



# THE CHURCH OF GOD IN THE NORTHEAST REGION



P. O. Box 2002, Uniontown, PA 15401 — [www.tcog-ne.org](http://www.tcog-ne.org)

*“It came even to pass on the third day, that, behold, a man came out of the camp*

*from Saul with his clothes rent, and earth upon his head: and so it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the earth, and did obeisance. And David said unto him, From whence comest thou? And he said unto him, Out of the camp of Israel am I escaped. And David said unto him, How went the matter? I pray thee, tell me. And he answered, That the people are fled from the battle, and many of the people also are fallen and dead; and Saul and Jonathan his son are dead also”* (2 Sam. 1:2-4). Here is an illustration of someone communicating important information. *“How went the matter?”* David asked. The man who came out of the camp of Saul answered with the report. The statistics were conveyed to David, giving him insight of the situation that was on the field. We further read that he was affected by the information shared. In this case, he lamented over the news. In another passage, the Queen of Sheba stated, *“It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts,”* but the assessment of the report was that it exceeded expectations and that the *“half was not told”* (1 Kings 10:6, 7).

BTI, Third Term Business, Lesson One, states that communication through “personal reporting is the most common form of reporting in the Bible. From the local church level, to a budding ‘general level,’ Peter, Barna-

**To Communicate Forget Not  
Imparting Information & Means—It’s Biblical**

James R. Horne, State Overseer

bas, and Paul, personally reported to the first Assembly the facts of God’s blessings upon the Gen-

tiles (Acts 15:7-12). When a decision was reached by the Assembly, there was a reporting of that decision from the general level to the local level in the form of letters (Acts 15:22-23, 30).”

Communicating in certain cases is synonymous with reporting information. Accountability and conveying updates about our work is valuable in that it keeps those over us in the Lord informed of progress, it challenges us to stay active in the work (as mandated by the Assembly), and keeps us in check and connects us as laborers together under God’s Government. In some cases, “Local Church reports showing little or no progress,” signal that an assessment of the work may be needed. “If evaluations and adjustments are not made, the result will be more of the same, including low morale among the members... or [perhaps reveal the need to address] spiritual problems...” (BTI, 3rd Term Business, p. 9).

The word “communicate” denotes “imparting both information and means,” to reveal or convey actions and effort. Another definition represents being “sociable, ready and apt to form and maintain communion and fellowship.” We see in our Church history that communication through the reporting system was designated as one of the helps noted in 1 Corinthians 12:28. Moreover, we see this concept in action throughout scripture.

Acts 21:17-19 tell us, *“And when we were come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present. And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry.”* Paul went to communicate something that happened in the ministry, so he reached Jerusalem and was saluted there. The next day he and the brethren went to “Headquarters” unto James (the General Overseer) with the elders present and gave his report by declaring what God had done among the Gentiles.

We see that The Church of God at Philippi communicated with Paul. He said, *“Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only”* (Phil. 4:14, 15). Paul was occupying a position similar to that of a State Overseer, and he commended the Church at Philippi for their faithfulness because they communicated with him regarding giving and receiving. In I Timothy 6:18, we further read Paul’s appeal, *“That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate.”* In this context, communicate can mean being “willing to share, inclined to impart, free in giving” (Strong’s 2843). We are told in Hebrews 13:16 and 17, *“But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”*

Our model of reporting is not just some unnecessary function that our forefathers imposed on the Church. It was rather seen as a biblical way of establishing accountability and gleaned information, and it linked our worldwide efforts together as one. Our covenant represents our commitment and shared responsibility with other members of the body, to do things correctly as recommended by the multitude of counselors. Let us note that the Assembly has asked us to report (see Business Guide, pp. 155-157), and we are told that God is “well pleased” when we

do. It further states that a *“good report maketh the bones fat”* (Prov. 15:30). Reporting is also significant for the purpose of record keeping, the importance of which was discussed and established in 1906, at the very first Assembly this side of the Dark Ages. Where would we be without good records of things gone by, whether biblical or historical?

Could it not be further established that reporting and accounting of information was important to the New Testament Church? Did the Church not have a treasurer who handled funds and did it not also have a membership roll of names that was reported? *“Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor”* (John 13:29). *“Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty)...”* (Acts 1:15).

If you recollect, communicating can be defined as “imparting information and means.” Our Church Business Guide tells us that funds are sent “with their reports.” When we report to State and General Headquarters we are not only obedient and accountable to the government by imparting information regarding that which we have done for God, but we also submit “means or tithes” that are due to the Lord with that information. The Assembly has

**“Our covenant represents  
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designated a financial system through which the whole Church is to operate. Besides free will giving, members pay tithes of their increase into the local church. Ten percent of the member’s tithes are sent from the local church to the State/Regional Headquarters. The State then pays ten percent to General Headquarters. The remaining ninety percent of tithes paid into the local church (up to the limit set by the Administrative Committee) is used to give an allotment to the pastor for his support. A minister pays ten percent of his ministerial increase to General Headquarters with his report. All of this is imperative to the operation of our work worldwide. *“For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron: I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness”* (Isa. 60:17). God’s financial plan of tithing and giving as listed in our Promi-

ment Teaching is well established in scripture: (Gen. 14:18-20; 28:20-22; Mal. 3:10; Matt. 23:23; Luke 11:42; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-9; Heb. 7:1-21).

Each of us “count as one” but our efforts, our part of this great work is added to the overall contribution of the whole body (e.g. souls saved, members added, sermons preached, CPMA memberships, subscribed to *The Evening Light*, tithes paid, etc.). Our spiritual labors and faithfulness are further accounted for in heaven (Heb. 6:10). Truly, we lack an accurate representation of our work here on earth when statistics are submitted to Headquarters or are read at the Assembly but are not inclusive of all ministries because some may not have been faithful to communicate the information. Promptness,

accuracy and regular reporting to those over us, as well as sending “means” which as designated in the Word belong to and honor God; will bring His blessings upon us, fund the overall effort in this world and give a clearer picture of where we’re at in the general labors of the Church in these last days. So to those in ministry, or to whom this applies, consider getting your monthly “communication” ready and mailed by the 5th of each month. To the member, be faithful in tithing and giving at your local church and see what blessings God will pour out on you! To all who are charged with other responsibilities in leadership (at any level) or at whatever interval you are asked to report and to where, these words encourage you by saying, “*to communicate forget not.*”

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! I am truly thankful for the good reports that have been coming in from around the Region. I trust that you all have felt the presence of the Lord very close to you and that He has kept you in His love and grace since my last writing.

My family and I have been working for the Lord and His Church and, as this time of year always dictates, it will no doubt become more eventful through the General Assembly. Please be in prayer for all our upcoming functions and work.

Pastors, please make sure that you are having your regular quarterly conferences and that the local treasurer forwards the local auxiliary reports that are orally read and submitted, lay ministry and non-preaching deacon reports, if any, to the Regional Office. These will be compiled and the information sent to the Regional Coordinators and also filed for our records.

Ministers, teachers and local treasurers: Please remember to send your monthly reports in by the 5th. Your help and cooperation is much appreciated and helps my office with compiling needed information for Headquarters.

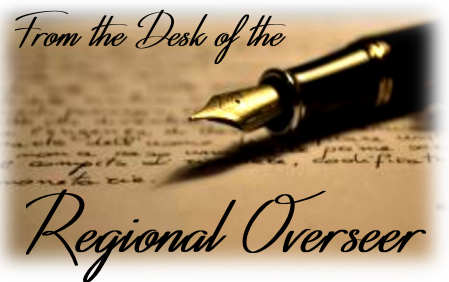


If it's been a while since you've observed it, pray about having Communion and Footwashing. The Assembly advises quarterly where possible and it is a wonderful blessing.

Our Region is very close to being 100% in CPMA. I know we can meet this worthy goal. Thanks to all who have already joined this year. Let's press on to 100%!

If you enjoy receiving the Olive Branch, please pray about sending a donation to the Regional Office. There is no subscription cost currently as funds have been used from the General Fund for its production. Your offering can help offset the printing costs and shipping so that Regional funds can be used in other needed areas of our work.

We are excited to have our General Overseer coming to be with us at Regional Convention, June 28-30 in Uniontown. Let's promote this in our churches and get everyone rallied to come. I would like to see as many delegates as possible from every church. I believe it will be a glorious time in the Lord and I am excited to have each one of you to meet our General Overseer more personally. Please come one, come all! In addition, I ask that you all join in prayer that God will supply the ministry needs of the Region.



—James Horne, Regional Overseer

Greetings, my dear brothers and sisters!

At the preparation of this article for the **Olive Branch**, I am faced with an unexpected trial. I found myself asking God: Why me? Why now? What are you trying to do with me?

Just a few days before I sat down to write this article, I fell as I was going down my basement steps. I was carrying a porch swing pillow which, fortunately, cushioned my fall. However, as I tried to get off the floor, I realized that while all of my limbs seemed to be unscathed and my head had not even hit the floor, my right foot was in excruciating pain and it was clear that this was the part of my body which bore the brunt of my fall. For a moment, I thought how I was blessed to have not received more injuries. So, I struggled to get myself up, hopped up the steps, decided to ice my foot, keep it elevated, and see how I felt the next day.

The next morning, I was still in a great deal of pain but managed to shower and get ready for work. With the intention of eventually going to my job, I decided to first stop at the local Med Express to have my foot checked out. X-rays were taken and it was determined that my fifth metatarsal (the smallest and last bone in my foot) was badly broken. My foot was temporarily casted and I was told to refrain from putting weight on it and to go immediately to an orthopedic specialist for further consultation. At this point, I knew I was facing a serious trial.

I never made it to work that day, in fact, I won't be going to work for at least six weeks. By the time you read this, I will have had surgery to repair the broken bone in my foot. Assuming that all went well, I will be at home recuperating. I will be navigating with the use of crutches, depending on my husband, daughter, and others to help me get through the day.

I must be brutally honest with you. This injury is most inconvenient! I have

# Hallelujah Anyhow!

so much going on in the next few weeks—my emotions have ranged from

laughter to tears to anger and frustration. The challenge of using crutches is almost as bad as the injury itself. I was planning to attend BTI...yes, I was! But now this is uncertain. The paid time off I was going to use for my time missed from work may have to be used for my time off due to this injury. Will I still be able to go to BTI?

*Why me, Lord? Why Now? Lord, I do not have time for this in my life!*

“Stop, Elaine!” our Lord was telling me. “Stop and listen to my Word.” These words were brought to my attention and have given me comfort and strength. I am eternally thankful for The Word of God!

- **“That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust”** (Matt. 5:45).
- **“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”** (Rom. 8:18).
- **“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you”** (1 Thess. 5:18).

Right now, you are probably facing a trial or test. It is only through God's Word and prayer that we will make it through. May the Word of God and the prayers of the saints give you comfort and strength to endure. Although I am still a bit salty about this trial, I will thank God for it and trust that He will bring me through with victory. And, I say “Hallelujah Anyhow!”



Regional  
Sunday School  
Coordinator,  
Elaine Smail



**Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. 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. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising”** (Isa. 60:1-3).

Do you appreciate The Church of God? What a blessed people we are!

June 13, 2019, marks the 116<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Arise Shine of The Church of God! How God has blessed His Church in those 116 years. What a precious Heritage we have!

To commemorate the Arise, Shine, our General CPMA Coordinator, Brother James Horne, has asked that each local CPMA leader plan a work day in your local church during the month of June to make needed repairs or plan a beautification project. This does not have to be anything costly. It can be something as simple as planting flowers, power washing, or painting. Anything that would beautify the interior or exterior of your Marker! Use your imagination! Remember, one of the important duties of the CPMA is “to locate, beautify, and maintain places of biblical interest and other prominent places in the world in connection with the Church of God of the Bible.” That starts in our own “back yard” with tak-



ing care of our own local church properties. Your church building is a Marker that represents The Church of God to your community. We always want to do our best in representing Christ and His Church!

Please be much in prayer for Brother Horne as he prepares to conduct a special service at Fields of the Wood in commemoration of Heritage Day on June 1, 2019. I know this will be an uplifting, inspiring, and sacred service for those who are blessed to be

able to attend.

Finally, pastors and local ABM leaders, Regional Convention is swiftly approaching. The Assembly year is almost over. Please, if your church is not 100% in CPMA, I ask that you do your very best in encouraging your membership (and anyone who would like) to join the CPMA. As members, we need to support all of the auxiliaries, and the CPMA is crucial in sharing the Church message with the world! Let's get behind it and work toward out 100% Regional goal! We can get there by the help of the Lord!

Looking forward to seeing you all at our Regional Convention! God Bless!

Regional CPMA Coordinator,  
Lisa Smith

Greetings to everyone!

Psalms 121 reads, *"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord... The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore"* (vv. 1, 2, 7, 8).

Those words rang out loud and clear to me as I was recently faced with a disappointment in my life. I admit, at first, these words were hard to hold onto. But I felt the Lord leading me to keep reading them over and over again. As I sat and waited for Him to draw near to me, I felt His peace and His presence come over me. The disappointment was not easy, but the Lord gave me just what I needed to make it through.

May you be encouraged that during difficult disappointments, the Lord is present and gives you just what you need, at just the right time. May you cling to His Word, and wait for Him to speak to you, and see how He will bless you. He knows what He is doing, even if we cannot see the bigger picture.

God bless you all!

Regional VLB Coordinator,  
Alicia Smail



# WESTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION



Our Western District Convention, held at the Grove City, Pennsylvania, church, was abundantly blessed with the theme, "Rapture Ready." Brother Texter and his congregation were fine hosts and provided a delicious meal for the delegates. All of the messages were inspired, as well

as the boosts. Brother Wendell Flick, District Overseer, did a good job putting the program together and moderating, for which we are very thankful. All who attended were blessed and many commented on the good spirit that was there. There was a general excitement for the coming of the Lord.



# EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION

Our Eastern District Convention, held in New Rochelle, New York, had the theme "In One Accord, In One Place." Brother Herbert Woods, District Overseer, moderated the Convention. The messages and boosts presented were a blessing. There was a special fellowship there amongst the delegates and appreciation for the Church. One of the highlights of the day was when many of the delegates got together for a late lunch. With all the good preaching and

singing, the Convention went well into the evening. We were saddened that Sister Taylor could not be with us that day due to illness, but the New Rochelle folks carried on and hosted the Convention well.



*Do all the good you can,  
by all the means you can,  
in all the ways you can,  
in all the places you can,  
at all the times you can,  
to all the people you can,  
as long as ever you can.*

*Catch on fire  
with enthusiasm  
and people will come  
from miles  
to watch you burn.*

*— John Wesley*

## In Our Church History...

The following statement on proper dress was accepted as a ruling by unanimous agreement:

This committee recommends this Assembly go on record as being strictly against indecent exposure of our members in public. This would include the wearing of shorts in view of the public. Also, our brethren going without shirts in public and any of our members donning bathing suits and bathing in public pools or at beaches.

—Q&S, 47<sup>th</sup> Assembly Minutes, 1952

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Our Region commends you for the accomplishments you have achieved and pray that God will bless all of your future endeavors as you keep Christ first in your life.

God Bless,  
Brother Horne and  
Regional Staff



## Mother's Day



*"Honour thy  
father and thy  
mother:*

*that thy days may  
be long upon the land  
which the Lord thy  
God giveth thee"*  
- Exodus 20:12

## Father's Day



## Heritage Day

will be celebrated from 12:00—3:00

June 1, 2019

at Fields of the Wood

Please come join us—everyone welcome!  
General CPMA Department in charge



## Special Thanks

to Mary Shelton and the Crew  
for coming to minister in  
our Western Pennsylvania churches.  
Karns City, Grove City, Monongahela  
and Kittanning each hosted one service,  
and Uniontown hosted a five night revival.  
We thank the Lord for the outreach efforts,  
the good singing and preaching, the prayer  
meetings, and the sweet fellowship.





# KARNS CITY

Greetings to everyone. We are blessed. We loved to have the Shelton family with us as well as the Horne family. They were such a blessing to us all. We are also thanking the Lord for a good report on Brother Kelley. Our Sunday School is growing. We have two new people coming. Continue to pray for us at Karns City. God bless you all.

- Alma Kelley, Reporter

Greetings from The Church of God in Monongahela.

# Monongahela

Recently, Brother Burdett presented a sermon called, "Unity of Worship." It was a timely message that is certainly worth sharing. He may have been feeling nostalgic for some of the old-time worship services that were definitely more lively than some we experience today. I will summarize some of what he said without direct quotes. He shared that in services of old the glory of God came down and people praised God in unity.

God is still the same, but many things today crowd our minds. Satan has a way of planting things in our minds, that may keep us from giving our all to worship.

*"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4).* They were in one accord, or in unity. As their mind was on the Lord, they were all baptized with the Holy Ghost. Oh, the power of unity!

We need to exalt God and watch what He will do. We get the attention of God when we are in unity. Fire causes excitement and will make you move. He will bless you. *"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost..." (Acts 4:31).* Aren't you glad the Holy Spirit is not asleep? There were no iPhones back then. They got together in unity in prayer.

*"Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:19, 20).*

*"That we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive. But speaking the truth in love, may grow up unto him in all things, which is the head even Christ" (Eph. 4:14, 15).*

Our perfection will come by revelation of the Holy Ghost. The devil is the author of confusion, and we must unite against him.

We at the Monongahela church certainly have been blessed. Thanks be to God for unity.

- Judy Smitley, Reporter

## Revival Pictures



Grove City



Karns City



Kittanning



Monongahela

Praise God!



# Uniontown

Greetings from Uniontown PA, We are so happy to have our Pastor/Regional Overseer settled in the Allegheny Mountains' Chestnut Ridge of Pennsylvania! The Hornes have been very busy re-organizing life for their new work!

God has immensely blessed us through the following avenues: Sister Mary Shelton and her evangelistic team canvased our area for souls and ministered to our church and Region through a series of spirit-filled singing and preaching services on March 5th-10th! It was our privilege to share their ministry through the Word, their singing and their testimonies! We are still gleaming from the seeds that they had sown in our area!

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Uniontown Church had a special service commemorating the Lord's Blessing on our building.



Brother Horne and Brother James Smith conducted an "Indebtedness Burning Ceremony" to the glory of God! The testimonies of the Uniontown church members who followed God demonstrated the solid foundation needed to sustain

the work and receive the blessing! Brother Smith admonished all to continue to go on and be a part in finishing God's plan... the perfected Church! The special concluded with a prayer of thanksgiving and rededication. God's presence was there as the ministry prayed and anointed the sacred structures of our building. Surely the presence of the Lord was in the place!

Our members returned home from the District Convention in Grove City "Rapture Ready"! The auxiliary boosts and messages were truly anointed by the power of God. The ministry fed the flock with strong

anointed preaching which was food for their soul. The



Grove City church was a most gracious host and the fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Since the Hornes were scheduled to be in Eastern District Convention in New York the first Sunday in April, we celebrated Easter on the fourth Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. We appreciated our Regional Overseer and his family with an Easter basket full of treats!

If this isn't enough good news from Uniontown, we have but the most precious news yet to share. We have welcomed a very precious extended family back into our fellowship who we have been honored to worship with many years of our Christian lives. Our roots go back to the beginning of the Uniontown church on Winona Street. The Church message never gets old and the spirit renews and unites us all daily!

Our Easter service was very special because we all had family members present and many of them commented, "This is just like old times!" Our attendance was 54.

There is a spirit of humbleness, reverence, joy and thankfulness hovering over us right now. We wait with great expectation to see what the Lord is going to do next!

- Denise Sataneck, Reporter



Greetings from the Regional ABM Department.

Our Easter season has come to a close and, as time passes swiftly, we are getting closer to the coming of the Lord. We listen to the news and see the signs of the times. We should not be disheartened, because God is in control. Our theme for the ABM, **Till We All Come**, pertains to us today. *“Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit”* (Ecc. 7:8).

*“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering”* (Col. 3:12). Look at the things Paul lists here which should be part of our character as Christians: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Which is hardest for you or me? “They are all hard for me,” you might be tempted to say—and you are probably right. Every one of them strikes a blow at our natural selfishness. No one exhibited them more completely than our Lord, who was completely self-giving.

But for many of us, patience is the hardest. For one thing, our patience is probably tested every day, even every hour—especially in this computer age. But patience is also critical, for without it the other four—compassion, kindness, humility, and gentleness—are impossible. Let us be faithful in serving the Lord.

In our upcoming Regional Convention in June, please remember our Regional Overseer and family. Each Church is asked to bring a pounding of non-perishable food or items to present to them. Thank you and God bless.

Regional ABM Coordinator,  
Louise Smail



“THE  
UNSINKABLE  
OLE SHIP  
OF ZION,”  
FOR JESUS  
CHRIST IS  
HER  
CAPTAIN.

unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matt. 28:19, 20). Let us do as Christ has commanded us. The hour is late. Time is running out. Throw out the lifeline that others may live.

The Ole Ship of Zion is sailing on. We sing, “She will make the run successful to that distant heavenly harbor, for Christ Jesus is her Captain, oh, won’t you get on board?” “Go ye,” as Jesus Christ Himself has given the orders.

Regional WMB Coordinator,  
Peggy Fordyce

Jesus said, in John 3:15, *“That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.”* Jesus Christ Himself is our example of soul winning. In Matthew 4:19, Jesus said, *“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”* Their response: *“And they straightway left their nets, and followed him”* (v. 20).

Christ has commanded us, *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even*

**Reminders** — Please support the Mission Table and Clothes Closet at the General Assembly. Please bring craft items to be sold at the Mission Table and clothes to be donated to the Clothes Closet for those overseas or in need.

Please see the back page for information on the upcoming International Ladies’ Retreats and also on the book of poems written by Sister Bishop

*“Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds: lest the fruit of thy seed which thou hast sown, and the fruit of thy vineyard, be defiled”* (Deut. 22:9). This verse contains

## Sowing Mixed Seed

Rebekah Horne, Assistant Editor

literal instructions concerning the proper planting of vineyards, but also carries sound spiritual implications. God is a God of separation. This is evidenced from the very beginning of time. When He created light, the Bible records that *“God divided the light from the darkness”* (Gen. 1:4).

It is important that we understand what God desires to join together, and what He desires to separate. Simply put, He desires to join together the things that agree and separate the things that are opposed to one another. Such a simple formula, isn't it? The difficulty arises when we allow divisions to come where He desires unity, and when we try to mingle together things where He requires separation. When God instructs separation it is because His own righteousness demands it, and because He loves us and it is for our own good.

The reason cited for not planting with “divers seeds,” meaning “mixed seeds” (two or more kinds of seeds), is that the vineyard would be defiled. This applies to every area of life. Sending mixed messages is always disastrous. In childrearing, a parent may give good, sound instruction and training to the children, but if they witness that same parent compromising biblical standards in any small way, or displaying hypocrisy (failure to personally demonstrate the things taught to the kids), the “mixed seed” will defile and undo all of the good that was intended. A parent may uphold certain Church doctrine and advice while allowing worldliness into their own heart or family in other, seemingly unimportant ways such as questionable music, entertainment, or just about anything, attempting to mix holiness with worldliness, *“Having a form of godliness, but denying [contradicting] the power thereof.”* This is a poison that will destroy all infected with it, thus the straightforward instruction: *“from such turn away”* (2 Tim. 3:5). Simply an ugly attitude or critical spirit will contaminate the good, godly seeds of love we're trying to plant.

God's instructions in the Old Testament included not mingling among the heathen and especially to not marry outsiders. He clearly sees the dangers that we so frequently fail to recognize: *“For they will turn away thy son from*

*following me”* (Deut. 7:4). Nehemiah recorded the tragic outcome in his day when God's people had intermarried with

others: *“And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people”* (Neh. 13:24). Mixing the standards and lifestyle of God's chosen people with the standards and lifestyle of the worldlings around us will have the same result in our day. Before long, the “language” we speak in the Church of God (a language of love, holiness and purity) will become foreign to us and we'll no longer understand it or be able to speak it, being so influenced by the language of the world around us. We see this in young people who have been raised in the Church, but have been so heavily inundated with the world that they know little about Church history, our forefathers, or even simple Bible doctrine and standards of holiness. How great a loss—with eternal consequences.

The enemy of our souls is constantly trying to weasel his way into The Church of God with philosophies that sound appealing, but are laced with compromise. Anything that compromises God's standards or instructions is “divers” or “mixed” seed and will defile the good seed we're trying so hard to sow in our hearts and those around us. Don't be fooled into thinking little things don't matter. Don't assume they won't affect you or your children. *“A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump”* (Gal. 5:9). In Deuteronomy, when God was giving instructions on behavior and conduct to His people, He told them **why** they matter: *“Ye are the children of the Lord your God”* (14:1), and emphasized, *“For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God, and the Lord hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth”* (v. 2). This is later confirmed by the apostle Paul, *“What? know ye not that... ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's”* (1 Cor. 6:19, 20). Therefore we're given instructions such as *“come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you”* (2 Cor. 6:17).

Search your heart and life very carefully. Make sure you are not sowing with mixed seed—compromise of any kind—lest all the good you are working for be “defiled.”

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**Special Note:** Articles intended for publication in the next issue of *The Olive Branch* should be received on or before **June 20, 2019**.

These submissions will be for the **July — August 2019** issue. Please send to Rebekah L. Horne, Assistant Editor, at:

P. O. Box 2002, Uniontown, PA 15456 or e-mail: RLHorne77@outlook.com

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## Bible Training Institute

**May 26-June 8, 2019  
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Make plans to attend! Applications can be found on The Church of God website or in *The Evening Light*. The Region will be providing some financial assistance to attendees from our area. Check with our Regional Overseer for information. So far, we have 9-10 people from our Region planning to attend. Praise God!

## *International Ladies' Retreats*

**MAY 3-5, 2019  
CADIZ, KENTUCKY**

**OCTOBER 4-6, 2019  
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA**

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE  
THROUGH THE CHURCH WEBSITE  
([THECHURCHOFGOD.ORG](http://THECHURCHOFGOD.ORG))



## NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONVENTION

**JUNE 28-30, 2019  
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*PLEASE COME JOIN US!*

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OSCAR PIMENTEL,  
GENERAL  
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blessed. Please make plans to come! Contact Alma Kelley for more information—or to let her know if you want to help as staff:  
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**July 17-21, 2019  
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Laurel Lake Camp  
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**Monongahela Sunday School Picnic  
Saturday, July 27, 2019**

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101 Kingwood Drive  
Venetia, PA

All are welcome—Please join us!



*114<sup>th</sup> General Assembly*

OF

**THE CHURCH OF GOD  
AUGUST 6-11, 2019**



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