

THE CHURCH OF GOD TENNESSEE

1st Quarter 2019



Spring is in the air, and soon the weather will be perfect for outreach possibilities. This time of year should remind us of new life, specifically, new life in Christ.

If we are saved, it is not for ourselves. We are called to reach out to the lost, wherever they may be found.

Time is drawing to a close. Soon it will be too late. We are called to work now. Jesus said, "the night cometh when no man can work."

Deadlines for articles:

May 1st
August 1st
November 1st
February 1st

My email address is:
tcogn@gmail.com.

Kryss Barick
Tennessee
State Paper



FROM THE STATE OVERSEER'S DESK

Harvey Anders

BIG BUSINESS

In asking the Lord what message He would have me to prepare for this first addition of our State Paper for 2019. I thought about all that the Lord has done for us in the past year. Yes, we all can probably say we had our trials and battles, but let us stir our minds and think about all the victories that the Lord has given us through them all!

Lamentations 3:19-24

19 Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall.

20 My soul hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me.

21 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

22 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

24 The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

Can you look back and see the faithfulness of our God? Jeremiah said "...therefore will I hope in him." Is your hope and strength found in the eternal One who made heaven and earth and all there is within them?

I think back on how God moved in our state meetings, District Conventions, our Men's and Women's Retreats, Our Youth Convention, Our State-wide Camp Meeting, our BTI held here in Tennessee, our Family Camp, our State Convention, and the wonderful Assembly. I have to stop and say, Praise the Lord for the great things he has done!

Psalms 126:3

The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.

I feel I need to say this to admonish us to heed the

instructions that we are given by the apostle Paul.

Philippians 4:6-9

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and

the God of peace shall be with you.

Oh, I am enthusiastic about this. I may be accused of being beside myself, but if I am, I have a lot of company. But, Oh, I am so happy, because God is letting me have my part in this great drama. And you, too, should be so happy to be on the stage in action with me. Isn't this the truth?

True, we only claim to be of the common people who hear Jesus gladly, but it seems to me that He is about to make uncommon people of us. And when we get our big construction program in full operation, and every member proves to be a worker in the immense machine, The Church of God will merit the attention that is destined to be given her. Then, she will be recognized as God's host according to the Scripture.

THE LOVE OF GOD

Tennessee ABM Director — Kim Taylor

Mark 16:6, 7

6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

On that resurrection morning, Peter was in need of a second chance. Earlier, he had insisted he would never deny Christ. But while in the High Priest's court yard, Peter denied Jesus not once, not twice, but three times. Imagine the look

Peter received when he looked eyes with Jesus after this third denial. Do you think it was a "I told you so!" look? Or, maybe a scornful look to make Peter feel the guilt and shame of his weakness? No, my friend, I'm sure the look Jesus gave Peter when they looked eyes was a look of complete love and compassion.

Early resurrection morning at the tomb, the messenger told Mary and Mary Magdalene "go your way, tell his disciples and Peter." What a profound nugget of truth, the messenger wanted to make sure that Peter was mentioned. Heaven knew Peter was feeling ashamed and

unworthy of getting such good news. A point was made to include him in this wonderful, powerful message of Hope. Thank God we have a Saviour who not only believes in second chances but third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh chances and so on!

As ABM ambassadors, what kind of looks do we give people? As God's hands and feet, I hope when we look eyes with someone in need of another chance they, too, see eyes with a look of complete love and compassion.

SOLD OUT FOR JESUS

Tennessee VLB Coordinators—Chandler & Heather Fox

Revelation 3:16 says: "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee from my mouth."

Have you ever done something half way? Whether it be a job, school, or even something spiritual, we have all been guilty of this at one time or another. Whatever the task was, we probably didn't get our desired result because we didn't put all of our effort into it. Our walk with The Lord is a daily walk. It is up to us to be "all in" with Jesus. He doesn't want us to serve Him with half of our hearts and reserve the other half for other things. In order for us to make a difference in this world and help others in their spiritual walk, we first must be sold out to Jesus ourselves.

Hebrews 13:8 declares: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and forever."

Jesus never changes. It is up to us to be sold out to Jesus in every aspect of our lives. We can hold nothing back from Him. We must completely surrender to His will for our lives and not our own.

How true it is that everything we own is really God's anyway, and our lives should be no different. Lord help us to give everything up to You and to follow Your perfect will for our lives!

Let's be all in for Jesus, together,
hedaleigh@yahoo.com
- 434-942-3836
chandlerfox5@yahoo.com
- 615-692-9817



A YEARNING IN GOD'S HEART

Tennessee WMB Coordinator — Missy Hawkins

I am sharing with you a devotion I read recently highlighting how God feels about the return of a wayward child, and the joy that fills His heart when that child returns safely home.

Jesus tells the story of a young man who took his portion of his father's inheritance and squandered it in riotous living. He ended up broke, ruined in health and spirit, and at his lowest point he decided to return to his father's home. Scripture says, *"And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him"* (Luke 15:20). Nothing hindered this father's forgiveness of the young man, his father had already made provision for reconciliation. He ran to his son and embraced him as soon as he saw the boy coming up the road. The truth is, forgiveness is never a problem for any loving father. Likewise, it is never a problem with our heavenly Father when He sees a repentant child. But inherent in this father's embrace was his yearning for his son to be restored. He wanted his child's company, his

presence, communion with him. *"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh... Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith* (Heb. 10:19, 20, 22). Believers are well-aware of Christ's work at Calvary — forgiveness of our sins, the power of victory over all bondages and, of course, the promise of eternal life. Yet there is another benefit of the Cross and this one is to the benefit of the Father. It is the delight that comes to Him whenever He receives a prodigal child. Beloved, the real issue at the heart of this parable of the prodigal has less to do with the coming home of the son and more to do with the happiness of the father at his return. And so it is with our loving heavenly Father. His heart is in full delight when we boldly enter into His presence for fellowship with Him.

Let us have the heart of God, the soul is of utmost importance. Let us love as He loves and rejoice as He rejoices.

THE PROMISE OF LIFE

Christon McMillan

"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). (See also, Revelation 14:12.) The promise of life is to whosoever will.

Jesus is promising everyone in the whole world, if they believe in me, they will have everlasting life. Not only to have eternal life in heaven above, but also, He will be with us here on earth and He will prolong our days and carry us here.

"And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you" (Isa. 46:4). "With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation" (Psa. 91:16).

Now then, I don't know how you feel but, I'm only 22 years old and I am ready to leave this world, now. Yet there are many souls that need me and you in this world today, that are dying and going to have a home in hell fire. Their only hope is to hear about Jesus and believe that He is the only begotten son of God. *"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18).*

There is also another promise that is given here. To those who don't believe in Him (Jesus), they are condemned to "eternal" hell fire regardless of how moral they may have lived their lives here on earth. We must believe in Jesus and obey and practice the whole Bible rightly divided if we want to make it to heaven. Jesus said it well in Mark 9:43, 44, *"And if thy hand offend thee [makes you sin], cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched."* As a member of The Church of God we must stick true to the covenant we took with God. "Will you sincerely promise in the presence of God and these witnesses that you will accept this Bible as the Word of God believe

and practice its teachings rightly divided the New Testament as your rule of faith and practice, government and discipline, and walk in the light to the best of your knowledge and ability?" "This is a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten" then he will say, "the answer is, I Will" (***The Church of God Minister's Handbook*** by Michael P. Jernigan pages 59-60).

In order for the membership to make it to heaven we must obey this covenant. Those outside the Church, in the kingdom, will have to obey the same thing before the rapture if they were to die, in order to go to heaven. All must hear the Word of God and be doers. The Bible says the man who does obey, he will be blessed!! *"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (James 1:25).*

This article is to encourage, uplift and strengthen the brothers and sisters of The Church of God and to warn those who are not saved. We all must look forward to heaven above and not seek a home below. Let us not seek to get comfortable here on earth, seeking a spouse, retirement, big house and friends. Rather, let us labor for the Master, helping to win souls. This should be the priority of every male and female with or without a minister's license. The definition of priority is "the fact or condition of being regarded or treated as more important." If you are saved and have a mouth, lips and tongue, then you should be shouting and proclaiming

from the rooftops that Jesus is the way, truth and life. God wants us to tell everyone about Jesus. We must not fail, my dearly beloved brother and sister, to speak to others about Jesus. We have been called to work in the fields and bring in souls. Don't forget that Jesus called you to save you, then to witness to others of their need to be saved. I want us to look forward to heaven and work. It's beautiful to see someone cry out to Jesus and be changed and on their way to heaven.

A. J. Tomlinson said, "Within the nature of the makeup of man there is a tendency to look back and recount the things in the past. This may not be wrong, however: as in many cases one is better able to see what is to come by a careful study of the things of the past; but there have been many backward glances which have proved detrimental to the progress of the traveler and in some instances fatal. When Lot and his wife and two daughters were leaving the city of Sodom, hurried away by two angels and commanded by them not to look back, Mrs. Lot failed to take heed and immediately she was turned into a pillar of salt, and Jesus said, 'Remember Lot's wife' I was once running from a vicious animal, and I never looked back to see if the animal was following until I reached a place of safety. Had I looked back, I might have stumbled and fallen and been overtaken. A story is told of a little fellow who had fallen and bruised himself: on being asked how it happened he said, 'I was a runnin' and lookin' back and come

to a high place in the ground and I fell' We are indeed running a race, and the prize is at the end of the race. To look back and cavil over Old Testament Scriptures, or to stop and cavil over anything, endangers us so we may fall in the race. Indeed, we should study the Scriptures, but to take time to go back and try to decipher some of the mysteries that belonged to the past ages, and thus raise an argument and wound the feelings of precious souls, instead of edifying and blessing them, is a loss of time to say nothing of how we ourselves might fall in the race while looking back" (excerpts from **The Last Great Conflict** pages 82 and 84).

Let us love and serve one another, while looking to heaven. We must look forward to heaven. We must preach, teach and sing about heaven. *"And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes"* (Rev. 7:14-17).

God bless you all and I pray this article has encouraged you, my brothers and sisters.

The Church of God

TN Family Camp

July 3-7

**Evangelist: Rob
Montgomery**

**If any questions or
concerns contact
Galen Donnafield
(615)-651-5698 or
Amy Donnafield
(615)-491-4189**



**Location: Camp
Overton**

THIS SPACE AVAILABLE!

There is always more room available in the

TENNESSEE!

If you have something that you would like to share with all of the local churches in Tennessee, have we got the publication for you! You don't have to be on the state staff to contribute, you only need to have something to say which might be a blessing to others.

Send your articles to Kryss Barick at

P.O. Box 500 Charleston, TN or tcogtn@gmail.com

(All articles must be received by the first day of the second month in each quarter.)

NEWS FROM PORTLAND

On January 5, 2019, the church celebrated the completion of our new fellowship hall and sanctuary renovation with a time of worship and building dedication. We were honored to have as special guests, General Overseer, Oscar Pimentel, State Overseer, Harvey Anders, District Overseer, Jeff Yohe and several of the former pastors: Brothers Jim Frizzell, Dennis Shaw and Josh Farthing.

The theme of this special service was **"Looking Back and Moving Forward!"** and included a video presentation of the history of The Church of God at Portland. The presentation was a visual reminder of how far God has brought the local church since the reorganization of The Church of God in 1993 at the Solemn Assembly; namely, from the first meeting in the OEO Center, to the official organization of the local church, to the rented storefront facility, to the building of the church's own sanctuary, to the building of the fellowship hall and renovation of the sanctuary.

Immediately following the dedication service, a feast and special fun-time were enjoyed. Reminiscing by *"Looking Back..."* and reflecting on God's divine favor on the Church being organized in this community escalated the excitement and anticipation of what all HE has planned as we *"...Move Forward!"* as The Church of God at Portland!

