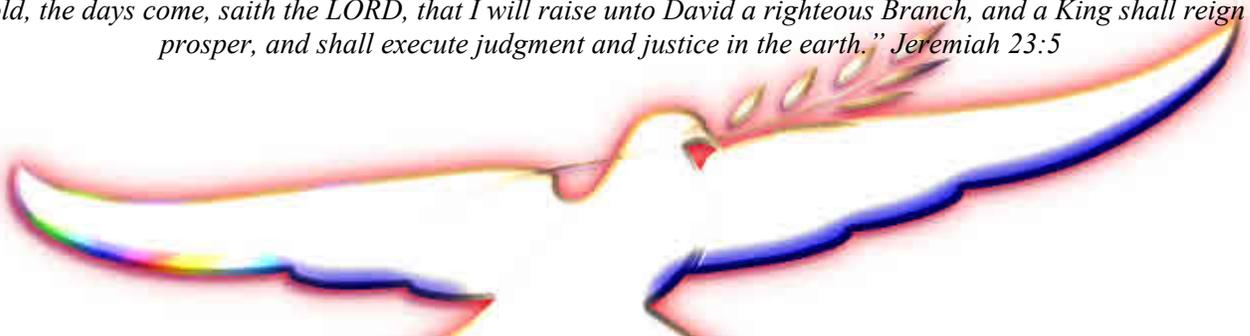


“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.” Jeremiah 23:5



the  
**OLIVE BRANCH**

APRIL/MAY 2008

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A publication of  
The Church of God  
Northeast Region

## From Glory to Glory: Part 3

**T**he theme for the Northeast Region for the 2007-2008 Church year, titled “*From Glory to Glory*,” comes from 2 Corinthians 3:18:

*(18) But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

The first sermon of this series provided an overview to this theme. In the second sermon, we looked at the presence and glory of the Lord manifested before the Israelites as they traversed the wilderness from Egypt into the promised land. We’ll now consider manifestations of God’s glory during the days of the prophets. In particular, we will look at the life of Isaiah.

Isaiah began his career a few years before Uzziah’s death, probably in the 740’s BC. He lived until the fourteenth year of Hezekiah (who died in 698 BC), and may also have been a contemporary with Manasseh. Thus, Isaiah may have prophesied for more than 60 years. According

to Jewish tradition, he suffered martyrdom at the beginning of the wicked reign of Manasseh, when he was killed by being sawed in half. Some interpreters believe that Hebrews 11:37 refers to his death.



*Regional Overseer  
James Smith*

During the reign of Uzziah, Isaiah began receiving revelations from the Lord. He saw what could only be described as a glorious period of time – Isaiah 2:2-3:

*(2) And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.*

*(3) And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the*

OVERSEER continued on page 6

# East Meets West

A look at two district conventions

More than 50 people attended two district conventions in March and early April. The first was for the western district on March 29 at Ford City, PA, with 40 in attendance, and the second was for the eastern district on April 5 at Pittsville, MD, with 11 in attendance.

Pictured in activities from both conventions are:

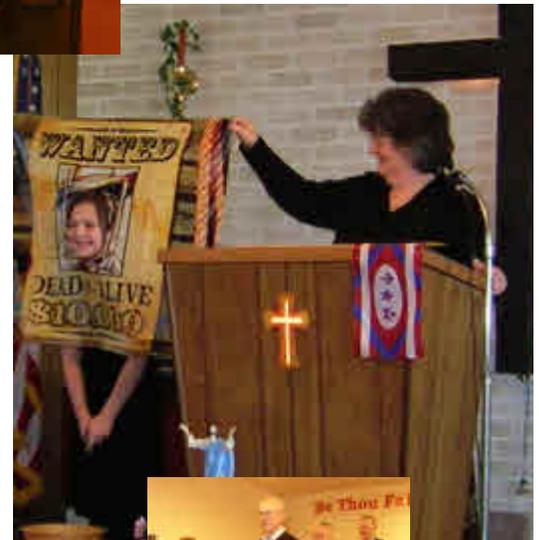


Top row, left to right: At the western convention, Bro. Elliot Leighty, pastor of the Uniontown, PA church, takes part in a boost. Bro. and Sis. Johnson of the Karns City, PA church sing during the the western convention.



Second row, left to right: Sis. Norma Pruitt, widow of General Overseer Emeritus Robert Pruitt, officially becomes a member of the Pittsville, MD church after a recent move to the eastern district. Bro. and Sis. Miller of the Pittsville, MD church, sing during the eastern convention.

Third row, left to right: The congregation at the eastern convention. Sis. Alma Kelley of Karns City, PA, boosts youth camp attendance during the western convention.



Bottom row, left to right: The congregation at the western convention. Bro. Lee Corbett of the Newark, DE church participates in the eastern convention.



We each have the awesome privilege being part of the Great Commission. 1 Corinthians 15:58 says:

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

This is a strong word from the Lord. While scripture makes it clear we will not enter heaven on the basis of our own works, God wants us to know that we can make a difference for the Kingdom of God and will be rewarded for it!

There is no greater cause than to join the Lord in His work of salvation -- through preaching and teaching the gospel and the message of His Church.

Just as He anointed and inspired holy servants like Paul and others to write and go with the message, He can anoint you and I to do both those things and to support the work.

John 4:36-38 says:

*And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And*

# WMB



2007-08 Theme:

*"Into His Harvest Fields  
-- Fasting, Praying  
Working."*



WMB Coordinator  
Diana Seese

*herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.*

It is the work of the Lord that garners greatest rewards. All other labor brings temporary satisfaction at best. This is what the prophet Isaiah said in Isaiah 55:2:

*Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.*

The soul is immortal and can not be satisfied with carnal, natural things. So, we must decide: Do we want our labors to end in dissatisfaction, emptiness and

leanness of the soul? Or, do we want to be fat and satisfied in our soul now, and be rewarded in Heaven later?

God has promised He will bless your labors, your efforts, your prayers, your giving and your sacrifices to His work. Don't be moved, discouraged or disappointed; for the Lord your God is your rewarder!

Note: Regional Convention will be here soon. If you have been saving Coins for Missions, bring them with you. Also, remember we need items to sell at the mission table at the General Assembly.

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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 for the June-July issue** must be received by **May 1**.

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## -----Meeting Ford City, PA-----

# Serving through changes

Sometimes, God comes at you fast.

Bro. Wendell Flick certainly found that out in 1993, when he added pastoring -- first in Elwood City, PA and then in Ford City, PA -- to his secular career of meat cutting. He retired from the latter four years ago.

"I didn't actually ask to be a

pastor. They asked me if I would go to a church," he said. "That's how I began preaching, too. My pastor gave me four weeks to get a sermon ready."

Not that he's complaining.

"It's the churchiest church that I think you could ever be a part of," he said of his flock of nine members in Ford City. "It's an unshakeable group of people. They know the Word and they have a vision."

That vision was tested in recent years, when the group became dismayed over doctrinal conflicts within its former denominational church. Ford City first became an independent congregation and

then covenanted with The Church of God in early 2007.

"I was going to quit," he said of the stress of the time. "But, we had a meeting and decided to go independent. We had to do a lot of legal things to do that."

While the church did get to keep its building throughout the changes, the congregation

's small size continues to raise some challenges.

They have monthly yard sales and periodic clothing sales to earn the funds to pay bills. But, Bro. Flick noted the congregation also uses such activities to generate special missions offerings.

Bro. Flick has been married to Sis. Joan Flick for 42 years. They have one daughter, Sharon Wolfe, and one grand-daughter, Brianna.

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### *A word from Ford City's pastor*

The Church of God is as good as its members. It might be good for each one to ask the question, "What would the church be if each member were like me?"

In 2 Cor. 13:5, we are told to:

*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.*



*Pastor  
Wendell Flick*

It is good to get quiet before the Lord and examine ourselves. Are we measuring up to the Word of God? Are we obedient and submissive? Are we critical of others when we should be sympathetic? Are we careful about our conversation? Have we taken up some of the things we had to lay down whenever we were first saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost? Do we always have a good spirit, or do we allow the wrong spirit to control us sometimes? Are we faithful in the study of the Bible, in church attendance and in prayer? Are we faithful in our other Christian duties?

Let us not forget. *Examine yourselves. Prove your own selves.*

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Many are the afflictions of the righteous (Psalm 34:19). In the some 3,000 years since David wrote that, I'm sure there have been countless "amen's" uttered in response. The Bible is filled with accounts of how fiery trials have come to those who serve the Lord. In this article, we can only describe a few of them. Some are harder to understand than others.

Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 12:7:

*And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

No doubt, Satan urged his messenger to attack Paul with great gusto because Paul had stopped serving him and started serving Christ. God allowed this to happen to keep pride out of Paul's life, and Paul was much the better man for it. This disagreeable affliction enabled Paul to see through the devil's wiles -- 2 Corinthians 2:11: *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.* Satan is, above all things, deceptive -- 2 Corinthians 11:14-15:

*And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

Over the past 50 years, these false ministers of light have so proliferated that nearly all the churches of Christendom have watered down their doctrine and no longer recognize many sins as such. However, the full gospel light of the Word of God rightly

# CPMA



2007-08 Theme:

**"To Make All Men See What Is the Fellowship of the Mystery" - Ephesians 3:9**



CPMA  
Coordinator  
Roger Fuester

divided exposes every element of darkness, enabling God's people to see through the enemy's tactics.

David likewise had his time of difficulty -- Psalm 42:5, 9:

*Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.... I will say unto God my rock, why hast thou forgotten me? Why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?*

Again, we see Satan's messengers in action. David's soul is disquieted because of what they are asking -- "David, where is your God (v. 3)?" What proof do you have that He cares a fig about you?" They had one objective -- to shake David's faith. Satan's messengers will throw the same darts at you today.

The patriarch Abraham went through periods of doubt, as well. In Genesis 15:2-3, he wondered

whether God would keep His promise to make of him a great nation (Gen. 12:2-3). God then encouraged Abram in Genesis 15, promising him a son, a multiplying of his seed and the land of Canaan. This really sent Satan into a hissy fit. Why? Because ever since it was settled by unrighteous descendents of Noah, Canaan had been Satan's turf. The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and all other kinds of evil were there.

Whenever Satan's kingdom is confronted, his reaction is the same. Rest assured, if you serve God, Satan will attack you. Frequently, this takes the form of getting you to take your eyes off the victory of the cross. The best way to deal with this kind of attack is with God's word.

Please don't forget to join CPMA if you have not already done so!

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## 2008 Calendar

**Ladies Retreat** -- May 2-4 at Camp Sunrise, Markleysburg, PA

**Northeast Regional Convention** -- July 9-11 at Uniontown, PA

**Youth Camp** -- July 24-28 at Camp Bucoco near Pittsburgh

**General Assembly** -- Aug. 5-10 at Cleveland, TN (note change)

## OVERSEER

continued from page 1

*mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

How glorious this time would be! He saw a time when the Lord's house would be exalted and that people would flow together to be taught to truly worship Him. Isaiah described how the Lord's glory that was seen upon Israel during Moses' leadership would come again in Isaiah 4:5-6:

*(5) And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence.*

*(6) And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.*

Many in Judah during that time may have looked with anticipation that the reign of Uzziah would see this prophecy's fulfillment. The history of his reign is given in 2 Chronicles 26. Uzziah was 16 years old when he began to reign, and he reigned some 52 years as king of Judah. The majority of his reign is characterized by the following description in 2 Chronicles 26:4-5, 15

*(4) And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah did.*

*(5) And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper.*

*(15) And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the towers and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great*

*stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong.*

The Lord had greatly blessed Uzziah, who earnestly sought to do "that which was right in the sight of the LORD." Could his reign be that of which Isaiah prophesied? That seems unlikely as Uzziah became exalted in himself – in his own power and prestige -- as described 2 Chronicles 26:16:

*(16) But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense.*

Unlike prior kings who had failed the Lord, Uzziah did not turn to idolatry. No, his problem was his own pride. The consequences for such presumption completely changed the presumed fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. Rather than lead the people of Judah to further greatness, and despite the good intentions of his heart to do "that which was right," Uzziah instead faced God's judgment as described in 2 Chronicles 26:20-21:

*(20) And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hastened also to go out, because the LORD had smitten him.*

*(21) And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD: and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.*

If Uzziah's reign was not that of which Isaiah had prophesied, then when and of what means would it be? Would Isaiah ever know? With the circumstance of Uzziah firmly in his mind (as Uzziah had just died of

his leprosy), Isaiah now finds himself caught up in a personal vision of the Lord in Isaiah 6:1-4:

*(1) In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.*

*(2) Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.*

*(3) And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

*(4) And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.*

As in the time of Moses, when the Lord had manifested his presence before the people, the earlier vision of Isaiah had seen God's glorious presence overshadow Zion (Jerusalem). Moses had partially seen the glory of the Lord (Exodus 34). Elijah beheld God's glory -- because he had been caught up into heaven by a chariot of fire. But these were only the beginnings of what the Lord would do. Now, Isaiah finds himself in the presence of the Lord.

What was his reaction? He was humbled beyond measure; he was filled with a heavenly "fear of the LORD" (Psalms 111:10, Proverbs 9:10). Isaiah had previously described the day when the Lord "ariseth to shake terribly the earth" in Isaiah 2:19:

*(19) And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.*

We are not told that he saw the face of God, but Isaiah clearly knew in whose presence he found

himself. He now would be glad to have his own cave, but there was none. Great “fear of the LORD” came upon him – Isaiah 6:5:

(5) *Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*

As always, the Lord has the solution – Isaiah 6:6-7:

(6) *Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:*

(7) *And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.*

We see a stark contrast between the king Uzziah and the prophet Isaiah. Both men were possessed of a desire to do “that which was right in the sight of the LORD.” One of the two men became high and lifted up in himself; only to suffer the terrible rebuke of the Lord. The other was exalted of the Lord -- but only after he had humbled himself.

God knew the hearts of both men. He also knows the hearts of those who would now serve Him -- those who would enter into His glory. How many in the Church today are Isaiah’s? How many are Uzziah’s? What separates the two? One must have a willing heart to humble oneself to the will of Almighty God. Those who would behold the glory of the Lord must humble themselves. God has glorious manifestations to share with His people. The apostle Paul has described the example that Christ has set before each of us – Philippians 2:5-11:

(5) *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

(6) *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:*

(7) *But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

(8) *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

(9) *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:*

(10) *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;*

(11) *And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Isaiah, too, had his own such moment of submission, as he expressed in Isaiah 6:8:

(8) *Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.*

Isaiah’s submission was with no strings attached, with no preconditions or reservations! All he could offer was his plain and simple open-ended “Here am I; send me.” So, what does the Lord require of you and I? -- the same! In response, the LORD offers an opportunity to be caught into His glorious presence. Future sermons will look closer at how His glorious presence may be manifested to us.

No, Uzziah’s reign was not the kingdom of which Isaiah had prophesied. However, Isaiah did live to see a glorious restoration of the house of God (2 Chronicles 29), and an inflow of all Israelites who would come (2 Chronicles 30) during the days of Hezekiah, another king of Judah! We have examined those glorious events in our last series of sermons “The Preparation of God’s People.”

If the Lord could provide such a profound “type and shadow” of His working through Hezekiah and Josiah, can He not also accomplish His total grand vision (from the



*“Isaiah’s Lips Anointed with Fire,”  
Benjamin West, 1782,  
Bob Jones University Museum and Gallery*

foundation of the world (Ephesians 1) – in His time and in His way? Because we may not yet have seen the Lord move in our day as we have long preached that He would, will we despair? Or, will we hold tighter to His unchanging, unfailing Word? When we have sufficiently humbled ourselves to however He may wish to work His will – to whatever roles we may be called upon to serve, then we, too, will behold His glory!

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## *Some final thoughts...*

Have you ever heard the expression, "caught between the devil and the deep blue sea?" While most of us understand it in the figurative sense, there was a generation in Israel that understood it literally. You'll find their story in Exodus 14.

This was a group that had already been through a lot. Since Moses had returned to Egypt, they had had their hopes of freedom from slavery repeatedly raised and dashed. It was like a game of chess being played out between God and pharaoh. God would make a move (send a plague) and pharaoh would make a counter move (say "no" to freedom). The Israelites, who, as a group, seemed to recall little of their nation's past relationship with God, were no doubt confused.

Then, the clouds seemed to suddenly clear. With a crushing maneuver (a final plague that killed all of Egypt's firstborn

citizens and animals), God freed His people and sent them on their way to a land flowing with milk and honey.

Or, did He? That must have been what the Israelites were wondering as they faced deep blue sea in front and pharaoh's army (the devil) in back.

There was no where to run. And, even if there had been, their party was too large (at least topping a million) and mixed with children, the elderly and livestock. They were not capable of the speed necessary to outpace chariots and horsemen.

There was no way to fight. The Israelites had spent 400 years in slavery. They were worn, lacked military training and likely had few weapons at their disposal.

"Did God bring us out here to die," they demanded of Moses. Moses, in the stead of God, answered their fear in Exodus 14:13-14:



*Assistant Editor  
Nora Edinger*

*...Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day ... The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace."*

No, God had not boxed them in in order to destroy them. He was, instead, using a situation to build the new heart that a free people would need to inherit the Promised Land. He wanted them to "stand still" and see what He was capable of doing. He wanted them to *know* Him and *love* Him.

And, so He still does today. At times, God directs our circumstances so that all we can do is stand.

If this is where we are, we must remember that God continues to be more interested in building an eternal relationship with us than with our temporary comfort. And, He's still saying "Fear ye not ... Stand still!"

We can stand -- fearless -- knowing that He who asks such will surely send an "east wind" in its time.

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