young daughter. She was constantly asking for different things; “Daddy, can I play in the sand?” “Daddy, can I take off my shoes?” “Daddy, can I play in the water?” “Daddy, I don’t like the way the sand feels. Can you carry me?” “Daddy, there’s the ice cream man. Can I have some ice cream?” “Daddy, I’m thirsty, can I have some water?” These questions did not irritate him, on the contrary, it was his desire to fulfill her every need. It pleased him to know that he was able to do these things for his daughter. This is how God deals with all of His children, as long as we are seeking those things that are according to His will.

*“And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the*

*nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (Luke 12:29-32).*

The simple fact that we are here means that God has indeed supplied all our needs up until this day. We may have suffered want in the past but, by God’s mercy, He has helped us to overcome those situations so that we can always give Him the glory in all things. Those trials of the past which He has helped us to overcome remind us of His providence in our current struggles. He has been our strength in the past, and He will take us through whatever we may now be facing. God is always faithful to His children.

Can anyone think of a time when God failed them? Without a doubt, we have all failed Him at one time or another, but even when we don’t receive the answers that we were seeking at the moment, when we look back, we can see that God had our best interests at heart, since He could see the long term effects of our unfulfilled desires and had mercy on us by not granting us our wishes.

God is the Master Artist of our lives. There may be times when we look around us and all we see is a big mess. But we are sitting on the canvas, and He is looking down from a distance. What appears to be a confused mass of color from our vantage point, is the beginnings of His perfected masterpiece from His. We may not always know what He is doing, but we can be sure that He does, and if we trust in Him, He will be glorified by His Spirit’s work in us. As we draw closer to Him, we also, can begin to discern a pattern in what once seemed to be chaos, since as we draw nearer to Him, our distance from all things worldly helps us to see a larger portion of the big picture.

Surely we can see this characteristic mirrored in our earthly fathers, whether they served the Lord or not. This is a critically important aspect of fatherhood. Often, as children, we may not have understood why our fathers withheld some things that we desired, and supplied things that we may not have wanted, but as age and understanding began to increase, we grew to appreciate their wisdom.

*“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:19).* When God makes a promise, we can rest assured that He will follow through. Fathers must have a solid grasp of the importance of their words in every situation: good, bad and neutral. If a father promises some good thing and then fails to supply, those children will begin to lose trust in their fathers. Also, if a father promises a certain form of discipline for disobedience and then neglects to follow through, those children will grow up with a skewed understanding of consequences and be confused when a teacher reprimands them for their behavior, or a boss terminates their employment for an infraction of policy, or a police officer gives them a citation for failing to submit to traffic laws and many other circumstances as well, since by their understanding of things, they could do no wrong. (See Hebrews 12:6-10.)

From the beginning, it was God’s intention for us to look to our fathers here on earth as examples of our Father in heaven. If fathers behave as God has designed them to, we can see quite clearly who God is and know that



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whatever comes our way, it is because He loves us and wants us to know that we can always trust Him in all things for strength, safety, sustenance, provision or any other need we may have. Not every trial we face is God's vengeance on us for our disobedience. Sometimes fathers will allow difficult situations, or even encourage them, in order to strengthen their children. Learning to ride a bicycle may not be fun at the time, but joy will come, and those skills will be beneficial later, when that child learns to drive.

Learning to play an instrument may not be pleasant in the beginning, yet those whose parents convinced them to continue in their studies, no matter the difficulty, can now praise God that they can use those talents to help out in the local church during service, helping the entire congregation to worship God. While those who did not persevere, or never even tried in the first place wish they had, so that they could be used of God in this manner now.

Too often, fathers have fallen short of God's will and, as children; we look at God as if He were like our earthly fathers. Some had fathers who left when they were young, and now they remain fearful that God will leave them when they need Him most. Others had abusive fathers, and now believe God to be waiting for them to make a single false move, so He can send some hardship or tragedy as punishment. Others have different views of our Heavenly Father which are just as skewed as these two, yet God always has our good in mind in every circumstance, just as our earthly fathers should have, however they may have fallen short. But God has given us His Word, and by it we can see His intentions for fathers by His examples throughout the Bible.

*"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (John 14:23).*

As a loving father, God cries out to us through His Word and His Spirit in order to guide us closer to Him. If there is any distance between us and our Heavenly Father, we must be aware that we are the ones who have made the separation. Remember the prodigal son.

*"And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him" (Luke 15:20).* The father didn't say within himself, "If he's coming home, I'm gonna make him walk all the way up to me and then make him apologize!" No, as soon as he saw him, he ran to meet him, hugged him, kissed him and welcomed him home. THIS is the God we serve. We only have to recognize our helplessness apart from Him and turn in His direction, then He will run to meet us with His arms open wide. 📖

## BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE 2018-2019



PAUL HORTON  
GENERAL BTI COORDINATOR

Praise the Lord for all that has been accomplished through BTI this year with 5 more successful BTI schools in India, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Bolivia and El Salvador.

As you read this BTI article, we will have commenced our BTI school in Cleveland and will be immediately preparing for IYC, the Assembly and the next year's work in the BTI Department. It is with this in mind that I would like to remind us all, that we are to not be at ease in Zion. There is much to do and too little time to do it. We must stay active in our pursuit for Bible and Church knowledge. The Church's book store (that can be accessed online) has many BTI correspondence courses which you can acquire to further your knowledge of the Bible. The 4 volume **Who Is She** course is a great study course to help anyone gain a deeper understanding of Christ and His Church. These, as well as many other courses, could be used for personal or family devotions. The hour is late, and His return is soon. Let us all stay busy learning all that we can about Christ and His Church so we can be ready and help others to prepare themselves for His return.

Again, I want to offer a special thanks to the many offerings and one-time contributions to the BTI Department. As we continue to receive requests from the field for BTI schools, it is because of your giving that we are able to go and teach the gospel and the Church message around the world.

The Church of God  
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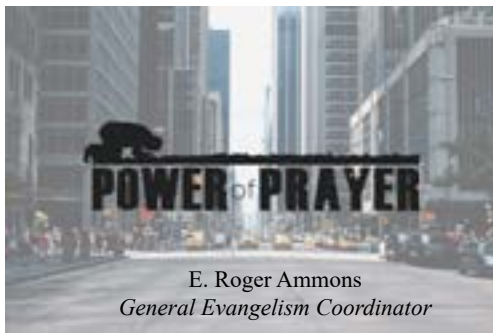
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The Northeast Region was blessed to have Mary Shelton and Crew minister in 5 local churches, all in west-



ern Pennsylvania, as well as 4 area nursing homes in the month of March. The team was also able to do some outreach and pass out nearly 100 fliers in



neighborhoods surrounding the Uniontown church, inviting locals to attend The Church of God, and several good contacts were made.



It was a wonderful time of growth, encouragement, and strengthening to those



involved in the services, seasons of prayer, and sweet fellowship.



# I.Y.C.

Join us at The Smoky Mountain Resort in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee August 2-5 for International Youth Camp! This 3 night 4 day retreat is nestled in the beautiful Smoky Mountains. For \$148 you will receive 8 meals, lodging, and valuable instruction for the camping ministry. This year's theme will be focused on the "family" aspect of the camping ministry. IYC is open to Camp Directors, current or perspective camp staff, VLB Leaders, and state/regional/national representatives.

Register online at  
[www.thechurchofgod.org/vlb/IYC/apply/](http://www.thechurchofgod.org/vlb/IYC/apply/)  
See you there!

