

Source: “Interview to Bishop A.J. Tomlinson in 1943 before his death.”
The Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee). May 2012:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C_kRX1ecR10
Length: 9 minutes, 27 seconds
Transcription: March 15, 2017. Prepared by Claire Vaughn
Participants: Interviewer (I); Bishop A.J. Tomlinson (A)

Transcript Conventions

(...) inaudible speech	_ elongated syllable	--brief laugh	... brief pause
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- I: We are bringing you a voice from the past. The voice of the former general overseer of the Church of God, the late Bishop A.J. Tomlinson. These questions you will hear, and their answers by Bishop A.J. Tomlinson, were asked and answered just shortly before his 78th birthday and only a few weeks before his death in 1943. These were the questions that were asked of Bishop A.J. Tomlinson and his answers in his words. It was on the 13th of June in 19-3, when A.J. Tomlinson went to Burger Mountain. Do you recall that day back in 19-3?
- A: Yes, I can remember that. -- (...) yesterday.
- I: What was there on that particular ground now called “Fields of the Wood?” What stood there at the place where you visited at Burger Mountain in 19-3, or was there anything there?
- A: Yeah, there was a building there and a home people lived in.
- I: When you went to Burger Mountain, Bishop Tomlinson, did you go to preach?
- A: No. Originally, first time I visited there, I was just there to distribute some literature. Religious literature.
- I: Who did you distribute literature for?
- A: The American Bible Society.
- I: Back in 19-3, A.J. Tomlinson, did you have in mind that you would stir up a religious movement? Did you have anything like that in mind?
- A: No, I didn’t have anything like that in mind. I thought I’d do pretty well if I stirred up the neighborhood.
- I: Did you, by any chance, sing a song back there and run around in your front room singing “A wheeled girdle that glowed with salvation and holiness under the Lord?” Did you do anything like that?
- A: Well, yes, that – that was something that was quite peculiar (...) my way of doing anyhow.
- I: But you really just ran around looking around the world at that time were you?

A: In my mind I was.

I: Bishop Tomlinson, now at the age of ... 78, do you feel like circling the globe, as you said, girdling the globe with salvation and holiness_ under the Lord? Do you...how do you feel about traveling?

A: I'd like to go everywhere now. As far as the feeling's concerned, I'd be glad to take a trip anytime.

I: Did Burger Mountain seem important to you back in 19--3. Was it the -- was it the beauty? Was it the mountains? The valleys? Was it the scenery? What, what was important there and what did attract you to Burger Mountain back in 19-3.

A: The important thing, at the time, I first ... when I made this special visit there, I was interested in studying the Bible. And, I met with some parties there that, with the Bible, to see about whether or not they were on what I considered the right line.

I: About how many people met with you on that June 13th at Burger Mountain back in 19-3.

A: Oh, I suppose about ... 15 or 20.

I: Bishop A.J. Tomlinson with so many people attending the general assemblies these days, do you still feel the presence of God in a similar manner as when there were only a few?

A: Oh yes, and even more.

I: And now, here is one of the last public utterances of the late Bishop A.J. Tomlinson recorded shortly before the 38th general assembly, the last general assembly that Bishop A.J. Tomlinson moderated and which took place less than a month before his death. Now, A.J. Tomlinson, who found the Church of God at Burger Mountain in 19-3.

A: God who had sundry times and in diverse manners speak in time paths by the Fathers. By the Prophets. Having these last days or otherwise by his son by whom he has appointed heir of all things. By him also he made the world. I speak of God and Jesus here because the Father and Son belong together and it is by them and their work that paves the way for the last days message and in this way we introduce ourselves in this great program. God is the Father, Jesus Christ is His Son. I came to Burger Mountain under peculiar circumstances. I did not know as much in those years as I have known since that time and as I am supposed to know at this time. I did not know I was getting into what I have when I came, incidentally or providentially to Burger Mountain. Neither did I know it was Burger Mountain. In fact, I did not know scarcely anything at that time about the last days message or the Church of God. I only knew that the Church of God was mentioned in the Bible. And I knew that it should come forth and shine in the last days. But at that time, I did not know that I would live to see the last days work done as I have. I did not know ... that I would have any part in it.