



THE  
Olive Branch

January — February 2019



# THE CHURCH OF GOD IN THE NORTHEAST REGION



CONNECTICUT, MAINE, MASSACHUSETTS, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW JERSEY, NEW YORK, PENNSYLVANIA, RHODE ISLAND & VERMONT

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

## Commencing 2019 with Reflection & Consecration

James R. Horne, State Overseer

The very early assemblies of the Church were noted as being held near the beginning of the calendar year. As delegates gathered together in January for prayer and deliberations, their thoughts turned to deeper walks with God and how they could give themselves further to the Lord and the Church work in the coming year. In his Annual Address in 1941, A. J. Tomlinson stated, “The main reason January was selected... was because we were very zealous for evangelistic work so we could spend as much time as possible in spreading the message we had found and get as many souls saved as we could. We chose winter instead of summer because we could not do our revival work as well in the winter as summer... We could shut ourselves up for the study of the Bible while it was cold and snowy and not feel we were losing time... We were very anxious to use all the time we could in favorable weather in revival work. As it is now, we were in a hurry all the time to drag souls out of sin.”

The 2nd Assembly held at Union Grove, Tennessee, in 1907, gives an interesting account of a “fellowship agreement” and a time of earnest reflection and consecration among the attendants. These members are recorded in the minutes of that Assembly as making the following commitments or resolutions of sorts to the Lord:

A. J. Tomlinson — “I expect to spend all my time this year in the ministry of the Word and prayer.”

R. G. Spurling — “I expect to give all my time to the Lord's work this year.”

A. Hamby — “I expect to walk in the light. When I feel that He needs me in the field, I expect to go; when I feel I ought to be at home, I expect to be there, but I hold myself ready to go.”

M. S. Lemons — “I expect to give all my time to the ministry of the Word and prayer, but I expect to work some in the garden and at home, if the time is given, but if I am required to be in the work I'll let that go.”

W. F. Bryant — “I expect to be in the work all the year on some line, I am at His service. I am in it with all my power; my very bones are on fire for God.”

H. L. Trim — “I've been going part of my time; I have felt I ought to give it all. If God opens up a field of labor before me, I expect to go into it. I mean to go on. I expect to go, God being my helper.”

L. W. Smith — “I expect to do more than I have in the past. God has blessed me in many ways.”

Oscar Withrow — He was ready for service all the year if God led that way by His Spirit and Providence's.

Henry McNabb — He and his wife were ready for

the battle as the Lord led.

The words of these delegates in 1907 were no doubt prayerful, deliberate and heartfelt. One hundred and twelve years later, we find ourselves as covenant members of that same body, embarking into 2019. We stand before the many unknowns of what this new year has in store. Much will be up to us as individuals in the decisions we make, what our priorities will be, and in what we give ourselves and our attention to. Let's seek God first and evaluate our desires and plans to make sure they align with the Word of God to choose well the spiritual things that really matter in eternity. Check that our personal motivations and the yearnings of our heart will be

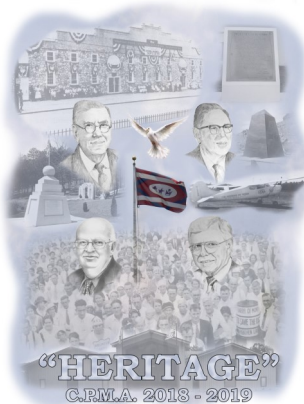
found in greater dedication and fervency for Christ and the Church this year, making good use of the time afforded us. We are not promised tomorrow but, as the Lord wills, let our commitment be in 2019 as it was to these men and women in our Church history. We haven't much time left. What words would you share with the Church in further consecrating yourself this upcoming year?

*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). "...For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that" (James 4:14b-15).*

Cape Perpetua on the central Oregon coast is home to a giant spruce known as the Heritage Tree. It is called the Heritage Tree because it stands almost 200' tall and started to grow as a seedling half a century before Columbus sailed to the Americas. What's really fascinating about this tree, however, is that there is a tunnel about 3' in diameter that runs through its base, making it appear that the tree is standing or rooted into the ground on a tripod. This tunnel or empty space is where a nurse log was once located. This giant Sitka spruce began its life as a seedling on the nurse log.

Nurse logs were once great trees themselves, but eventually fell to the earth. The log becomes a nursery, so to speak, for an entirely new ecosystem of life. With the nurse log down on the forest floor in such a high moisture environment, the log decays rapidly and soon the seeds of many mighty trees, caught in the mossy layer that now grows on the log's surface, sprout and take root. As they grow larger, their roots will surround the girth of the nurse log, and the tree will grow tall and strong, viable on its own. By this time, the nurse log has long since decomposed and disappeared.

This illustration reminds me of our duty to the generations following on after us. We must teach and train our children and those coming behind us, passing on Bible doctrine, for eventually we will



step aside so they may grow up in our place, making use of what we have taught.

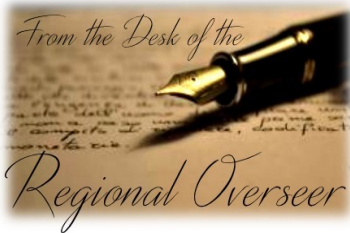
One of the duties of the CPMA is to be living markers, or testaments, of Jesus Christ and promote perfection among the believers. How important it is that we instill Bible truths in the hearts and lives of those coming behind, being the living example before them so they never forget the truth of God's Word and the beauty of the Church of God.

*"That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever" (Josh. 4:6, 7).*

*"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5).*

We need to be nurse logs to the coming generation. Willing to die out, but willing to die out only to help another grow up. Nurse logs still have a purpose. Let us plant seeds into the lives of this younger generation, imparting the truth that we have learned along the way.

Regional CPMA Coordinator,  
Lisa Smith



I am thankful to report that our house in Alabama sold on December 18<sup>th</sup>. We were able to be in services at Uniontown on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and will be com-

muting back and forth from Mount Union, Pennsylvania, for the next few weeks until we close on our house just outside of Uniontown, prayerfully in mid- to late January. To be lighthearted, the title, "From the Desk" isn't really an accurate one right now. Perhaps "From the Driver's Seat of my Van" or "From the Cardboard Box in the Corner of the Room" would be a more correct description of life. Most all of our belongings along with my office are in storage. We do appreciate your love and patience with us as we desire to get settled in Pennsylvania.

My family and I want to thank the Region for your expressions of love this Christmas season. Many of you sent cards, offerings, or words of encouragement and we are very thankful. May God bless you abundantly for your kindness and care toward us.

May the year 2019 be a very fruitful and blessed year for each of you and for the Northeast Region. Let us pray for one another for physical healing and strength. We are all laborers together in this special work and the need is great for everyone doing what we can for the Lord. You are truly loved and appreciated.

—Brother James Horne

## Happy New Year!

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What a wonderful year 2018 was in the Lord. Great things He has done and is still doing. The lifeline has and is still being thrown out and many souls are being rescued. To God be the glory.

We are happy to report that three have come back and are attending our local church. The one lady said she has wanted to come back for a long time. We are very happy to have them back. Praise God.

Jesus said in John 3:15, "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." We must let others know about eternal life with Jesus. We must "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2). Many are still waiting for us to come and preach the Word to them.

We are happy to report that three churches in our Region received certificates for October World Mission offerings. Keep up the good work. Praise the Lord. We must continue to pray, go, and give



for the cause of missions. Do all you can and God will do the rest.

Regional WMB Coordinator, Peggy Fordyce

## Your life is Jesus to Someone

Your life is Jesus to someone  
Though tattered it torn it may be  
Though often times weak and unstable  
You're all of God someone will see

Your tongue is Jesus to someone  
That idle, insensitive word  
Reflects to at least one searching heart  
An idle, insensitive Lord

Your goals are Jesus to someone  
What you put first, they believe  
Are the goals of God for the Christian  
Your life is all they receive

Your faithfulness is Jesus to someone  
Their judgment of how God is true  
Rests unquestionably in the faithfulness  
They see day be day in you

Your love is Jesus to someone  
That someone who is seeking to know  
That Jesus will follow and guide  
And befriend wherever in life they might go

So beware lest others blaspheme  
God by what you say or do  
For the only Jesus that someone knows  
Is the Jesus they see in you

—Submitted by Kathy Smith,  
Local ABM Leader, Uniontown





Our General ABM Coordinator, Sister Allene Cox, used Galatians 5:13 in *The Evening Light*, "For brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."

When my parents arrived from Slovenia in the 1920s, they were seeking liberty. The first reminder of liberty was the Statue of Liberty. What a sight! Today we have the liberty in serving the Lord, but we also have a responsibility. By love, we are to serve not only the Lord, but one another. We are to offer support, encouragement and compassion. How are we to be examples and models, not only to Christian brothers and sisters, but those outside the flock?

I heard a story about a church. One Sunday morning a man entered the Church in dirty, ragged clothes. He looked like a homeless man. The congregation looked at him and began murmuring, complaining, and judging him for his appearance. The man walked forward and announced that he was there to view the congregation and decide if he wanted to pastor that Church. The man told the congregation that he would not be a good fit for them.

We, as God's children, need to be more careful and not judge or think someone is beneath us. Let us work together to keep our flock in unity and win souls for God, "Till We All Come."

Regional ABM Coordinator,  
Louise Smail

## KARNS CITY

Greetings from Karns City. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

We have been blessed in our services. We were privileged to have a visit from Brother Horne and Joe and Sam on December 2nd. They were a blessing. Thank you, Brother Horne, for being with us and praying for me when I was sick.

We are also 100% in CPMA and Emergency Dollars. We thank the Lord for that. We are looking forward to a blessed New Year. We look forward to working for the Lord and pressing on.

Please pray for our church members. Sister Phyllis Johnson (who is in the hospital at this writing), Brother Joe Mahood, and Brother Kelley.

Thank the Lord for our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

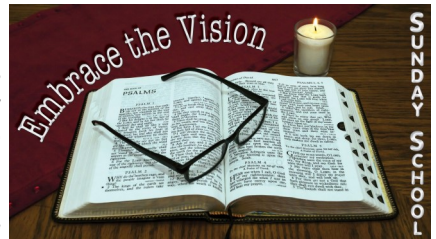
-Alma Kelley, Reporter

## Welcome 2019... Welcome Trials!

**Welcome 2019!** At the time of this reading, the New Year will have been ushered in and welcomed, for most of you. You may be able to say that this year is getting off to a good start. For some of you, the start of 2019 might not be so great or even welcomed. Regardless, your view on this New Year is extremely important as you go forward.

**Welcome Trials!** What? Am I serious? Who wants to welcome trials? None of us want to welcome trials. Yet, trials will always be a part of our lives. The Bible tells us so in 1 Peter 4:12, "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you" God's purpose and will for our trials, our

sufferings, is to ultimately perfect us. We are told this in 1 Peter 5:10, "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." Perhaps, a short story will put this thought into perspective...



Think about the teacup as yourself and the Master as God as you read the article on the next page...

There was a couple celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary who visited England and shopped in a beautiful store of antiques and pottery. They enjoyed collectibles, especially teacups. To the clerk they said, "May we see that teacup? We've never seen one quite so beautiful."

As the clerk handed it to them, suddenly the teacup spoke, "You don't understand." It said, "I have not always been a teacup. There was a time when I was red clay. My master took me and rolled me and patted me over and over and I yelled out, 'Let me alone,' but he only smiled, 'Not yet!'"

"Then I was placed on a spinning wheel and suddenly I was spun around and around and around. 'Stop it!! I'm getting dizzy!' I screamed. But the master only nodded and said, 'Not yet.'

"Then he put me in the oven. I never felt such heat. I yelled and knocked at the door. I could see him through the opening and I could read his lips as he shook his head, 'Not yet.'

"Finally, the door opened, he put me on the shelf, and I began to cool. Then he brushed and painted me all over. The fumes were horrible. I thought I would gag. 'Stop it, Stop it!' I cried. He only nodded, 'Not yet!'"

"Then suddenly he put me back into the oven, not like the first one. This was twice as hot and I knew I would suffocate. I begged. I pleaded. I screamed. I cried. I would never make it. I was ready to give up. But the door opened and he took me out and placed me on the shelf.

"An hour later he handed me a mirror and said 'Look at yourself.' And I did. I said, 'That's not me; that couldn't be me. It's beautiful. I'm beautiful.'

"I want you to remember, then,' he said, 'I know it hurts to be rolled and patted, but if I had just left you alone, you would have dried up. I know it made you dizzy to spin around on the wheel, but if I had stopped, you would have crumbled. I know it hurts and it was hot and disagreeable in the oven, but if I hadn't put you there, you would have cracked. I know the fumes were bad when I

## *The Teacup*



brushed and painted you all over, but if I hadn't done that, you never would have hardened. You would not have had any color in your life. And if I hadn't put you back in that second oven, you wouldn't survive for long because the hardness would not have held. Now you are a finished product. You are what I had in mind when I first began with you."

God is in control of all that happens in our lives. Every good time, every bad time, every adventure, every trial is completely in His hands. He is the potter, and we are His clay. As we submit to His will, as we pray through the trials, He will mold us and shape us, so that we may be made into a flawless piece of work to fulfill His good, pleasing, and perfect will.

Finally, as you pray through your trials in this 2019 year, keep the following thoughts of the poem, *I Asked For*, in mind.

## *I Asked For...*

I asked for strength and...  
God gave me difficulties to make me strong  
I asked for wisdom and...  
God gave me problems to solve  
I asked for prosperity and...  
God gave me brawn and brains to work  
I asked for courage and...  
God gave me dangers to overcome  
I asked for patience and...  
God put me in situations  
where I was forced to wait  
I asked for love and...  
God gave me troubled people to help  
I asked for favors and...  
God gave me opportunities  
I received nothing I wanted and...  
I received everything I needed  
My prayers have all been answered

Regional BTI & SS Coordinator,  
Elaine Smail

Greetings to all! As the new year begins, I am so thankful for the past year and for how the Lord has blessed our Region!

As the new Regional Youth Leader, I wanted to continue on with the annual Fall Retreat. With the Lord's help, it all came together! This year was a little different than it has been in past years. The Retreat was held at the Uniontown church and everyone gathered for the entire weekend to fellowship together and worship the Lord.

The weekend included services on Friday and Saturday evening as well as a service on Sunday morning. The theme was based on John 10:27 which states, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." Our evangelist, Sister Autumn Anderson, is from the state of Minnesota and preached during all the services. Our classes went along with the theme as well. The morning session included a class on Moses and how he heard and obeyed the voice of the Lord. In the afternoon, the session focused on Paul and how he heard and obeyed the voice of the Lord. Also, we participated in a few activities throughout the weekend. We played Bingo on Saturday morning, and watched *Facing the Giants* in the afternoon.



It was wonderful to spend time with everyone and fellowship together throughout the weekend. The services and the classes were filled with the Holy Ghost fire and we felt His presence. In addition to the weekend activities, I had the honor of hosting our evangelist, Sister Autumn. It was a delight to get to know her and hear about what is going on in her Region. She serves the Lord in all that she does and is overflowing with the love and joy of Christ! It was wonderful to have her with us and to hear her minister to us during the weekend.

I want to thank the Uniontown church family for opening their church building for the weekend retreat. Also, I want to thank the members of the Uniontown church for all their help throughout the weekend. I am so thankful for each one in attendance. There were 14 VLBs and a total of 34 people in attendance. Additionally, we want to praise the Lord for Olivia, who gave her heart to the Lord!

I give the Lord all the praise and glory for a wonderful Fall Retreat! Please be in prayer for our VLBs in the upcoming months.

May the Lord bless you!

Regional VLB  
Coordinator,  
Alicia Smail

## Fall Retreat





A new year. A fresh start. As yet, there are no mistakes, no failures, and no regrets in the year 2019. A clean slate

awaits us all. What a gift from God! A book of empty pages, ready to be filled according to the master plan of God, as well as our own choices and decisions.

So, what will the new year hold? The future is unknown and so many things are beyond our control. For some, this causes great anxiety. For others, there is peace in knowing that the things we have no control over rest securely in the hands of an almighty and loving God who always chooses what is best for His children. When we are distracted by the temporal things, the cares of this life, we find ourselves filled with worry, stress and unease. We are instructed rather, *“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth”* (Col. 3:2).

When you think of your plans and goals for the upcoming year, do they qualify as temporal or eternal? It's good to make improvements in any area, of course, but if you find that your time, thoughts, energy and finances are used up on things that will be of no value 10 years from now or 50 years, 100 years—or in eternity—then perhaps it's time to reevaluate. We would do well to remind ourselves frequently that the things of this earth, our wealth, possessions, accomplishments, and even our problems and cares, will soon be things of the past. The Bible tells us plainly that all flesh, heaven, and earth shall all pass away, but the word of God, *“which liveth and abideth forever”* shall never pass away (cf. 1 Peter 1:23-25). And while these fleshly bodies will die and return to the dust from whence they came, we can rest assured that the souls of men are eternal and will never cease to exist. *“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation”* (John 5:28, 29). To those who have been saved and lived pure lives here on earth is extended this sweet assurance: *“and so shall we ever be with the Lord”* (1 Thess. 4:17).

So how do you view things? What are your priorities? Do you seek for comfort and ease in your life? Do you desire wealth or accolades for yourself, your children or grandchildren? Do you long for health and financial securi-

# Living for Eternity

Rebekah Horne, Assistant Editor

ty? Do you grasp desperately for freedom from suffering? We need to remind ourselves that the only things that matter are

the eternal things. *“But the word of the Lord endureth for ever”* (1 Peter 1:25), and souls are eternal. That's all. Everything else will pass away. Invest in the Word—read it, memorize it, meditate on it, soak it up, saturate your heart and mind with it, and let it direct your life. And invest in souls—your friends, your family, your neighbors and coworkers and store clerks and anyone you may bump into along life's road. They all have eternal souls and will spend eternity somewhere. When you build your relationships with friends and family who are saved, you are investing in relationships that will last for all eternity. What a thought! When you reach out to those who are lost and attempt to draw them to Christ, you are again investing in eternity. Your house won't matter. Your clothes will rot. Your reputation and accomplishments will fade away with the years. Your money will one day burn along with all the rest. But, oh, the eternal! What a worthy investment! *“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”* (Matt. 6:19-21).

The enemy of our souls would love for us to neglectfully squander the upcoming year away, distracted with temporal goals and ambitions, or weighted down with the cares of this life and our difficult circumstances. But this life is so short. The Word of God tells us, *“It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away”* (James 4:14). Don't fret over the difficulties we face here on earth. Wrap your life around the eternal. When we have completed our journey here, the trials we endured will seem so small, so petty, so insignificant in light of the joys of eternity that await us. *“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are all passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new...”* (Rev. 21:4, 5) Whatever 2019 holds for you, live with your eyes and heart on eternity.

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**Special Note:** Articles intended for publication in the next issue of *The Olive Branch* should be received on or before **February 20, 2019**. These submissions will be for the **March—April 2019** issue. Please send to Rebekah L. Horne, Assistant Editor, at: P. O. Box 2002, Uniontown, PA 15456 or e-mail: [RLHorne77@outlook.com](mailto:RLHorne77@outlook.com)

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# Uniontown

"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (Matt. 1:23).

We thank God for Jesus, His only begotten Son! We are truly blessed at Uniontown and we believe that "God is with us!" His hand has been upon the local church as we continue our service unto the Lord.

Our youth leader gave us names of youth affiliated with the church at some time. We have been praying and ministering to these ones. It is amazing to see how God has connected us with these youth that we have not seen in years. God is doing something in Uniontown.

The renovations on our sanctuary are complete with new carpeting and new pews. Many steps fell into place as we moved through the acquisition of the pews. Our sanctuary is beautiful... and comfortable. All because of each person's obedience. Misty Guthrie gave us the lead on the church pews. We were so happy to have her visit our service and share in our blessing!

Our Christmas party at the Pechin Firehouse had 52 people in attendance. We had a time of fun and fellowship and a special visit from Brother James and Sister Nancy Smith, Regional Overseer of Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia. There were many contacts at our party which God used to let us show love to one another's families. Our time was precious and God's love flowed through the members of The Church of God to all!

The children presented the Nativity skit and also passed out candy to everyone in acknowledgement of "Jesus, the Sweetest Gift!" We appreciated the families and visitors who came to see their children glorify Jesus!

We are looking forward to the Hornes settling in our area. God made it a reality. We are faithfully looking to Emmanuel... God with us!

-Denise Sataneck, Reporter

# Monongahela

This is an exciting and busy time of the year for everyone, but our precious church family in Monongahela is still focusing on missions. Our missions leader, Barb Romano, has kept us encouraged and focused on the many missionaries who are all around the world spreading the good news. She always has great ideas for fund raisers and she reminds us every week to pray and fast for our missionaries and the many people in our community who need our prayers.

Our Sunday School lessons this last quarter have been based on the scripture from John 13:17.

*"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."*

We are blessed to have two amazing, adult Sunday School teachers. Elaine Smail and John Burdett have done such a good job of adding to our happiness, that in the next issue of the Olive Branch, we are going to have personal interviews and maybe even pictures of these exceptional scholars. (I think previews of coming attractions are still in vogue.)

Our Youth Leader, Alicia Smail, led a worship service that focused on Christmas. That certainly had us singing Christmas hymns with gusto. She followed the worship service with a quiz all about Christmas. Sadly, we did not get all of the answers right, but we did study the scriptures more closely after that.

The church family at Monongahela wishes you all a blessed New Year.

Respectfully yours,  
-Judy Smitley, Reporter

# HAPPY NEW YEAR