THE CHURCH OF GOD
TENNESSEE

3rd Quarter 2019

Fall is here, and our Church schedule will be slowing down for a little while. Soon the leaves will be turning and we will be gathering together with family and friends. Let's not hesitate to make the most of every opportunity we have to be about the Father's business.

There is plenty of availble space and souls may be searching for the very words that God has given you.

Deadlines for articles:

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

My email address is: tcogtn@gmail.com.

Kryss Barick
Tennessee State Paper

FROM THE STATE OVERSEER'S DESK

Harvey Anders

MINISTRY IS A FOUR-LETTER WORD - LOVE!

"Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end" (John 13:1).

The thirteenth chapter of the book of John takes us to that intimate moment between Jesus and His Disciples when their Lord and Teacher girded Himself with a towel and washed their dirt-covered feet like a servant.

In that moment, Jesus taught them the meaning of love, not only by command, but by example. That simple, four-letter verb forms our ministry impulse. This urges all ministers to return to the basics, so that they might abide and walk with a sincere love for others.

This is the hand-full of corn spoken about in Psalms 72:16, and the fulfillment of this prophecy we find in Mark 3:13-15. This is the ministry of The Church of God whom Christ picked Himself. These men were of diverse backgrounds of life, but the Master had picked them to preach, to heal the sick and to cast out devils. They had been with Him. They saw Him heal the sick and cast out devils. They saw Him have compassion on those who suffered from the curse of sin! And now He was getting ready to go back to His Father.

The Scripture says, *"He loved them unto the end."* He knew that Peter would deny Him three times. He knew that Judas would betray Him. He knew that Thomas would doubt that He had risen, but He still loved them *"unto the end."*

In the past, the Holy Ghost has spoken to us to tell us that He would teach us how to love. On this occasion, in John 13, Jesus was teaching the Disciples how to be servants to one another, and for us to truly be servants we must love. We must love the Lord's Commandments, and we must love others. This must be the heartbeat of our ministry!

May we love as He loved us and be able to pray that prayer as He prayed. *"Not my will but thy will be done!"*

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you" (John 15:13-16).

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:1-3).

We are to walk worthy of our calling. If we are truly called of the Lord and His Spirit, we are to do so with all lowliness (humility), and meekness (gentleness), with longsuffering (patience), forbearing one another (bear with) one another in love (charity).

Jesus left His disciples and us a new commandment.

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:34, 35).

The Church's Ministry will only be effective if we love Him and His commandments and love one another as He loved us!

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:1, 2).

We are to preach the Word when it is acceptable and when it is not, to reprove (convince of a fault), rebuke (straightly charge), with all longsuffering (fortitude and patience) and love those souls we are ministering to, praying that they may hear and receive God's Word that by hearing they may believe!

"For many are called, but few are chosen" (Matt. 22:14). This is an allusion to the Roman custom of raising their militia; all were mustered, but only those were chosen to serve, who were found proper. Reader! examine thy soul, and make sure work for eternity! (Adam Clark's Commentary)

May our prayer everyday be, **"Lord teach me to love as you loved!"**

DIGGING DEEP, BUILDING STRONG

Tennessee BTI Director — Anna Blaylock

Our new BTI theme for the 2019-2020 assembly year is "Digging Deep, Building Strong."

"Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock" (Luke 6:47, 48).

If we dig deep into His Word and not only read the words but DO THEM, we will find that we are building on the Rock, Jesus Christ. This means applying the Word to our lives, our decisions, the things we say and do, and so on. This Rock will not shake or fail us. He will sustain us during difficult times. We can count on Him to hold us steady through storms, floods, and trials. We can build our lives on Him in confidence. He can be depended on!

During the state convention, Sister Letcher preached a message about the Word of God. She used the following illustration. You may have a stack of books containing all the information a person needs to learn a certain profession. You can set those books in front of the person. But if they will not pick up the books and read them, the information will not benefit them. For them to gain the knowledge, they must pick up the books and read them.

Let us be good students of the Word of God. Let us read its words often and apply them to our lives. Let's pray and allow God to show us things in His Word to help us. Will we understand everything we read? No. But don't stop! If we will continue to study, the Word will continue to do its work in our lives, purging us of things unlike our Lord and drawing us closer to Him. Let's not neglect time in His Word. He wants to help us and encourage us.

I would like to leave with you a few encouraging notes/thoughts I jotted down from one of Brother Pimentel's messages during our state convention.... "What is the hope that is talked about in the Bible? It's not a wish or a fantasy, like if you said "I hope I can get this job" or "I hope everything works out." It is having a confident expectation, because it's based on something real--the promises of God. Our hope is not based on a strong possibility or probability. It's not a "maybe." It's not a fleeting hope that the world and the devil offer. Our hope is based on definite assurances by our God that cannot lie. Praise the Lord!!

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3).

Anchor in His promises. Dig deep and Build on the Rock! He is our hope, and He will see us all the way through!!!

Start making plans now for BTI 2020! May God bless you and your efforts for Him.

THIS, OUR HERITAGE

Tennessee CPMA Coordinator — Tim Blaylock

"See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire" (Heb. 12:25-29).

We have entered a fearful and troubling time. On every side we are being attacked by the enemy of our souls. It's a time when it is increasingly becoming more and more difficult and dangerous to be a child of God. A time when the title "Christian" puts us in the spotlight, so to speak. As time moves forward we are rapidly nearing the end of this world as prophesied about in the Word of God. As we move forward, it is going to become increasingly worse and worse.

Here in Hebrews 12 we are told not to refuse the one who is speaking to us. For if we turn away from Him and His Word which He has spoken, and yet is speaking, to us even now, then we will not be able to escape the judgement of the unrighteous and the penalty for sin. The voice of our Lord had once shaken the earth there at Mt. Sinai, but He has promised this time not only to shake the earth but the heaven (or the church) as well; meaning that He is going to shake all that is in this world and all that is in the spiritual world. We have now entered a time of shaking such as this world has never seen before, and it is getting worse as time proceeds. All that can be shaken during this time will not be rooted enough to hold on, but will be removed. And all that can't be shaken, all that is holy and righteous will remain. Therefore, let us serve God pleasingly with reverence (respect) and godly fear, because our God is a consuming fire. He is the fire by which we are refined and He is the refiner, so we don't need to be afraid of the fire, but rather fall into the fire and let Him consume all that is in us that is not of Him. When we do this, we will have hope in Him and Him alone, and we will make it. So what will help us to abide this time of shaking?

"When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And

Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:13-18).

Here in this passage of Scripture Jesus asks His disciples a question: *"Whom do men say that I the Son of Man am?"* They responded with *"Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others Jeremias, or one of the prophets."* But then He asked an even more important question: *"But whom say ye that I am?"* Today, we know what others are saying about Him, but do we know who He is? Just as Peter said: *"Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God,"* we, too, must know and realize who He is, and what He is in relation to The Church of God.

"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body" (Eph. 5:23). He is the Head and the Saviour of the body, The Church of God. Jesus's response back to Peter was: *"Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock* [this divine revelation of mutual understanding, You know who I am and I know who you are] *I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

We are truly blessed to know what we know and to see what we see! If it had not been for the grace of God, we could be as others are and not know or see what we do! His Church will accomplish her task! She will be victorious in Him! He promised it when He said the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!

"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" (Prov. 29:18).

If we have a vision or divine revelation of Him and His Church, then we will overcome, and we will make it. We will be happy if we know who He is, and if we keep and love His commandments. Our divine revelation causes us to recognize Him as the Head and the One who holds our lives in His hand. Just as a body can not function without the head, which holds the brain, which controls all of the functions of that body, so too can we not function as the Body of Christ without Him; for we are His body, and He is the Head with all of His wisdom and power.

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it" (Matt. 7:24-27).

If we are built upon the Rock, then we will stand in this day of

adversity, no matter how violent the storm becomes. Our vision of Him and His Church will anchor us to the foundation and the Rock which is Jesus Christ Himself. In other words, our vision will cause us to stay on board the ship.

How is your vision? Is it still clear and vibrant as when you first received it? Is it still intact? Are you still holding to your covenant? If not, why not? Let's keep our vision clear and be faithful to our covenant! May God bless you.

SOLD OUT FOR JESUS

Tennessee VLB Coordinators—Chandler & Heather Fox

What a blessed and rich Convention and Assembly season we are coming out of. The Lord truly met us there in a special way, and we feel more encouraged than ever for the Youth work in the upcoming year. Last year, we talked all about what it took to send our enemies on the run. This year's theme is "Generation Breaker," and it goes along with last year's theme so well. Some of us were blessed enough to be raised in the Church. We don't know what it's like to grow up in a home that didn't love The Lord. Others weren't so fortunate. Whether you grew up in the Church or not, this theme can be applied to your life.

All of us have to do some type of Generation Breaking; it doesn't have to just be with the family. This generation of young people in the world is something to break from, as well. There is so much entitlement, disrespect and disobedience and it is running rampant through the youth of this world. Thank God, we can be Generation Breakers from what the world calls "just finding their way." We don't have to take part in what the world sees as fun or acceptable behavior, but, instead, we can be Generation Breakers for our age group. We must be a generation of Young People that loves the Lord with all of our hearts and want to please Him above anything else in this world. The Scripture says we are in the world but not of the world. Sometimes we want to fit in so much that maybe we act a little too much like our friends are acting. Being Generation Breakers means that we set the example to our friends and families. We are not influenced, but we ARE the influencers. If we stand up for Jesus, we can never go wrong. We encourage you to read through the books of Kings in preparation for this next year. That is where our theme comes from, and it is filled with young people who were Generation Breakers. These books are so encouraging and help us to understand that we can make a difference in this world.

James 4:8 tells us: *"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."*

Let's work this year to draw as close to the Lord as we ever have been, and if we do that, in turn, we will be Generation Breakers.

We love each and every one of you. In Christ,

Chandler & Heather Fox

OPERATION DEPLOYMENT

Tennessee WMB Coordinator — Missy Hawkins

The Bible is a book depicting countless battles. From Genesis to Revelation, its pages reveal that there are both physical and spiritual wars raging. Physical wars have dominated history from the time Cain killed his brother, Abel, right down to the present day. This should not surprise us, for Jesus predicted, "*And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars. ... For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom*" (Matt. 24:6, 7).

However, the primary focus of the Scripture is the story of the ongoing conflict between Christ and Satan. We are told in Revelation that what began as a war in heaven will end in Armageddon. In this showdown between the forces of good and the powers of evil, light and truth are under constant attack from deception and darkness.

And like it or not, every single one of us is involved. The battleground for this intense spiritual struggle is not some piece of earthly real estate; it is the human heart. Both Jesus and the devil are supremely interested in winning possession of our minds and hearts. For this reason, Christians are called to be more than peaceful spectators or mediators in this conflict. We must be committed front-line soldiers.

God has designed that all the literal battles in the Bible - from Gideon's conflict with the Midianites to David's defeat of Goliath - can serve to teach us how we might experience victory in spiritual combat. Naturally, it should stand to reason that because these battles are of a spiritual nature, the weapons we employ must also be spiritual. This is why Paul reminds us that *"we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"* (Eph. 6:12).

All of us are called to deployment, whether it is to our neighborhoods or to another nation, we must be prepared. The world is getting more violent toward Christians and Christianity. Let's remain focused on who we are battling.

REPORT FROM MICHIE

Michie sends Greetings to all of Tennessee! As the end of summer is hear, we wanted to share how God provided members from our local church to attend Family Camp this year! Many had a desire to go, but the funds just weren't available. We needed $1,065.00 to cover the tuitions and motel rooms in full. In June we started receiving donations, and in just one month, we received $1,066.38. Praise God! God provided exactly what we needed, as He always does! We are so thankful that 12 from our local church were able to attend an absolutely wonderful Camp! May God bless each and every one of you this Assembly year!

Jaclyn Killingsworth, Church Reporter

BTI GOAL FOR THE 2019-2020 CHURCH YEAR

Tennessee BTI Director — Anna Blaylock

I would like to encourage each person to memorize one Bible verse each month and study one Church tract each month. We can use these tools to enrich and refresh our personal walks. Ideas would be to choose verses that address personal needs or things you have issues with or verses about soul winning, etc. Post the verses somewhere you will see often, like the refrigerator door, and read them each time you pass by. You will learn them in no time!

MINISTERS
AND
TREASURERS

Please send your State Reports to
P. O. Box 500 Charleston, TN 37310
and your General Reports to
P. O. Box 450 Charleston, TN 37310.

Sister Wendy will no longer be working at General Headquarters on a regular basis, so please be sure that your General Reports are sent separately from your State Reports.

We thank you and apologize for any inconvenience.