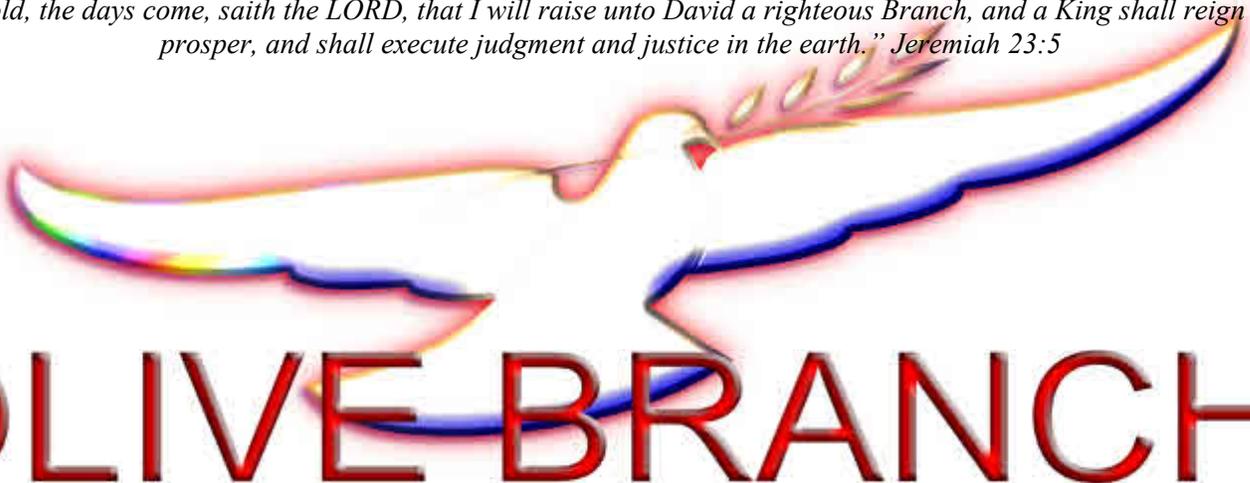


*“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.” Jeremiah 23:5*



the  
**OLIVE BRANCH**

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2007

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A publication of  
The Church of God  
Northeast Region

## Preparing God's People: Part 2

**I**n our last *Olive Branch*, we read in 2 Chronicles 29 how the Lord moved upon the heart of Hezekiah, upon the ministry (priests and Levites) and, ultimately, upon all the people of Jerusalem to clean and restore the house of God, and to rededicate themselves to Him in service and worship.

This divinely inspired move (as great as it was) was but the beginning of a much greater restoration, as God then reached out to all of His people Israel. Prophetically, Hezekiah had called for sacrifice to be made not only for Jerusalem, not just for Judah, but for all of Israel.

*(24) And the priests killed them, and they made reconciliation with their blood upon the altar, to make an atonement for all Israel: for the king commanded that the burnt offering and the sin offering should be made for all Israel.*

Now in 2 Chronicles 30, God proceeds to gather

all of Israel (both northern Israel and southern Judah) -- at least all who would

listen to His call -- to come together and be God's people!



*Regional Overseer  
James Smith*

*(1) And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel. (5) So they established a decree to make proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba even to Dan, that they should come to keep the passover unto the LORD God of Israel at*

OVERSEER continued on page 6



## Youth Camp 2007: A first look at Camp Bucoco

Youth Camp, scheduled for July 30-Aug. 3, will be at a new location this year. Camp Bucoco, located near Pittsburgh, offers the church a chance to reduce costs by preparing our own meals, according to Camp Coordinator Alma Kelley. Cost per camper is still pending.

The new camp has cabins that house as many as 14 youth. While a limited number of cabins have bathroom facilities inside them, others have showers and flushing toilets in nearby but separate buildings. The camp also features a building that will be used as a chapel and recreation facilities such as an in-ground pool that is staffed by a life guard.



*Camp Coordinator  
Alma Kelley*

This year's camp theme is "Following Jesus." Camp is open to youth age 7 and older.

Sis. Kelley reminds regional members that workers are still needed. She can be reached at (724) 756-8841. Area churches will also be asked to donate food or cash to assist with food costs. More information about how to help with this will appear in future issues.

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*Top left: the chapel at Camp Bucoco. Top right: a cabin. Bottom left: cabin bunks. Bottom right: the pool.*

As we start another new year, committed Christians know that the best is yet to come. They look ahead to conquering mountains which are yet to be possessed. The victories of the past are wonderful to reflect upon and it is encouraging to remember what God has done in the past, but we must keep moving ahead in 2007.

The committed Christian finds strength in the promises of God in the scriptures. He knows that when God says something, it is guaranteed, and he continues on his way, singing, praying and being led by the Spirit of God. The key word is "prayer."

Since the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Ghost has operated through people who pray and listen to the Spirit of the Lord. In Acts 8:26-40, Philip was led by the Spirit of God to approach the Ethiopian and witness to him. In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were led by the Spirit of God to Macedonia, where there were souls needing salvation. In Acts 10, while Peter was upon the housetop praying, the Lord gave him a vision and the Spirit spoke to him. He was sent by God to Cornelius' house. Many were saved, sanctified and



# WMB

2006-07 Theme:  
Work while it is day  
... Behold the  
Bridegroom cometh.



WMB Secretary  
Peggy Fordyce

filled with the Holy Ghost that day.

So, too, we must stay on our knees and continue to be led by the Spirit of God in 2007. There are still Corneliuses and Lydias out there waiting for us to come to minister to their needs.

This truly is a great year for The Church of God. Our cheerfulness and anticipation of the joys ahead should serve as a beacon for the frustrated and disillusioned people all around us. His light, shining through us, will let others know that there is hope. Yes, we may very well expect difficult times in the days ahead, but these times will serve only as a stimulating signal to us to lift up our heads and labor more vigorously. I believe that the events which are creating

chaotic conditions in the world now are only setting the stage for the completion of our pre-rapture work. We must continue to "be about our Father's business." We must "work while it is day... behold the bridegroom cometh."

As our mission theme this year speaks to us, let us listen to the Spirit of God. Reach out in your area to the nursing homes, have a mission crusade etc. We must be that hand extended. Tell the world about Jesus' saving grace. Remember: *"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."* John 3:16.

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## CONTACT US

*The Olive Branch* is a publication of The Church of God Northeast Region, which serves churches in Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania and new works throughout the greater area. It can be viewed online at [www.tcog-ne.org](http://www.tcog-ne.org).

**Reports** and other **submissions** must be received one month prior to publication. That will be **March 1 for the April-May issue**.

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-----Meeting Karns City, PA -----

# Small package, good thing

**W**hen Sis. Alma Kelley's father bought the building now used as the Karns City, PA church, he was just looking for a place to live. Little did he know that a couple of decades later it would provide not only a church home to nine members of The Church of God and about another dozen attenders, but a parsonage home to his daughter and her family.

That dual use has been in place since 1995, when Bro. Thomas Kelley began pastoring in that Western Pennsylvania city. A full-time pastor since 1975, Bro. Kelley began preaching in the mid 1960s and pastoring elsewhere in the same state in 1971. He also enjoys playing the guitar and singing and said he loves little better than preaching or having a good revival.

"We really have a good church here," Bro. Kelley said of Karns City, which was organized in the 1930s. "The members are very



spiritual and we have awfully good services. They've taken care of us real good, too."

Indeed, the small church has become like an extended family, something the Kelleys certainly know a lot about. Bro. Kelley has eight children. Four of them are by his late wife, Maxine, who died in 1971. He has another four with Sis. Alma Kelley, whom he married 34 years ago. The youngest Kelley daughter, Tiffany, 17, is in high school and still lives at home. There are also 19 Kelley grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Sis. Kelley is also active in church ministry, serving as Youth Camp coordinator. She also works at Sears.

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## A word from Karns City's pastor

"Lo, I am with you." In Matthew 28:20, Jesus says these words. He had given the Church the Great Commission to go to all nations to make and baptize disciples. He gave them the assurance that they would not be alone; that He would be with them.



Bro. Thomas  
Kelley

God has always been with those who serve Him.

The three Hebrew children, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, found this when Nebuchadnezzar made the great image and commanded everyone to fall down and worship it. They refused to do so because they knew who there were. Even though they were captives in a strange land, they knew they were God's people.

How about you, Church of God -- do you know who you are? The Hebrews were a separate people -- chosen by God. So are we. For Paul said in II Corinthians 6:17-18, "wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

Church of God, "if God be for us who can be against?" Let's keep on being The Church of God -- for Jesus is with us.

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We want to thank the Lord for His blessings received at BTI 2006. God is faithful and His Word that was taught last year will not go forth void.



# BTI



*BTI Secretary  
Shirley Satanek*

*Isaiah 55:11*

*11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*

As the Word of God goes forth at BTI, it will not only accomplish what the Father wills in the heart of the students but, as they go back to their fields of labor, it will touch and prosper all those they come in contact with. What a mighty God we serve, who is able to do exceedingly above what we think or ask.

There is no greater way to prepare for His coming than to study His Word. We will not make it all the way without following the Word as the Holy Ghost leads and guides us.

Find time every day to read and study the Bible. Season it with prayer, asking the Holy Ghost to reveal what God wants to accomplish in your life. God has a special work He wants to accomplish in every Christian's life. We can be an example to those around us by reading, living and eating the Word. If it becomes rooted deep in our hearts and our desire is to please the Father, then our family and friends will see Jesus in us.

*I Timothy 4:11-13*

*11 These things command and teach.*

*12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

*13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*

Paul is encouraging young Timothy by reminding him of his position before God and of the fact that God would see him through to victory. A growing Christian will be progressing in the Word. Paul's exhortation to Timothy was for him to command and teach these things that he had now been teaching him. Teach nothing but the truth of God, because nothing but the truth will save souls. Christ tasted death for every man, and He saves to the uttermost all them that believe in His name.

Give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine so that we can be that light to a lost and dying world. Our families, friends and the world is depending on us. Let's be prepared by knowing and living His Word.

Start praying now for BTI, the dates for the Cleveland school are May 12-25. Also continue to boost your local BTI offerings so the Word can go forth. Thank you.

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## Don't forget Ladies Retreat!

Applications will be out soon.

**Time:** May 4-6

**Place:** Camp Sunrise, Markleysburg, PA

**Theme:** The Apple of His Eye

**Guest Minister:** Sis. Connie Wilson of VA

**Cost:** \$80 for six meals and two nights of lodging

## OVERSEER

continued from page 1

*Jerusalem: for they had not done it of a long time in such sort as it was written. (6) So the posts went with the letters from the king and his princes throughout all Israel and Judah, and according to the commandment of the king, saying, Ye children of Israel, turn again unto the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, and he will return to the remnant of you, that are escaped out of the hand of the kings of Assyria.*

Little did those being called realize that this summons from God would be their final call! (Stay tuned to next time -- 2 Kings 17.) As in the days of Noah and as the Bible says the last days will be: they *"knew not until the flood came, and took them all away...."* (Matthew 24:38-39)

*(10) So the posts passed from city to city through the country of Ephraim and Manasseh even unto Zebulun: but they laughed them to scorn, and mocked them.*

While many refused to hear, there were yet many other Israelites -- like the 7,000 that had not bowed their knees to Baal (1 Kings 19:18) during the time of Elijah. These gladly *"humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem."* Furthermore, their spiritual divisions were gone; for the Lord had given them one heart!

*(11) Nevertheless divers of Asher and Manasseh and of Zebulun humbled themselves, and came to Jerusalem. (12) Also in Judah the hand of God was to give them one heart to do the commandment of the king and of the princes, by the word of the LORD.*

**W**ill you be ready? If the call went out today, where would you be? Would you respond, or would you be one of those who *"laughed them to scorn"*?

While these people were of one mind and heart (ready to seek God's will for their lives), many of them yet fell short of God's perfection. Fortunately, God had a plan for that, too:

*(18) For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one (19) That prepareth his heart to seek God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary. (20) And the LORD hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.*

Just as God will quickly restore the Church to perfection in His sight, He also will quickly bring the inflow from the north, south, east, and west:

*(25) And all the congregation of Judah, with the priests and the Levites, and all the congregation that came out of Israel, and the strangers that came out of the land of Israel, and that dwelt in Judah, rejoiced. (26) So there was great joy in Jerusalem: for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there was not the like in Jerusalem. (27) Then the priests the Levites arose and blessed the*

*people: and their voice was heard, and their prayer came up to his holy dwelling place, even unto heaven.*

Psalms 107:3-7 had prophesied of this day, when He would *"call them out"*!

*(3) And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south. (4) They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in. (5) Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. (6) Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses. (7) And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.*

As Psalms 107:3-7 was fulfilled in the day of Hezekiah, so shall it be fulfilled yet again (Luke 13:29).

Will you be ready? If the call went out today, where would you be? Would you respond, or would you be one of those who *"laughed them to scorn"*? Will you be one of those *"called out ones"* -- the Church! Both the perfection of and the inflow into the Church will be *"cut short in righteousness"* (Romans 9:28)!

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There are headlines that grab your attention whether you want them to or not. There was one in a mid-January paper: "NC man suspected of decapitating daughter, 4." Obviously, this brings new meaning to the word "horrific." It's very difficult to believe that a father could do this to his child. This story was so bizarre that I accessed the local paper on the web to see if I could find out more. I was surprised to find that local authorities had not found any history of domestic or mental health problems at the home, and had no leads as to a possible motive in the killing. I was even more surprised by the comments of a neighbor: "They went to church every Sunday. They just seemed like a very happy, normal couple."

Unfortunately, we seem to see something along these lines all too frequently. Filicide, the murder of a child by a parent, is an abhorrent crime in most societies. Yet in those Muslim countries which follow the cruel Sharia law, it is permissible for fathers and grandfathers to kill children (or children to kill

# CPMA



2006-07 Theme: "This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes."  
Psalm 118:23



*CPMA Secretary  
Roger Fuester*

siblings) if they bring some dishonor on the family. In most cases, the victims are girls.

Right now, Nazanin Mahabad Fatehi, a girl of either 18 or 19, is awaiting trial by the Iranian government. In her first trial, she was sentenced to death by hanging. What was her crime you ask? She defended herself and her then 15-year-old niece from being raped. Three men assaulted the two girls, and Nazanin stabbed at the men, trying to stop them. One of the attackers eventually died from his wounds, hence the death sentence. Yet, had Nazanin not fought back to protect herself and her niece and they'd been raped, the girls (not the men!) would have been in violation of

Sharia law, and the punishment for her "adultery" would be imprisonment or execution. Talk about double jeopardy.

The days are evil -- more so than we care to imagine. In John 9, Jesus spoke of a time, "when no man can work." The way things are going, that time can't be too far off. Therefore, we must work harder than ever in the time that's left. That means trying to reach the lost. It means doing whatever we can for Christ and His Church. It means doing the big things and the little things -- like paying our CPMA dues (\$10 per year).

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## 2007 CALENDAR

March 10 East District Convention at the Pittsville, MD church (Newark, DE; Boston, MA; Pittsville, MD; Philadelphia, PA)

March 24 West District Convention at the Uniontown, PA church (Grove City, PA; Karns City, PA; Monongahela, PA; Uniontown, PA)

May 4-6 Ladies Retreat at Camp Sunrise, Markleysburg, PA

May 12-25 Bible Training Institute in Charleston, TN

July 13-15 Northeast Regional Convention at the Uniontown, PA church

July 30-Aug. 3 Youth Camp at Camp Bucoco just off I-79 near Butler, PA north of Pittsburgh.

Aug. 27-Sept. 3 General Assembly in Chattanooga, TN

## *Some final thoughts...*

As this issue of *The Olive Branch* arrives at local churches, it is hard to tell what the weather will be like. There may be snow, rain or sunshine. The temperature may be frigid or balmy. But, most assuredly, it will still be winter and will continue to be winter for some weeks to come.

That fact -- combined with my grandmother's impending 101st birthday and a recent laugh some Bible study friends and I shared about being "well stricken in years" -- had me thinking about the seasons of this life. When I was in my early 20s, I read something about birth through age 20 as being the spring of one's time on this earth. Likewise, the writer compared one's 20s and 30s to summer, the 40s and 50s to autumn and life beyond

60 to winter. In my 20s, this sounded reasonable. Now that I'm 40, I'd like to think that I'm still living in the summer of my life and that real winter couldn't possibly begin until 70, 75, 80...

But, as King David reminded us, natural life at its longest is not much more than a fleeting patch of fog compared to eternity. My grandma certainly knows that and, to tell the truth, I've always known it, too. It is becoming even more clear as I watch our baby and toddler hurtling through their springs.

Life's fleeting nature makes more grateful than ever that Jesus is the Resurrection. Because He lives, I do not have to fear my natural life's autumn ... or even winter. Instead, I can rest in Him and enjoy the best that each



*Assistant Editor  
Nora Edinger*

season has to offer. I can revel in the life equivalents of an abundant harvest and the raucous colors of fall. Should I live long enough, I can enjoy the simple beauties of winter -- its crisp cold, the grandeur that frost and snow bestow on even the humblest blades of grass.

Best of all, I can reflect at any time that this life's winter will surely be followed by the most amazing of springs -- in heaven. In fact, I'm going to start looking for signs of that coming spring -- in my grandmother, in other senior Christians I know and even in myself. I suspect there are spiritual buds ready to burst into spectacular flower and that, beneath the snow, brooks are beginning to bubble in many souls.

Heaven's spring is coming. That's a grand enough thought to bring light and warmth, joy and rejoicing to even the coldest and darkest of days.

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