



Calvary MESSENGER

“... God forbid that I should glory, save in
the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

Galatians 6:14

APRIL 2017

Meditation	
<i>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</i>	1
Editorial	
<i>Good Manners</i>	2
The Bottom Line	
<i>Negatively Positive</i>	4
God Cares for His People (<i>Part Two of Howeward Bound</i>)	8
Do We Have to Know Everything?	12
Contentment	13
Marriages	14
Cradle Roll.....	14
Ordination.....	16
Obituaries	16
Observations	18
Dating, Courtship and Marriage	22
Keys to a Christian's Education	26
Mission Awareness	
<i>How to Pray for Missionaries</i>	29
Helpers at Home	
<i>Springtime in my Heart</i>	31
Junior Messages	
<i>Whinney Sees a Miracle</i>	33
Thinking Generation	
<i>Paris: An Unexpected Journey</i>	35
Thought Gems	back cover

Calvary Messenger

April 2017

Purpose of Calvary Messenger is:

- To propagate sound Biblical doctrine;
- To stimulate a deeper study of God’s Word;
- To anchor and fortify the faith of Christians;
- To point lost and dying souls to Christ the Savior;
- To welcome prodigals back to the fold and family of God;
- And to help defeated Christians find victory in Christ Jesus.

Calvary Publications, Inc., is a non-profit organization, incorporated in the State of Ohio, for the purpose of sponsoring, publishing, and distributing Christian literature. The board is elected, one member annually, by the ministers of the Beachy Amish Mennonite Churches, at their annual spring meeting.

Board of Directors

- (Calvary Publications, Inc.)
- Nathan Yoder, Chairman
- Elmer Glick, Vice-Chairman
- Enos D. Stutzman, Treasurer
- Ralph Miller, Secretary
- Mark Webb



Material for *Calvary Messenger*, marriages, births, ordinations, obituaries, and general articles—send to the **Editor**. Other Material—mail to their respective **Editors**.

Subscriptions, renewals, changes of address, etc.—mail to **Circulation Manager**.

When you move, please notify the Circulation Manager one month in advance, giving your old and new address in full, so that your mailing label can be properly corrected and your credit be kept in order.

Editor: Paul L. Miller
 7809 S. Herren Rd., Partridge, KS 67566
 Ph/Fax 620-567-2286
 paullmiller@btsskynet.net

Assistant Editor: Elmer D. Glick
 P.O. Box 400, Slanesville, WV 25444
 elmerg@frontiernet.net

Contributing Editors:
 Simon Schrock, Enos D. Stutzman,
 Aaron Lapp, Ronald J. Miller

Missions Editor: Floyd Stoltzfus
 186 Skyline Dr., New Holland, PA 17557

Youth Messages Editor: Gideon Yutzy
 4114 S. Herren Rd., Hutchinson, KS 67501
 gideonyutzy@gmail.com | 620-615-2967

Junior Messages Editor:
 Mrs. Mary Ellen Beachy
 PO Box 2102
 Kisumu, Kenya, East Africa
 maryellenbeachy@icloud.com

Helpers at Home Editor:
 Mrs. Mary June Glick
 1080 Return Church Rd., Seneca, SC 29678

Circulation Manager/Treasurer:
 Enos D. Stutzman
 7498 Woods West Ave.,
 London, OH 43140
 614-460-9222
 enosmary@gmail.com

Calvary Messenger (USPS 767-160) is published monthly by Calvary Publications, 2673 TR 421, Sugarcreek, Ohio 44681. Subscription rates are: 1 year (U.S.) \$8.50, 3 years (U.S.) \$24.00. For congregations using the every-home-plan, \$7.00 per year to individual addresses. Renewal \$4.25 when you also give a 1-year gift subscription at \$4.25. Second class postage at Sugarcreek, Ohio. Postmaster: Send address changes to Calvary Publications, Inc., 7498 Woods West Ave., London, OH 43140.


When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Isaac Watts, 1707

When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the cross of Christ, my Lord;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to Jesus' blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all. 

Good Manners

My 12-year-old friend, Grace, calls me Grandpa. That's not her real name, and I'm not actually her grandpa, either. Grace has the *graceful* habit of saying "Please," "Thank you," "I'm sorry," and other such kind words. May her tribe increase!

I fear that many good manners are fading. Of course, when we're nervous, we may say things that indicate what happens when we start the tongue before the brain is in gear. New situations can catch us off guard. That's the time an off-the-cuff comment gets us into trouble. The following two accounts are true. They illustrate the need for thinking before speaking.

1. Paul Brubaker, (*BRF Witness*, Vol. 48, No. 4) told of an incident in the life of a Massachusetts governor, Christian Herter (1895-1966). In a busy re-election campaign in the mid-fifties, Herter did not stop to eat lunch. Later in the day, he arrived at a chicken barbecue. He was very hungry and stepped into the food line.

The server, a young girl, was placing barbecued chicken on each

person's plate as they filed by. She did her work right and carefully laid one piece of chicken on Governor Herter's plate. As she turned to serve the next person, Governor Herter said, "Excuse me, how about another piece of chicken?"

"Sorry," responded the server, "but I'm supposed to give only one piece of chicken to each person."

"But I'm starved," the governor said.

The server got noticeably agitated and raised her voice, "I said only one piece per customer!"

Undeterred, the hungry governor decided to throw his weight around. "Lady, do you have any idea who I am? I am the governor of this state—the state of Massachusetts!"

"And do you know who I am?" the server snapped, "I'm the lady in charge of the chicken. **Now move along, Mister!**"

Whew! Thus Governor Herter got only one piece of chicken. Did the server wrongly understand the authority she was given? Had she not been told to "Honor all men" or to "Honor the king" (1 Peter 2:17)? We leave the efficient server of chicken

to her work and the governor to his half-filled plate.

2. The second incident was told me by Bert Brown, a missionary with Northern Canada Evangelical Mission in the early 1960's. This incident occurred more than 700 miles north of the U. S./Canada border in Uranium City, in northern Saskatchewan, which lies on the north shore of a huge inland lake, Lake Athabasca. Uranium City, Saskatchewan, got its name from the uranium (nuclear fuel) that was discovered there in the late 1940's. With Canada part of the British Empire, Queen Elizabeth II arranged for her husband, Prince Philip (the Duke of Edinburgh) to go to Canada to visit the mining operation, probably some time in the early 1960's.

During Prince Philip's visit, a formal dinner in his honor was arranged. The waitresses were young native girls. These maidens did their work eagerly, but probably had never before seen—much less served—a visitor of such high rank. After the first course had been served and eaten, the girls came to pick up the plates. Prince Philip offered his plate with all his silverware on it. The girl taking his plate meant to be helpful. She simply said, "**Save your fork, Duke; there's pie coming!**"

The young lady taking the Duke of Edinburgh's plate was simply offering a practical solution to a procedure that was new to her. Her efforts at helpfulness don't seem deliberately ill-mannered, but not quite fitting the situation either.

The chicken server failed her test of thoughtful consideration from a man who carried responsibility for her and her people. While her concern could have included fear of causing a shortage of barbecued chicken, we think her listening skills—and her respect for public officials—were both on vacation.

Kindness conveys honor. It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice. Let's always try to be a little kinder than necessary.

Noting Peter's admonition in 1 Peter 2:17, we see that we should not "mind our manners" only toward people of high office. The Apostle Peter lists four directions good manners should go: 1) **Honour all men.** 2) **Love the brotherhood.** 3) **Fear God.** 4) **Honour the king.** God would have us cultivate an attitude of thoughtfulness in every encounter.

Paul tells us that "not many wise men after the flesh are called, not many mighty, not many noble, are called" (1 Corinthians 1:26). But when our paths do cross those of nobility, we are wise to see it as an

opportunity to give appropriate recognition. Such situations are certainly not the time to make comments that point either to our successes or to their failures. It is a time for thoughtful respect.

One day when Jesus' disciples were vying for positions of prominence, He gave them a well-known lesson in goals for His followers. He closed His instructions with His own example of consideration for others which stands far above any other example men have seen, **"For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a**

ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28).

Let us follow the Master's example! Let us always do good to *all* men, and not forget that it doesn't stop with those in high office, but extends to "men of low degree" and especially "to them who are of the household of faith." Everyone you and I meet can be met with a thoughtful: **"Thank you!" "You're welcome!" "Please," "Pardon me, could you repeat that?" "Excuse me," "I'm sorry," or "May I help you?"** and so on, according to what the situation calls for.

-PLM



the bottom line

Negatively Positive

Aaron Lapp, Kinzers, PA

It seems as though one of the qualifying aspects for some discerning speakers is whether his subject is negative or positive. He slices and dices the negative first, because the audience, it is assumed, wants it where it can be pressed to a pulp. The pulp will be thrown out for the crows and the juice put down the drain.

Now that is done. Happily he can now go to the positive part of

the message, where everybody is relieved. It is apparent that even the mood of the speaker is changed for the better when he allows himself to indulge in the positive part.

I'm about to leave for a drive in our car. I open the garage door. Then I open the car door, get in behind the steering wheel, and close the door. I turn the key in the ignition, and surprise! The car engine starts. That is all good, folks, because that is all

positive. (So far, that is). I'm happy to say it is because the electrical system is attached to the positive terminal. But I must acknowledge that the negative cable also is connected to that same electrical system. With that negative cable connected, the car started!

I back out of the garage. Isn't it wonderful that they put a reverse in the transmission of this car? After all, going in reverse is negative. The car and I venture out onto the road. I come to a stop sign. Why, that is also negative! There are lines at the edge of the road, and would you believe, there are two solid lines in the middle of the road. That, sure enough, is negative. There are speed limit signs immediately, limiting speed to 35 miles per hour. I consider that extremely negative!

I come to a traffic signal which is green, which I say is very positive. I am overjoyed, since all that negative stuff is behind me, only to come up to the next traffic light, which is red. It appears extremely red, because in church we have been trained by typical speakers to sort out in the Bible what is negative and what is positive, with the negative being undesirable.

Our question is, **“Can we have the positive without the negative?”**

For instance, what about Jesus' Sermon on the Mount? Just scanning Matthew, Chapter 5, I counted nineteen negative points of problem areas or restrictions that our Lord addressed. Such a negative message, and the people stayed to hear Jesus as He then also gave Chapters 6 and 7. Jesus didn't forewarn them when he was about to speak of the negative. That is no problem, because we are thoroughly exercised from time to time on how to sort it out for ourselves.

For instance, it is the young couple's wedding day. Everyone is upbeat and in a happy mood; well, yes, until the preacher gets to bringing us all these negative aspects of the marriage union. But not to worry, for he is only setting the stage for the wonderful part of the positive aspects, and with that, will try to undo the damage. But then, even in the marriage vows, the bishop recites both the negative parts and the positive parts in one sweet flow of a favorable and flavorful commitment.

Thankfully, for a wonderful change, he didn't feel the compulsion to raise red or green flags to let us know, in case we are missing it, which parts are positive and which are negative. Where he could have inserted “in health, that is positive,

you know” and “in sickness, dear couple, I’m sorry to say, but that is negative.” No slicing and dicing in the wedding vows. At least the vows were allowed to stand as positive. Being married twice, I never thought about those vows being anything but positive until we get this unintended exercise to keep thinking of God’s Word as being either negative or positive.

Rightly dividing the word of truth is NOT about declaring what is positive and what is negative. The Bible has both throughout. All government laws have both throughout. All natural laws have both throughout. All of life has both negative and positive aspects.

We do a disservice to our audience to point out ever so carefully what is negative and what is positive. Apology after apology is made for the negative statements in the Bible. To point out the negative part of God’s Word and its negative principles never comes with a happy tone of voice, or a pleasing smile.

For instance, nonresistance has often been introduced as a negative subject. Why? Is it because we are not permitted to take up firearms and go to war? Or because we are taught to not lie and steal and cheat? It need not be confusing, because

nonresistance IS a very positive subject.

We love our enemies instead of doing harm to them. Am I wrong to see that as being positive? Being fair in business seems positive to me. Loving others as I would wish to be loved seems positive to me.

Nonconformity is also thought to be a negative subject. Is that because we would really wish to dress as does the world? Do we mean to infer that dressing according to fleshly instincts would, being opposite, be positive? One would expect a negative Bible subject to yield negative results.

Dressing in simplicity and modesty is attractive as a Bible teaching and divine principle. But being apologetic about it while being dressed in a plain regulation coat give mixed signals.

What will it take for all of us as Bible teachers and preachers to see the whole Bible as bearing testimony to truth, which can only be positive?

All negative connotations found in the Bible, to my mind, have only entirely positive results when done in obedience to God’s Word. A negative truth would be a non-truth, and therefore could not be truth.

Some people see prohibition and restriction as being a negative subject, while the Bible addresses violations as being sin. The practice

of sin is an act of defying the truth. God's propositions are a declaration of truth, and all of it has positive results when His Word is recognized for what it is.

How was it with the world's very first sin? Was it negative or positive? God said they could eat of every tree in the garden except the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Was God's proposition positive or negative? Some speakers today would say being able to eat from all the trees except one was mostly positive. But not being permitted to eat fruit from the tree of prohibition was altogether negative. But God called it sin.

The negative is usually depicted as weak and undesirable, as something to be avoided and discounted. But every prohibition and restriction in the Bible will have the good effect of being right, or leading to that which is right. All prohibitions and restrictions are truth, which complements and runs parallel to righteousness. It should not be

thought of as negative, or as being separate from the positive.

Let us be done with calling any part of the Bible a negative subject. All of God's truth is positive. Any part that is forbidden or restrained is meant by God to be helpful toward every kind of positive result. Even the subject of hell is not a negative subject. It is real. It is a positive fact that the unbelievers and unrighteous end up there if they don't repent and believe in Jesus.

The Bottom Line is that the Bible does not deal with the criteria of negative and positive. Setting a stage to show the negative and the positive leaves the audience with mixed signals. Being apologetic about anything in God's Word that appears to be negative takes away from one's message; it cannot add to it.

All of God's Word has to do with either righteousness or unrighteousness. And if all of God's Word is believed and obeyed, it will bring with it only true and positive results.



*God speaks to those who
take time to listen.*

God Cares for His People

Part Two of Homeward Bound

(See March, 2017, page 23)

Steve Steiner, Dalton, OH

Walking down the hospital hallway, it dawned on me what I had promised my dying son. Two days earlier, Paul said he wanted to share with his birth father that he had forgiven him for the events surrounding his birth mother's death. Paul was only six when his mother died. Yet before he died, Paul wanted to tell his birth father that he loved him. He wanted his birth father to know of the joy and peace that he had found in Jesus Christ.

As his adoptive father, how was I going to do this? My mind raced ahead, wondering. Was this man really the murderer that my son thought or was he part of a family system that disintegrated through in-law jealousy? Stepping out of the elevator, I questioned how I could find his birth father. Was he alive? Would he understand? What kind of a man was he now? What if he was living on the streets of Guatemala City? Maybe he held a job and was a contributor to society. I remembered the meeting we had so many years

ago when I asked permission to adopt his three children. With tear-filled eyes he said that he had failed them as a father and that he wanted to give them this opportunity of adoption.

"Oh Lord, give me clarity," I breathed in prayer. "If I am to go and share Paul's story, I need someone that understands Paul's cultural experience from his childhood in Guatemala and his years as a youth in the United States." Amzie Yoder came to mind, a missionary for thirty plus years in Central America now living in New Mexico. With much uncertainty I asked God to make a way for Amzie to be available to be with us if this meeting with Paul's birth father was to take place in Guatemala. In my mind I doubted that this would happen.

As I left the hospital parking lot, a heaviness fell over me, knowing that Paul's younger siblings, Eric and Maria, needed to go with me. How could I convince them to travel to see a man whom they never knew? Eric was only two years old and Maria

one month old when he vanished from their life. They also had been told that their father had killed their mother and how their adoption had been delayed frequently because of the public outcries in Guatemala towards international adoptions, purportedly because adopted children were abused as indentured servants or other.... Eric and Maria needed to go to convey the whole story of their experiences in their adopted family to their birth father. And ... I wanted to meet him, I needed to meet him, I had promised Paul.

The next morning I went to Paul's dorm room and, with his roommate, sorted and packed Paul's few earthly possessions. Lying on his desk was an assignment that he had recently completed for English 125, titled: "Home." In reading Paul's description of "Home," I was stunned with Paul's insight. "... The only place I can really call or describe as my home is 'Heaven'.... Someday my light will be snuffed out forever and I will have to check out of the Hotel from Earth and return home where I am loved and welcomed."

That evening I flew home to Ohio to join my wife, Beverly, and our other children. Over the next several

days we savored the gift of Paul's short presence in our home and lives. We had a celebrative funeral commemorating his departure to his Heavenly Home. I was reminded of his parting words, "Dad, I am so happy I am going home." How could I be sad when he was so content and happy? But I missed his physical presence.

Several weeks passed. The thought of going to Guatemala kept weighing on my mind. Eric and Maria did not want to go. They were content to put the painful memories of the past behind and live in the present. They did not want to meet this man that they only knew of as a destroyer of their childhood. Still I could not shake off the request I had put before the Lord that evening while walking out of the hospital. I placed a phone call to Amzie. To my astonishment, Amzie said "I am going to Central America for two weeks on a teaching assignment at the Seminary, SEMILLA, and will be in Guatemala City that same weekend."

It was a clear sign that we were to go! There was no backing out now. We had to go and share Paul's story with his birth father, Carlos. As the day drew near, the anxiety level rose, especially for Eric and Maria. On the

morning of our scheduled meeting, I promised Eric and Maria that they only needed to be present for thirty minutes and then they could go back to the guesthouse.

As Carlos came to the front gate, I recognized him from our earlier meeting. He was accompanied by his wife and two young sons. We embraced and I introduced him to his two birth children, Eric and Maria. Beverly and I expressed our sorrow to meet with him on this occasion. We went on to relate that his son, Paul, had passed away three months earlier. He had been sick a short time while at the university. I told Carlos about the precious moments with Paul during his last two days. Paul had two dreams of seeing Jesus, who asked him to come with him to heaven. Paul said that he wanted to go, but he first had to take care of something. I told him, "He wanted you, Carlos, to know that he had forgiven you for the pain and suffering that occurred in his early years."

As we wept, Carlos said "I wish I could have made things right with Paul and asked him for forgiveness." I explained again that Paul had truly forgiven him and that all was well. Carlos then asked Eric and Maria for forgiveness. This took time but

as the afternoon moved on Eric and Maria gradually joined in the healing process with their birth father.

We had a lot to catch up on. Photos and stories of the children's years in the United States were shared. This providential meeting took place in Carlos' grandparents' home. Previously we had assumed that they were his parents, but as the story of generational pain unfolded we felt more compassion for Carlos. His pain started early in life, being born to a lady of the night, never knowing his mother or father. Carlos's grandmother had found out from a neighbor that he was born. Going to the market she found him in a small basket at a merchant's stand. She brought him home and raised him as one of her own. Carlos learned the skills of a truck mechanic from his grandfather and uncles. We learned about his remorse and guilt for abandoning his three children when their mother died. We sensed his pain and we wept together. The time of sharing went quickly and, before we knew, four hours had passed.

The next morning Carlos and his family attended the Mennonite church service with us. The sermon, taken from Galatians 6:1-5, was


about confessing sins, sharing each other's burdens, and forgiving each other. We closed the service by sharing communion together. Carlos expressed that he had never attended a service like this. It was very meaningful to him.

When we parted, Carlos said, "This day was planned and made by God." I heartily agreed. God had provided, not only the means to fulfill my son's dying wish, but to show his birth father God's forgiveness through the offer of his own.

There is a postscript to my son's life and death. It continues to have an impact. Four months after Paul's death, I took my children to the hospital room where Paul spent his last days here on earth. When I stepped out of the elevator on the sixth floor, the charge nurse came

to us with tears in her eyes said, "Your brother had so much joy and peace in his dying. I have never had a patient that has shown so much kindness at the end of life." She was the nurse that had retorted with anger the morning of the day Paul died, "He is too good to let die."

Later, the hospital chaplain called to advise me that there was an ethics review on Paul's death. He reported that the staff that had worked with Paul met with the hospital administration. After a few minutes, the discussion turned to Paul's faith and his strong witness, how profoundly it had touched them. It was an extraordinary review that highlighted Paul's faith in Jesus and his anticipation of heaven.

(Published in Our Faith Digest, Spring, 2009. Used by permission.) 



Do We Have to Know Everything?

Simon Schrock, Catlett, VA

And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down." (Revelation 10:4)

There are some things we are better off not knowing. My office is located along Lee Highway. Nearby, Lee Jackson Highway turns west off Lee Highway. Many people miss the turn. They soon realize something is not right and frequently stop to ask for directions. I try to give them simple, easy directions to get back on Lee Jackson. I do not give them information about streets that do not concern them. That would be distracting.

John was told not to write what the seven thunders said and to keep their words secret. Wouldn't we like to know what those words were? But it is not in our best interest to do a lot of speculating. We do not need to know everything to reach our heavenly home.

I rejoice to know that God did not keep anything secret that we need

to know to serve Him. He has given us all we need to know in order to become His faithful servants and live godly lives. God's "divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by His own to glory and goodness" (2 Peter 1:3).

We are not told exactly when the Lord Jesus will return because God has determined it is in our best interest not to know everything. God wants us to live in a state of readiness. His Word gives us all we need to know to be ready. Living for God is more important than speculating on the secrets that belong to God.

[From page 132 of Revelation Day by Day, by R. Leslie Holmes and Richard A. Bodey, Eds. Published in 2001 by Baker Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group. Used by permission.]



Contentment

Anthony Weaver, Stuarts Draft, VA

I have a confession to make: I am feeling discontent.

I have wished for many things that are not mine. I have wished for a different family. I have wished for different abilities. I have wished to be many things that I am not. I have wished certain events *would not* have happened; and I have wished certain other events *would* have happened. Why? Why can it be hard for me to accept what God has given me? Maybe you have had similar thoughts.

Perhaps I am discontent because I forget that God has placed me where I am for a reason. To harbor discontentment is absurdity because I am refusing to believe God knows what He is doing. I am saying, “Lord, this situation is not nice. Get me out of here; You made a mistake in putting me here.” This is a wrong attitude. I must accept the place where God has put me.

When I look at what other people have, or what other families have, or even what other cultures have, perhaps I am forgetting that God created us to be different. He gave us varying abilities in various

proportions. He put us in different settings with different authorities. Perhaps He has even given people different convictions on what it means to follow Him. The Kingdom of Christ is simply bursting with variety. Yet variety is not the point.

The point is that Christians take what they have been given to them as individuals and use that in the best way they know how in the collective work force of the Kingdom. This may be as glamorous as smuggling Bibles in North Korea, but if it seems like you can't do much more than just chores around home, then, by all means, do those chores for Jesus! Do not sit idle because you do not have the perfect skill set. Seek to develop your skills in order to be most effective in the area God has called you. The Bible would not tell us to strive for perfection if we were already perfect.

In short, accept what God has put in your life. Time is wasted when it is spent looking at what other people have: talents, money, cars, anything. Look at yourself; look at Christ; realize what He has given you—and use it!



marriages

May the homes established by these marriages be little substations of heaven, where God reigns and His blessings flow.

Lapp-Lee

Bro. Austin, son of LaMar and Faith Lapp, Quaker City, OH, and Sis. Susan, daughter of Chris and Barbara Lee, Cumberland, OH, at Ninth St. United Methodist Church for Antrim Mennonite Church, on Feb. 13, 2017, by Jason Miller.

Miller-Brenneman

Bro. Justin, son of David and Ruth Miller, Sugarcreek, OH, and Sis. Rosanna, daughter of Henry and Vera Brenneman, Rochelle, VA, on Nov. 12, 2016, at Oak Grove Mennonite Church by Lamar Hochstetler.


Miller-Shank

Bro. David, son of Kenneth and Linda Miller, Stuarts Draft, VA, and Sis. Grace, daughter of Ray and Marietta Shank, Aroda, VA, on Feb. 4, 2017, at Victory Fellowship Church for Oak Grove Mennonite Church by Lamar Hochstetler.

Miller-Shank

Bro. Joey, son of Maynard and Shirley Miller, Stuarts Draft, VA, and Sis. Elfrieda, daughter of Ray and Marietta Shank, Aroda, VA, on Oct. 22, 2016, at Oak Grove Mennonite Church by Simon Schrock.

Troyer-Pollard

Bro. Eric, son of Paul and Barbara Troyer, Bourbon, IN, and Sis. Kimberly, daughter of Charlene and the late David Pollard, Bremen, IN, at Copper Commons, Nappanee, IN, for Sandy Ridge Mennonite Church on Dec. 4, 2016, by John D. Miller. 

cradle roll

The children which the Lord hath graciously given . . . Genesis 33:5

Beachy, Benjamin and Dorcas (Yoder), Brinkhaven, OH, second child and daughter, Ilsa Jolie, Feb. 19, 2017.

Beiler, Larry R. and Karla (Mullet), Gap, PA, third child, first daughter, Marissa Janelle, Feb. 6, 2017.

Beiler, Timothy L. and Vasilica (Bitica), Gordonville, PA, second child and daughter, Kiana Brook, Feb. 17, 2017.

Bontrager, Clifford and Krista (Martin), Aroda, VA, fourth child, first daughter, Erika Delight, Feb. 22, 2017.

Bontrager, Wayne and Linda (Miller), Parsons, KS, fifth child, third son, Benson Jude, Jan. 27, 2017.

Clemons, Joshua and Fanita (Overholt), Madison, VA, second child and daughter, Mya Jade, July 21, 2016.

Clugston, Trent and Rhonda (Brenneman), Radiant, VA, second child and daughter, Kinsey Brielle, Dec. 24, 2016.

Helmuth, Galen and Edith (Beachy), Belvidere, TN, second child and daughter, Katelyn Olivia, Jan. 30, 2017.

Kauffman, Wesley and Rachel (Johnson), Smyrna Mills, ME, fourth child, first son, Victor Judah, Dec. 1, 2016.

King, Caleb and Lisa (King), Ronks, PA, third child, first daughter, Laura Elizabeth, Jan. 6, 2017.

Kuhns, Elmer and Mary (King), Auburn, KY, first child and daughter, Mylah Deshae, Nov. 18, 2016.

Miller, Brandon and Rosanna (Stoltzfus), Milford, OH, third child, second daughter, (one son deceased), Jane Addilyn, Jan. 13, 2017.

Miller, Chad and Rochelle (Nisly), Due West, SC, first child and son, Chase Beckham, Nov. 25, 2016.

Miller, Jeremy and Marla (Bender), Rural Retreat, VA, seventh child (one deceased), fifth daughter, Shanna Joy, Jan. 10, 2017.

Miller, John and Crystal (Yoder), Hutchinson, KS, first child and daughter, Jenna Charmaine, Feb. 10, 2017.

Miller, Rodney and Regina (Peachey), Rural Retreat, VA, third child, first daughter, Keturah Ruth, Jan. 3, 2017.

Nissley, Dennis and Charity (Bender), Midland, VA, first child and son, Austin Joel, Jan. 31, 2017.

Otto, Joshua and Regina (Wagler), Crossville, TN, third child, first daughter, Janalyn Mae, Jan. 16, 2017.

Quevedo, Jason and Katrina (Eichorn), Paraguay/Odon, IN, first child and daughter, Brieela Joy, Feb. 22, 2017

Stoll, Conrad and Sharon (Falb), Odon, IN, first child and daughter, Ra'niah Ranee, May 29, 2013. Loved and cared for since birth, adopted Jan. 13, 2017.

Stoltzfoos, Caleb and Katie (Beachy), Kinzers, PA, first child and son, Dante Remington, Feb. 19, 2017.

Stoltzfus, Matthew and Anita (Stoltzfus), Gordonville, PA, third, fourth, and fifth daughters (no sons, first twins, now these triplets), Alyssa Rose, Anna Brooke, and Ava Grace, Feb. 7, 2017.

Swartzentruber, Shawn and Hannah (Stoll), Abbeville, SC, first child and daughter, Ariana Rose, Sept. 29, 2016.

Troyer, Leon and Andrea (Nisly), Bourbon, IN, third child, first daughter, Elisa Chantelle, Jan. 31, 2017.

Weaver, Adrian and Ruth (Yoder), Millersburg, OH, seventh child, fifth daughter, Rebecca Sue, Feb. 3, 2017.

Weaver, Quentin and Janice (Shank), Aroda, VA, first child and daughter, Annali Elizabeth, July 14, 2016.

Yoder, Aaron and Megan (Miller), Oswego, KS, first child and son, Jamien Cole, Feb. 22, 2017.


Yoder, Jamin and Raquel (Guadron), Shipshewana, IN, fourth and fifth children and daughters, Tirzah Kate and Daisy Grace, Feb. 6, 2017.

Yoder, Michael and Sarah (Shank) Aroda, VA, third child and son, Ezra Michael, Feb. 2, 2017.

Yoder, Richard and Mary (Stoltzfus),


Abbeville, SC, first child and son, Brandt Reed, Nov. 4, 2016.

Zook, Ethan and Melissa (Hostetler), Abbeville, SC, first child and daughter, Allison Jewel, Dec. 16, 2016.

Zook, Timothy and Janelle (Hochstetler), Orange, VA, second child and son, Peyton Cole, Feb. 10, 2017. 

ordination

May the grace of God be upon our brother as he ministers faithfully. Let us pray for him.

Bro. Clifford Bontrager, 31, (wife Krista Martin), Aroda, VA, was ordained as deacon at Oak Grove Mennonite Church, Aroda, VA, on Dec. 11, 2016. The charge was given by Lamar Hochstetler, assisted by Ivan Beachy and Tim Miller. 

obituaries

Miller, Crist C., 90, of Sugarcreek, OH, died Jan. 22, 2017, at Joel Pomerene Hospital following a period of declining health. He was born Sept. 11, 1926, son of the late Crist and Sarah (Raber) Miller.

He was a faithful member of Maranatha Amish Mennonite Church. He was a retired taxi driver.

On Nov. 30, 1950, he was married to Anna Yoder, who survives. Their children are Mary (Paul) Sommers, Baltic; Ruth (James) Mullet, Sarah (Merf) Yoder,

and Miriam Miller, all of Sugarcreek; 12 grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren. Also surviving are two brothers, John Miller, Newcomerstown, and Atlee Miller, Indiana; a sister, Katie Ann (Andy) Yoder, Farmerstown; and a sister-in-law, Bena (Eli) Miller, of North Carolina.

He was preceded in death by a son, Ruben, infant daughter, Martha, a sister, Susie Miller, and four brothers, Moses, Neal, Eli, and Alvin.

The funeral was held on Jan. 25, at Maranatha Church with Paul Leroy Miller serving. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Otto, Mattie (Helmuth), 95, of Sarasota, Florida, died Jan. 27, 2017. She was born in Arcola, IL, July 3, 1921, to the late Benj and Lizzie Helmuth.

She married Albert Otto, on Aug. 29, 1944. He preceded her in death. Survivors include two sons: Cal (Jean) Otto, Sarasota, FL; and Linn (Marietta) Otto, North Adams, MI; three daughters: Mary (Dale) Bontrager, Harlan, IN; Barb (Patrick) Lataillade, Miramar, FL; and Edith Miller, Fort Wayne, IN; son-in-law, Bill Tschiegg, Flora, IN; 15 grandchildren; 21 great grandchildren; one great great grandchild; and one brother, Noah (Edna) Helmuth. .

She was preceded in death by daughter, Arlene Tschegg; grandson, Jason Otto; son-in-law, Sam Miller; two brothers, Joe Helmuth and Eli B. Helmuth; three sisters: Anna Beachy, Rebecca Helmuth, and Mary Ann Bender.

The funeral was held on Feb. 1, at Bethany Fellowship School, Kokomo, IN, with Delbert Hostetler serving. Burial was in the Christner Cemetery.

Peachey, Sadie A., 90, died at her home in McVeytown, PA, Feb. 5, 2017. She was born Aug. 14, 1926, at Belleville, PA, daughter of the late Stephen W. and Mary E. (Peachey) Zook.

She was a Member of Valley View A.M. Church.

On Dec. 4, 1950, she was married to Kore J. Peachey. He died Dec. 2, 2012. Surviving are children: Earl D. (wife Edna Bontrager) Peachey, Mattawana, PA; Anna E. Kuhns, Belleville, PA; Julia (husband Marlin J.) Yoder, McVeytown, PA; Glen R. (wife Beverly) Peachey, East Waterford, PA; 17 grandchildren, and 34 great grandchildren. Other survivors are brother, Stephen W. Zook, Jr., and wife Bertha, Belleville, PA

Preceding her in death was great grand daughter, Sierra Marie and a son-in-law, Willard Kuhns.

The funeral was held on Feb. 8, with Leroy Yoder, Matthew Peachey, Eli B. King, Jr, serving. Committal was conducted by Loren Yoder, with burial in the Locust Grove Cemetery.

Swartzentruber, Mary J. (Hershberger), of Abbeville, SC, 85, died peacefully at home Dec. 28, 2016. She was born at Virginia Beach, VA, Oct. 15, 1931, daughter of the late Jacob and Matilda (Yoder) Hershberger.

She was a member of Cold Spring Mennonite Church. She was also owner of Swartzentruber's Bakery.

On June 10, 1957, she was married to Norman Swartzentruber. He died Dec. 5, 2010. To this union were born six daughters and two sons: Loretta Swartzentruber, Ruby (Larry) Overholt, Norma (Jared) Willey, Anna (Joseph) Schrock, Twila Swartzentruber, all of Abbeville; Keturah (Curt) Zimmerman, Myerstown, PA; Myron "Butch" Swartzentruber, and Ivan (Gloria)


Swartzentruber, also of Abbeville; 22 grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; two sisters: Annie (the late Elvin) Miller and Edna (Lester) Nisly; three brothers Joe (Rosie) Hershberger, Lloyd (Joyce) Hershberger, and Jake (Sara) Hershberger and a sister-in-law, Martha Hershberger.

The funeral was held on Dec. 31, with Javan Bender and Steve Swartzentruber serving. Merl Beiler conducted the committal at the Cold Spring Cemetery.

Waldron, Cari-Su, 53, of Louisa, VA, died Feb. 4, 2017, en route to Mexico for further treatment of cancer which she fought courageously for the last seven years. She was born August 15, 1963, to the late Kurt Richard and Carlene Rose Schroer.

Cari was a member of Gospel Light Mennonite Church, Gordonsville, VA.

On Feb. 20, 1982, she was married to Bill Waldron, who survives. Also surviving are ten children: Rachel and husband Timothy Yoder; Timothy and wife Andrea; Naomi Eve, Nathan Uriah, Levi Simon, Lydia Joy, Susanna Grace, Julia Faith, Jonathan Seth, and Sarah Hope; five grandchildren: Ava Yoder, Mckenzie Yoder, Josiah Yoder, Reagan Yoder, and Gabriel Waldron; two sisters Ginny Poole and husband Edward, Janice Martin and husband Eric.

A private family burial at Gospel Light Mennonite Church Cemetery was held prior to the memorial service at Freddy's Funeral home in Gordonsville, VA, on Feb. 3, with Eldon Hochstetler and Darrel Beachy serving. 

observations

During early February Brenda and I traveled to El Salvador and Belize with Philip and Sue Ann Beachy. Members of the AMA board schedule a visit to each of the field locations annually. Our two youngest children accompanied us on this trip. We thoroughly enjoyed the trip in many and varied ways.

I was again amazed how close we are to another world. We slept in our own beds one night and by noon the

next day had landed in El Salvador. We transitioned from winter to the Tropics and English to Spanish in just a few short hours. Since Brenda and I had lived in El Salvador for about 6 years in the 80's and 90's, it was a sort of home coming for us. We enjoyed introducing our sons to people and places from a very formative time in our family life.

The Mennonite church in El Salvador is now more than 50 years old. It was a real joy to meet many friends and

brothers in Christ who are serving the Lord faithfully after these many years. My wife was introduced to two fine young ladies who carry her name in her honor. At my friend's house I was impressed by their handsome duck that patrolled the premises. Come to find out, the duck's name is Ronald. I wasn't sure it was safe to ask why they chose that name, so I didn't risk it.

During our visit the churches in El Salvador were in the final stages of planning to host the annual Central America Leaders' Meetings. People attended those meetings from all over Central America as well as the USA, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and various South American countries. This meeting is attended and supported by a variety of conservative Anabaptist groups. They were expecting around 200 attendees. The logistics of hosting such an event with their resources was not a trivial consideration!



The highest concentration in the world, by percentage, of Mennonite and conservative Anabaptist adherents for any country is Belize, where approximately 3.5% of the population identify as such. Before our visit, I was not aware of the variety of Anabaptist groups represented in Belize. I knew about our missions and a few others, plus the Kleine Gemeinde groups. But, there are many including various horse and

buggy groups that I didn't know were represented in Belize.

In Belize there are a number of second generation believers in the churches associated with our mission efforts. Brenda and I met a few former fellow CBS students. It is a joy to see the church continue its transition toward more indigenous congregational life and function. This means that AMA's involvement in the churches morphs from being a primary and leading role to one that is more supportive in nature. These transitions don't usually follow a tidy and neat timeline that looks exactly the same in each situation. But the progress over time, is significant.

Here are a few enduring memories of things we observed during our visit to Belize:

An Amish man giving a lift to a native Creole man in his horse drawn wagon.

Touring Caribbean Chicken, a chicken processing plant operated by Mennonites in the Blue Creek area. They slaughter about 16,000 birds on most week days. The operation was impressive for its efficiency and its cleanliness as well as the staggering amount of repetitive manual labor carried out by those who work there. A competing processing facility in Spanish Lookout processes a few more birds than the one we visited, but they don't allow tours.

We attended a hymn sing on Sunday evening hosted by the Pilgrim Fellowship Mennonite Church at Hattieville that also included the Belize City Christian Fellowship church from Haynes Street. The only Caucasians present were those of us who were on delegation travel as well as the four missionaries from Haynes Street. It was an inspiring, enthusiastic evening, characterized by good singing, energy and impressive volume. The evening unfolded with an interesting blend of spontaneity and order. The start time was 6:30 PM and we were dismissed shortly after 9 PM. I never heard exactly what the target closing time was, but we overshot whatever it was, by a considerable margin. The spirited singing left its evidence in raspy, hoarse voices for some of the participants.

In Matthew 7 Jesus likens those who hear his sayings and don't take heed to a person who builds his house on the sand. On our drive from the airport to the mission house at Haynes Street brother Floyd Stoltzfus pointed out a contemporary illustration of Jesus' teaching, where a row of abandoned houses stood all askew. About 25 years or so ago, this project was abandoned as the construction neared its completion because the houses started to shift and sink. The houses were never occupied.

While waiting to board our flight departing Belize, we noticed a young Mennonite lady with a young lad in tow as well as someone who could be her husband with her. Her husband's attire looked more contemporary than distinctively Mennonite. Presently the lady disappeared for a few minutes and reappeared having accomplished a complete wardrobe transformation in a few short minutes, that bore no hint of her erstwhile appearance. It was impressive. I have no idea what their story was. It was a sobering reminder of the importance of not giving mixed signals to those observing our walk of life.



Matthew Barrett of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary wrote a piece several years ago entitled, "Dear Pastor, Bring your Bible to Church." Even 30 years ago it would have been difficult to imagine that this exhortation would be relevant. However, the Scriptures are conveniently stored in a variety of digital formats today that are much more compact than carrying a physical leather-bound volume around.

I'm sympathetic with some of his concerns in spite of the fact that I believe some of them might be a bit misplaced. We should be careful to not equate our reverence for the Scriptures and the Word with


reverence for a book. After all, we are called to a relationship with a person, not a book. We recognize that the Scripture is inerrant, God-breathed and relevant. This applies to the God's message to us in Scripture independent of the language of the transcript, or whether it is preserved in digital or print format.

However, I identify with Mr. Barrett that it is a good thing to bring your Bible along to church for a couple of reasons. The first reason has to do with the fact that most of the devices used to store Scripture digitally are multi-use devices. We don't need additional distractions when we come together to worship and learn with God's people. Unless you're put together differently than I am, the proliferation of distractions tends to reduce focus. I see an interesting parallel between the concept that we come together with God's people with a *singular focus* toward God, and the idea that we bring a Bible to the meeting that isn't bundled with peripheral distractions that compete for our attention.

The second reason is more subtle. I believe there is something about physically handling the Bible and turning to the Scripture that is being read that promotes biblical literacy. In talking about literacy, I refer to sequence and context.

When we click on a reference, and zoom instantly there, we are more likely to miss what comes before and after the text than when we turn to it. Context is important in our understanding of Scripture. Handling a printed version of the text is not the only way to pursue context by any means, nor does using a printed version ensure that we are faithful in our understanding of context. But the printed page is friendly to an awareness of context.

• • • • •

About 12% of people surveyed in the USA feel it is okay cheat on your taxes a little bit here and there. With Tax Day just around the corner, let's make sure that we're numbered among the 88% who agree with Jesus when he indicated that we should "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's." I think it would be splendid if God's people would be famous for cheerfully paying their taxes. One idea to promote cheerfulness is to cultivate gratefulness for the benefits we enjoy that are tax funded. One of the things I'm particularly thankful for is the road system that facilitates travel that is relatively safe, comfortable and quick. I suspect this would be even more apparent to me if I would have traveled west on the Oregon Trail by covered wagon. -RJM 

Dating, Courtship and Marriage

Frank Reed, Manheim, PA

God has a plan. It is a relatively simple plan: godly men and godly women meeting, getting to know each other, getting married for life, having children, teaching them to be godly men and women and the next generation repeating the process. That is God's plan.

The "how" to do all of this is not prescribed in the Bible. In the process of growing up, we will meet many individuals. We will be attracted to some of them in a more-than-platonic way. This attraction is God-given. In these cases, we should pursue the friendship if there is mutual attraction. There will be a growing friendship between the individuals and their families. The friendship should be maintained unless there are discoveries that would indicate incompatibility or character flaws that are not corrected when addressed. The friendship should culminate in marriage.

Dating and courtship have existed in many different ways over the

years. Arranged marriages were very common. Parents chose the person for their son or daughter to marry. Romantic attraction was not a consideration. Today romantic relationships are expected. The persons involved expect to be very attracted to each other in romantic ways.

What age is appropriate for dating and marriage? This is a difficult question in one way. In another way, it is not. We should be preparing our youth in spiritual and social ways for marriage at an early age so they are ready when God provides the opportunity.

Today there are many good opportunities for young people. Missions and Bible schools are just some examples. These opportunities tend to postpone dating and marriage. God should determine the age of dating and marriage. He brings individuals together who have mutual interests that can culminate in dating and marriage.

Parental Involvement

Parents should be involved. More and more that is the case. That is good. Parents should be apprised of the developments and give their blessing to the couple. Families should be involved so that they can grow to know and appreciate each other.

Integrity

Integrity of all who are involved is absolutely critical. Many young ladies are fearful of dating and marriage because they do not trust young men. So, it is critical that the young men live lives of absolute integrity in every area so as to be trustworthy and holy. Here are some specific concepts that can be useful.

Integrity in Dating – For Men

1. Maintain absolute integrity in every way in your personal life; submit to proper authority that God placed over you.

2. Give your heart and commitment to a young lady before and without demanding that from her. Christ gives Himself for us and waits for us to respond to Him.

3. Stand for truth; be a real man; take a biblical stand on issues.

4. Keep your heart and mind in the Scriptures and be sensitive to the

Holy Spirit.

5. Be a spiritual and moral leader, especially in the dating relationship. Do not make her carry the conscience for the behaviors during courtship.

6. Share your vision with your girlfriend to see if it is a vision that you together are willing to follow.

7. Earn her trust before marriage. It is difficult to earn trust after marriage.

8. Guard her heart, reputation, character, and honor. Sometimes she will be vulnerable. Protect her at those moments. Respect her and she will know that you truly love her.

9. Value her opinions. God can speak to you through her. She will have talents that you do not have.

10. Give her space to be herself. She is an individual created by God. She is not your property. Do not be overly possessive.

11. Be in love with her heart, not her body. Bodies are everywhere, hearts are unique. Hearts grow in beauty and grace. Bodies fade with time.

12. Love is a gift from God. Accept it graciously. Give it freely.

Integrity in Dating – For Women

1. Have your heart fixed on God.

Invest time in His Word.

2. Be respectful to the men in your life.

3. Always be modest in dress and behavior.

4. Maintain absolute integrity in personal life.

5. Be in submission to the authority that God has placed over you. If you cannot be submissive to a godly father, how will you be submissive to a godly husband?

6. Be discreetly friendly without being inappropriate.

7. Require men to be honest and to prove themselves.

8. Do not give your heart to every man who shows you attention.

9. Do not try to be his “mother,” for that sets you up to be his “mother” all your life.

10. Guard your emotions; do not get involved in intimate conversations too soon.

11. Do not flirt, but be friendly and be secure in who God made you to be.

12. Relax and be yourself. God made you unique. There is only one you. God made you special and for a special task in life.

Enemies of Healthy Relationships.

Stay away from movies, romance

novels, video games, professional sports, etc. There are not good for anyone and are particularly harmful for dating couples. Times together should be planned. Lack of planning is mostly a recipe for unhealthy behaviors. Time with family is the best antidote to unwholesome activities.

Dating is Preparation for Marriage

It is very important that lives are lived for God in preparation for dating. It is so very important that lives lived during dating are lived in preparation for marriage.

Unrealistic Expectations

Life is not perfect and will never be perfect. Two imperfect persons can be perfect for each other even though they are not perfect themselves.

In an Age Where Life is Supposed to be Perfect...

- Dating is about preparing your heart and life to be married.
- Marriage is about you wanting to fulfill the plan of God.
- Marriage is God’s plan for most of His people.

Marriage is About Serving the Other Person

- Marriage is about fulfilling the plan of God.
- Marriage is about bringing children into this world.
- Marriage is about raising children for the glory of God.
- Marriage is about defeating the enemy—Satan. “They will speak to the enemy in the gate.”
- Marriage is about witnessing to the world the truth of God.
- Marriage is about mutual love and blessing for each other.
- Marriage is a type of Christ and the church.
- Marriage is a way to illustrate the love of God to His people.
- Marriage is a way to become a complement to your spouse.
- Marriage is a way of showing the love of God to the world.
- Marriage is about making my home for the next generation to live.
- Marriage is God’s plan for continuing the human race. God wants to use your and my life for that purpose.
- Marriage is not about getting my own way.

- Marriage is not about my living on “easy street.”
- Marriage is not about fulfilling my romantic fantasies.

Self-centeredness

Self-centeredness is the most destructive trait in marriage. It can destroy a marriage. Marriage is about serving God by serving the other person—your spouse. Dating is the time to observe and determine if that other person is self-centered or other-centered.

God’s Plan

God’s plan is for most people to marry. He does not spell out the details. We need to be biblical, spiritual people who can develop godly standards for friendships that result in marriage. Whether this is called dating or courtship or any other term is not the issue. Biblical beliefs and behaviors are at issue. We want to enter into a lifetime promise prepared to perpetuate the holiness that God expects.

May the Lord richly bless and direct young people as they seek guidance and direction in the choice of a life-long marriage partner.

[From KMF Messenger, March-April, 2017. Used by permission.]



Keys to a Christian's Education

Andrew Yoder, Killbuck, OH

I am currently enjoying my fourth year as junior and senior high school teacher at our church school. I also fill the role of principal. In the past few years we have added four years of High School to our K-8 program. While working with that project I have often asked myself and others what should be included in a Christian high school education. This article is a compilation of my ideas, but I am still learning.

Education in general is looked at as an opportunity to learn the fundamental skills needed to survive in this world of communication and commerce. This education then magically becomes “Christian” when we use books that quote Bible verses and have teachers who worship in our churches. If that is what makes our schools Christian we may not get the education we are looking for.

Webster defines *educate* as “to provide the schooling for.” We teachers can easily get stuck in the “provide schooling” rut where we exemplify Webster’s second definition of *educate*, “to provide with information.” We go from day to day delivering lectures, expounding fundamentals, and presenting “microwaved” devotionals. We think students are learning Christian ways because we are giving them Christian information. Sadly, it doesn’t work that way. We have only

given knowledge and even the devil can quote Bible verses.

We must look at our Christian education as an opportunity to learn the principles and skills for survival in the Christian’s life as a pilgrim and stranger in this world. Our students need to be taught how to apply knowledge practically. The first key to a Christian’s education is to remember where true wisdom comes from—the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. We must spend time in prayer when looking for any answers regarding our schools.

The second key of a Christian’s education lies in the third definition of *educate*, “to persuade or condition to feel, believe, or act in a desired way.” This gives me a picture of walking alongside the student, coaching the beginner, tempering the responses, and showing how it really is to act like a Christian in this world. It will take time, sacrifice, and much concentrated effort to make

this kind of Christian education happen. Since school schedules are always tight and homework is rarely appreciated, it may mean laying aside some Mathematics, Science, and other courses that are considered “core” to an education to make room for Music, Discipleship, Biblical business, etc., which are core [basic] to the Christian and the Church.

So what are some fundamental skills needed for survival as a Christian? Well, think about what a Christian does in his lifetime. He participates in his local church; he works in his community; he is commanded to be a light at home; and he may even travel to the uttermost parts of the earth with the Gospel of Christ. While school is not the only place these things can be learned, it is helpful to Christian development in students if they are given considerable effort in school.

To aid in his participation in his church, we can teach Bible study skills such as using *Strong's Concordance* effectively, Bible reading (personal and public) and public speaking skills. Our young men often struggle to have an inspirational devotional, so teach them to organize their thoughts in a logical, interesting manner. Girls will also have plenty of opportunity to use the skills in teaching Sunday school, Bible school, and women's

meetings. Teach them how to study and prepare lessons. Teaching writing plays a key role in public speaking and the rest of life because writing is thinking. If your student cannot write down what he is thinking or what he believes, he probably isn't quite sure what it is himself.

Music is also an integral part of church life. Make sure your students can lead singing to the best of their ability. Furthermore, as we become increasingly disturbed by modern “Christian” [contemporary] music, the need becomes so much greater for Anabaptist hymn writers.

I am sure church ministry teams would appreciate if discipleship was taught according to the spirit of the law. Are your teachers free to discipline a student for having a bad attitude about a rule even if he has not broken it? Are your teachers good role models? Would you as parents feel comfortable if the teacher told his students “Follow me as I follow Christ”? Have discussion and practical applications of the teachings of Christ been a regular part of school? For example, over Christmas break one year I gave my students the assignment of finding a way to use their talents in their own neighborhoods. After vacation, each was called upon to give an account for how [what] he or she did. Some were quite creative and

some who had “hid their talent in a napkin” had to use their “one” talent and sing a song for the class.

At some point, most of your students will do business with our local community. Get them thinking about how a Christian businessman would “do business unto others as he would have it done unto himself.” My students love to discuss money, so I teach them what it’s like to “give to him that asketh of thee and him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.” I have discovered that even though our students aren’t in business, they have already developed plenty of ideas on how it should work. Gary Miller’s new book, *It’s Not Your Business*, is a great addition to any business math class and can help develop convictions.

Rather than only talk about being a Good Samaritan, I like to take my students to local food pantries. I also work with senior centers, churches, and village administrations to help them actually feel a life of service. Handing food to a desperate mother, seeing the plight of those in a trailer court, picking up trash, or cleaning up the yard for an elderly woman will give them an experience of what it means to be salt and light to the world like no class discussion ever will. All this can be done in your own community if you take the time

to make the arrangements and cut some classes.

Students don’t need to wait till they are older to be missionaries for the Kingdom of Heaven. Create opportunities for your students to experience missions first hand. This year I set up a program that my students can use to raise money for CAM’s Billboard Program. They must go find their own sponsors who donate according to their grades. They must also record and collect all the money. Last year, to create an awareness of the needs of the world and our own blessings, we surprised the students and set up a Syrian Refugee Camp in our classroom with blue tarps. That day we used only what the students brought. We shared books and pencils, sat on the floor, and drank tea. We also got sore, went hungry, and grew in thankfulness.

It doesn’t matter so much if you have high school or not, of if you get through all the proper books. If we want to have our children engaged in carrying on the Anabaptist vision then we must seize the opportunity we have to in being allowed to educate our children according to our beliefs and make sure it’s a Christian education.

[From Midwest Mennonite Focus, March-April, 2017. Used by permission.]



How to Pray for Missionaries

Kevin Coblentz, Oakland, MD

E.M. Bounds gives us some helpful insights in his book, The Weapons of Prayer: “In dealing with mankind, nothing is more important to God than prayer. Prayer is likewise of great importance to people. If prayer puts God to work on earth, then, by the same token prayerlessness prevents God from working. While man in his weakness and poverty waits, trusts, and prays, God undertakes the work. ‘From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides thee, who works for those who wait for him’” (Isa. 64:4 RSV).

Then many times God asks us to work. Jesus’ motivation to work is an encouragement for us: “I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work” (John 9:4). Intercessory prayer is one of those “good works” for which God has created us “that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10b).

Kevin Coblentz, his wife, Rebecca, and children served in La Belleza, Paraguay for several years under Amish Mennonite Aid. Kevin served in the La Belleza Clinic as a Registered Nurse. He states (near the end of their service in Paraguay) that one of the things that people asked him over the years was: “How should we pray for you?” He said, “I don’t really know how to answer, but now I understand a little better. Here is a list for you to pray more effectively.” -FS

Pray for us that we would take time for personal devotions. Pray that we would listen and hear God speaking to us. Often it is hard to balance the demand for duty and the need for personal devotions. Pray that we could guard this private time carefully.

Pray for us in the energy exerted in language learning. This is our

biggest hurdle and challenge! Even after three years, I have to look up words. In Paraguay it gets more complicated with the Guarani language. Not everyone knows Spanish. There are times we cannot find the right word as we try to reach someone’s heart with the Gospel. That can be frustrating.

Pray for emptying of ourselves. Pray that our service would be out

of love for God and His glory, and not for selfish reasons. When we do things in our own strength we rob God of His glory. **Pray that we would depend totally on God, all the time, so that He receives 100% of the glory!**

Pray for spiritual, physical, and emotional protection. Pray for the protection of God over the mission through His word, the Holy Spirit, and the blood of Jesus. *[Pray that God's servants will walk in the blessing of high moral standards in the midst of a corrupt society –FS].*

Pray for our extended families and that they would continue to seek the Lord. They affect our service in this land, even though they are far away.

Pray that God would continue to show us things in our hearts that are ungodly. The Bible says, “The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer. 17:9). Pray that we could have a heart like God's and that He would direct our motives.

Pray against caregiver burnout. Giving, giving, giving can be stressful and eventually can lead to burnout. Being on call twenty-four hours a day is wearing on a person's emotions. Pray that we can maintain a love for the people that have needs and not

come to the place where we are sick of meeting people.

Pray that we could exercise a heart of compassion and patience. Sure we came to serve, but when the same people come three times a day, six days a week (and sometimes seven) it takes a good dose of patience.

Pray that many souls could come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The Bible says that God is “longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (II Pet. 3:9b). We claim that verse and pray to that end here in Paraguay.

Pray for peace and protection among the staff at our mission. We love one another, but we also work, live on the same compound, and play together. This can be helpful in making a strong and workable unit, but it can also make little annoyances seem like BIG things.

Pray, believing in faith that your prayers are making a difference for those on the foreign field. We can tell when the church is praying and when it is not, so pray. Letters and emails were special to us. Take time to write even if you don't know the people. Encourage them and **PRAY!**

[This article first appeared in the AMA Newsletter. Used by permission]



Springtime in my Heart

Mary June Glick, Seneca, SC

Springtime arrives with hope and new vitality. Yellow daffodils, white Bradford pear blossoms, purple violets herald the arrival of springtime here in South Carolina filling us with new vitality, as I write this article at the end of February. Budding fruit trees and tiny green shoots pushing their way up through our red soil in the garden fill us with hope—hope for a good harvest, and vitality to enjoy the beautiful warm breezes and sunshine. Springtime may have arrived a bit earlier for some of you and for others it may just be arriving as you read this article in the early days of April. Whenever it may arrive in your area, we know it will come. The Bible promises that springtime and harvest, summer, winter, day and night will not cease. We know God's promises are true.

Garden lovers are filled with new vitality and hope as we browse through seed catalogues and gardening magazines. We dream of the fresh vegetables that will grace our dinner table or the fragrant flowers in a vase to bring a touch of joy to our family. Mel and I both enjoy gardening.

We have downsized considerably compared to the 10 acres we raised when truck farming was a part of our income. Now we enjoy raised beds with paths through the garden to accommodate my walker and make for easier harvesting. Mel is in charge of the vegetables, while I concentrate on flowers. A beautiful garden alive with fluttering butterflies, buzzing bees and the whirl of hummingbird wings fills me with joy and peace. It draws me closer to my Creator, and it reminds me of the first garden which God created in the Garden of Eden. It also fills me with anticipation for the new garden I believe will be waiting for us in heaven.

There are so many resemblances of life illustrated in a garden. I picture a beautiful cottage garden filled with all kinds of fragrant annuals and perennials, paths meandering among the greens and a flowing stream. This is the type of picture I would have chosen for my life—picture perfect life; full of comfort and delight. However, my life is not my own. It is planned by God. He does not promise a life of ease, His plans do not always

include wealth, health and happiness. Although there has been much joy and sunshine, there have also been storms and brokenness. But it is the storms in the gardens that strengthen the trees and so personal storms in our lives cause us to send our roots a little deeper.

Now, a few tips for the new gardeners who are eager to plant in the natural soil. Gardening is not for the weak of heart. It takes diligence, perseverance and patience. We have learned gardening is easier and more productive in the North, even though the growing season is a bit shorter. Here in the South we battle heat, bugs and red soil, but it is possible. Plant things that grow well in your location and climate. For instance peas, rhubarb, root vegetables, cabbage, and cauliflower grow best in a colder climate. In the South plant them early in spring or in the fall. Okra does best in the South and it grows better if you soak the seeds overnight in water before planting. Green beans grow almost anywhere.

Some vegetables need to be started indoors then transplanted in the garden after the soil is warm and danger of frost is over. This includes tomatoes, peppers, cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli. Other seeds such as lettuce, spinach, corn, beans, peas, beets, carrots, squash and cucumbers can be sown directly in the

soil. Flowers like zinnias, marigolds and cosmos grow well when planted as seeds.

Prepare the soil well before you plant. Mulch and fertilize as needed. Hoe around the plants to keep the soil loose, and water and weed your garden. Much work, but rich rewards.

Start small. It is tempting to try everything when you are looking at the seed catalogues but it is much better to begin with what you can handle. Experiment with what works best in your family and what your family enjoys most.

Harvest your vegetables when they are young and tender. I find it so much easier to can and freeze a little at a time rather than to do large amounts but this will vary with your time and energy. Don't be afraid to ask for advice. Don't be discouraged if something doesn't turn out the way you hoped, that happens for all of us. Enjoy what you're doing.

Include the children when working in a garden. They will enjoy the vegetables when they are able to pick them fresh out of the garden. It will also teach the importance of patience, hard work and healthy eating habits.

Finally my sisters, allow God to work in the garden of your hearts, pruning and cultivating, fertilizing with His Word until you become that beautiful garden God has planned for you to be.



Whinney Sees a Miracle

Mary Ellen Beachy, Dundee, OH

One afternoon Mary, Whinney's tutor, walked into their yard. She had a bag over her shoulder.

Whinney looked keenly at her. She was thinking, "Did my prayer go to God? I prayed for my mom to find food for us."

"Mary," Whinney called. "Did you bring something? You know, I was praying here for food; you brought food for us. I see a miracle."

That morning I had been at a market with Mary. I asked her if Dickson has enough food for his family. She replied that some days they have only enough for one meal. I gave Mary two dollars. I wanted her to spend it economically. What is the most food two dollars would buy?

Mary went to a market stand that had many different types of grains, plus dried cassava. She chose numerous kinds. They would take these grains to the posher mill to get it ground. It would be cooked with water and maybe a

bit of sugar for the porridge the Africans love to eat in the morning.

I believe God told me to buy that food for them in answer to Whinney's prayer. It seems to me God must especially delight to answer children's prayers.

One day Whinney went out to the choo (outhouse). She heard a noise which frightened her. She prayed, "God, please hide me." She doesn't know what she heard, but she was kept safe.

Another day Whinney confided to Mary that when she went to bed, a voice told her that she should first pray. Now when it is night and Whinney goes to bed, she closes her eyes and prays to her heavenly Father. Her faith is childlike and sincere. We know that God loves to hear His children pray.

What a blessing it is to know that our God never sleeps. He is always awake and watching over His children. He loves each one of us.

He loves little, crippled Whinney in Kenya, East Africa.

ANOTHER MIRACLE FOR WHINNEY

A kind man in America read the story about Whinney. He wondered why she does not have a wheelchair? He was prompted by God to provide a wheelchair for her.

Her parents could not afford one for their daughter when they struggled so much to provide food for their growing family.

One fine, sunny day Markus and I took Whinney, her dad, Mary, and Dishon to Kisumu to get her fitted for a wheel chair. It was the first time Whinney traveled so many miles from home.

She was brave, though she was afraid when the therapist examined her legs, her arms, her hands. He was trying to assess if she could have a tricycle wheelchair that she could propel with her hands. Her legs are badly crippled; one hand is slightly crippled too. He decided she could not handle a tricycle.

While we waited, Whinney recited the Ten Commandments. She said them word perfectly. When we got back to her house she was happy with her prizes: a new dress, a lollipop, a small coloring book, and a few toys.

Whinney recently told her teacher, Mary, that she was so sad and

felt rejected and unwanted when her dad used to hide her when visitors came to their house. She felt that her Dad did not love her. She felt unhappy and unloved; she wished she could just take some poison and die.

But now her parents love Jesus. They love and accept their crippled daughter. Whinney is happy, so very happy. She said, "I feel good; I feel good. I praise God. I feel like I could fly."

Some sweet day when Jesus returns, sweet Whinney will up fly through the sky, up and away with Jesus to heaven.

God is answering Whinney's prayers. I am keeping my ears open to hear what the next thing is that God will do for her.

The day before we left Africa, Micah and I went to say good-bye to Whinney and her family. It was a bitter sweet time of remembering how we became friends—a time for tears.

Her wheelchair arrived at their *dalla* a month after we left. Lester and Hannah Stoltzfus, Dishon and Paul were all happy to take it to them. It was a day of rejoicing for the family, a day of thanks and praise to God.

Wherever we are, wherever we live, God cares about each one of us.



Paris: An Unexpected Journey

Rani H. Nissley, Yoder, Kansas

I know. It's not fair that we got to go to Paris. For many, it remains an uncrossed bucket list item. We did feel mildly guilty as we anticipated a week of luxury: art museums, cafés, bakeries, shoe stores, the Seine River. And we did all of that—the typical Paris itinerary—but the food, the landmarks did not compare to the unexpected motifs we returned home humming.

Grandma, Mom, and I entered Paris with a few stereotypes and preconceived ideas tucked in our suitcases.

1. Parisians are snobs, and that's a universally accepted fact. We went prepared for complete hostility from everyone. I even practiced several responses to rudeness in French.

2. France is the home of the blatant and godless. Expect mild persecution and religious bigotry.

3. Our appearance would seem shabby and utterly passé next to the world's best dressed.

To avoid all of these obstacles, our goal was to simply slip in and out of the streets as inconspicuously as possible.

• • • • •

After landing in Paris, our first several interactions threw us into confusion. Is this really Paris? Will the real snobs please stand up? Snobbery soon seemed an unfair and ridiculous label.

Our taxi driver was a giggling beam of sunshine.

Our Airbnb host was courteous and he helped us plan a feasible schedule, understand the garbled language of the Metro system, and find nearby eateries. He remarked proudly that this was the first time he had ever hosted Amish. Apparently, and later quite obviously, Amish are things of wonder and other-worldliness in Paris.

While standing confused in the tunnels of the Metro, we were repeatedly approached by people wanting to help. And once on the train, men and teenagers offered their seats to Grandma.

I became ashamed at the phrases I had so carefully practiced like, “I’m sorry I offended you.”

These people were not rude at all. In fact, it almost seemed like they were going out of their way to help these Amish folk who had miraculously turned their buggies into sailing ships.

• • • • •

Certainly the most inaccurate presupposition was concerning religion. They were exceedingly curious.

One scene reflects just *how* curious they were; thinking about it makes me nervous all over again. We were walking beside a sea of vehicles at a red light. My prey instincts flared as I scanned the masses and met hundreds of eyes, following our every step. And once we passed, rearview mirrors filled with the same hundreds of eyes, following our every step.

Acclimation to such intense scrutiny took a while.

The first grocery store we entered

was surrounded with several groups of teenagers—a smoking hub for the local punks. A few girls approached us and wondered about our religion.

The most unlikely people were interested in who we were and why we dressed as we did, which progressed into questions of belief, convictions, and differences between our religion and theirs.

These godless people were not only curious but seemed genuinely interested.

One lady, who wanted to discuss our beliefs and culture more thoroughly, met with us for lunch and later invited us into her apartment.

This was certainly not the persecution I had expected.

• • • • •

Keen on fashion, the Parisians were the first to notice the way we dressed.

“Are you going to a ball?”

“Are you in costume?”

“How elegant!”

“You look like flowers.”

“Those hats, I like them.”

This was in Paris, fashion center of the world, mind you. Modesty and beauty, purposeful style and fashion—they knew that language

well. Our dresses and coverings had renewed meaning as we talked daily about them; they were quite popular topics. No longer did we even consider being unassuming tourists. *We* had become the sights to see.

These constant interactions stirred us into contemplating things much deeper than the Eiffel Tower's construction or Mona Lisa's smile.

We felt more like returning missionaries than globetrotters.

We had seen God in a godless country, hungry eyes in so-called snobbish faces. But for us, the confirmation of nonconformity surfaced as our aria—the cry for distinction amidst the agenda to smudge all lines. Our obvious differences in dress were what caused the constant flow of discussion with strangers, unlike the aversion some people fear tradition and rules may have.

We could have gone to Paris in disguise. In fact, we saw two such women while there. They wore cape dresses, but their hair hung awkwardly uncovered. They hurriedly passed us avoiding eye contact and pushing loose strands behind flushed ears.


Sadly, it wasn't just them who

wanted to experience a more normal trip to Paris; I too considered the benefits of being able to walk through museums and down streets without all of the gawking or interruptions.

Why did nonconformity feel like a burden, a thing preventing me from the “real life?” Then it struck me: What if our abnormal way of living *is* the real life? If so, shame on me for ever wanting to fit in. The attention that we received was nothing to be embarrassed about; it was a moment to seize.

What benefits even existed? Imagine what would have happened if we had gone to Paris apologetic and ashamed. People don't gather around cold stoves.

If then, we are warm, sure of our identity in Christ, it is our duty to prepare for questions, to accept the staring, and to guide the curious to something far *beyond* our appearance: the knowledge of Jesus Christ, the Holy Fire.

Writers for Thinking Generation wish to generate, more than anything, greater involvement in God's Kingdom, especially among today's Anabaptist young people. Submit feedback or contributions for the column to gideoniyutzy@gmail.com. 

(USPS 767-160)
Calvary Messenger
2673 Township Rd. 421
Sugarcreek, OH 44681

Periodicals

THOUGHT GEMS

If you would travel lightly, take off all jealousies, selfishness and fears.

• • • • •

A kind word can cool a hot head.

• • • • •

Sloth, like rust, wastes faster than labor wears.

• • • • •

Authority is a poor substitute for leadership.

• • • • •

Choose a wife by your ear more than by your eye.

• • • • •

Beware of living casually. Live contagiously.

• • • • •

The seven ages of man: spills, drills, thrills, bills, ills, pills, and wills.

• • • • •

If we belong to Christ, it's logical that everything we have belongs to Him.

• • • • •

If we cannot give, God understands; if we can give and won't, God knows.

• • • • •

The cost of obedience is nothing compared to the cost of disobedience.

• • • • •

Don't kill time—that murders opportunity.

• • • • •

He who would feed others' hearts, must speak from his heart.