



Calvary MESSENGER

“... God forbid that I should glory, save in
the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ . . .”
Galatians 6:14

DECEMBER 2019

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Calvary Messenger

December 2019

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.**

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Once in a Lonely Manger

Once in a lonely manger, hundreds of years ago,
A little Babe so holy came to this world below,
Near was a crowded city, Bethlehem dark and old,
Here Joseph sought for pity, chill was the night and cold.

Joseph and Mary weary, no one would take them in,
Slept in a stable dreary, nigh to a crowded inn,
Out on the hillsides frightened, shepherds beheld a sight,
For all the sky was brightened, on that eventful night.

Far from the east three strangers, led by a star their way,
Kept safely from great dangers, seeking the Christ they say,
Came to the manger lowly, bringing their gifts of love,
Worshipped the Babe so holy, gift of the world above.

Angels sang out the sweet story, fear not, for lo, this morn,
Jesus the Christ of glory, a little Babe is born.
Glory to God in the highest! Peace and goodwill towards men!
Glory to God in the highest! Ever Amen! Amen!

Anonymous



Shades of Sweetness

It was in the first week of September that I noticed it. I was heading toward the big maple tree in our front yard with the lawn mower. It had been a bit dry, but I was not convinced that was the cause. There it was, in midair, doing the little back-and-forth, swishy motion on its way to the ground. It had hung on all summer long through all the blasts of thunderstorms. It was connected by such a little bit of living tissue where the petiole connected to the branch. Now it had let go, and the leaf that had helped to shade our front yard was floating to the earth. This leaf had changed sunlight to energy to provide life and strength to the tree, but now it had completed its work. Oh yes, autumn was coming, and leaves will fall, some sooner than others, and some more colorful than others. Next to the maple tree stood the stately oak. These leaves are always the last ones to let go and fall to the ground.

As there are seasons of the year, there are seasons of life. Each spring we rejoice to see the leaves spring forth after a long, dreary winter. A baby brings such joy to us as we observe the new life—so young and tender. Summertime is such a blessed time of growth and maturing. We

enjoy the shade a tree provides from the warm sun. As plants mature and grow, so do we. Children become youth, and youth grow into greater responsibilities of family and church. The early summer days advance to full summertime with a blazing sun, withering winds, and blasting storms. As the leaves of late summer become tattered and torn, so the storms of life bring weather lines to our faces and souls. And then comes fall.

Fall is such a beautiful time. With the cooling temperatures come the beautiful colors of the leaves. We are amazed each year by the brilliant yellows beside the deep reds. Each species has its own color, and each tree has its own brilliance. The leaf gives up its oxygen-producing chlorophyll and turns it to sugars—into a colorful **sweetness**. We are awed by the beauty of the leaves as they hang on. Then, no matter whether it is a blast of rain, the breezes of fall, or just the quiet, windless, sunny day, they let go.

The Preacher admonishes mankind in Ecclesiastes 12:1-7 to remember their Creator in their youth before the seasons of life pass to wintertime. He ends the discourse with the grim reminder that in His time our body will return to the earth, and our spirit

will return to the Giver of Life. We do not decide when we let go and fall to the earth. But there is an important season of life that can bring much honor and glory to our Creator.

The summertime of life is filled with many responsibilities. The responsibilities of parenting, vocation, church, and school fill our lives with scant times of rest. Then our children grow and mature. They enter their own season of summertime. Our vocations mature and responsibilities change from physical labor to management and relational efforts. Younger men fill roles in church and school. Changes come and younger ideas can seem to push us out of the picture. The season of autumn is approaching. What does God have planned for me as temperatures cool and frost approaches? How can I honor Him as responsibilities change?

Some years ago, a speaker talked about preparing for the season of fall in our lives. He realized that if he doesn't want to be a grouchy old man, he needs to be more grateful in the summertime of his life. Focusing on the blessings that God has given us can change jealousy to gratefulness. We may have worked hard through our summertime, but God gave us so many blessings that we didn't earn or deserve. Reflection on all of these blessings should make us pleasant people—even in the middle of our

late summertime. We recognize that our days are fewer in number, God will ask us to let go, and we will fall to the ground and return to dust. But there can be such a beauty in this season as our “leaf” ceases its original responsibility of supporting the tree by absorbing the sunlight, and we change into beautiful shades of sweetness and reflect the sunlight from above. As the frosts of life come our way, we turn from the absorbing color of labor to the reflecting colors of sweetness—yellows, oranges, and reds. Many times, we wish these colors could hang on for weeks, but they are often cut short by driving rains and autumn winds. How can we keep our own shades of sweetness hanging on to honor our Creator God until He asks us to let go?

There are many opportunities for us to serve others in new and varied ways. Some are close at hand while others may be in foreign lands. Many of our church schools can benefit from an older brother who can provide handyman work or teach a Bible class. There may be sewing or cooking classes that a mature sister can teach to pass on her wealth of knowledge. There are short-term projects available where a couple can help in teaching, serving as house parents, cooking at CBS, or helping in disaster work. A local brother spent several months of his last years providing school

transportation for his grandchildren. This time became very special as he was diagnosed with cancer. Even though it seemed his life was cut short, undoubtedly, his grandchildren have special memories of their grandfather as he spent extra time with them. Any or all of these suggestions will take care of boredom and will open a wealth of new experiences and friends while we use our specific gifts in service for our Creator. Keeping our focus on others will bring out the shades of sweetness instead of rotting away into a lump of grumpiness that dishonors our Creator.

Sometimes there are family businesses or churches that need a transition time to pass on the baton to the younger generation. While it is important to prepare and mentor possible successors, there is also the time to delegate and withdraw our hands of control. Short-term mission

projects can give a younger person the chance to try his wings while Dad or the senior pastor is gone. These breaks give the older ones a new focus and make the times of transition easier. There will still be the ability for the younger ones to ask questions and seek advice for the many challenges that come with new responsibilities.

No matter where we are in the seasons of life, we can best prepare for the fall season by remembering our Creator. The best preparation is making a life of service a way of life—from a youth to a retiree. Drinking deeply from the Source of Life and absorbing the “Sonlight” in our labors will result in a finale of brilliant glory as the chlorophyll of labor changes into God-honoring shades of sweetness before our Creator God calls us home. Let’s prepare well so we can go in a blaze of glory to our God!

-AY 

Announcement

Anabaptist Health Care Workers Retreat

*Penn Valley Retreat Center, McVeytown, PA
January 31 - February 2, 2020*

THEME: SERVANTHOOD

Moderator: John Brunk, Respiratory Therapist, Ret.

Speakers - Dr. Jamin Yoder, MD, Shipshewana, IN
Ryan Hoover, RN, LNHA, Aroda, VA

All health care workers are welcome!

Call 717-899-5000 for registration and lodging.



Announcement

Helping People in Need Seminar

January 21–23, 2020

Abuse in the Anabaptist Culture

January 21, 2020: DEPRAVITY: an Anabaptist Dilemma

Misled Morals? Dave Hochstetler

Misguided Worship? Tom Johnson

Misplaced Values? Tom Johnson

Pursuing God? Dave Snyder

January 22, 2020: ABUSE: An Anabaptist Reality

Understanding an Abuser - Dave Snyder

Profiles of an Abuser - Tim Weaver

Ongoing Effects on the Abuser - Bryan Fleagle

Church Safety Protocols - Phil Helmuth

January 23, 2020: RESTORATION: An Anabaptist Vision

Foundational Principles - Bryan Fleagle

Looking Back: What Happened - Ben Waldner

Looking In: Personal Effects - Ben Waldner

Looking Forward: Facing Future - Phil Helmuth

Registration Deadline: January 13, 2020

To register, or for more information regarding the seminar,
please call 812.254.3399 or email freshstarttrainingcenter@yahoo.com

This seminar is sponsored and hosted by:

Deeper Life Ministries and Fresh Start Training Center

113 N. Industrial Park Rd.

Washington, IN 47501

Ph. 812.254.3399

Fax 812.254.4377



Announcement

2020 Marriage Enrichment Seminar

Held at: Deeper Life Ministries on March 27-29, 2020

Topics:

A Portrait of Christ's Love - Dave Snyder

Following the Rationale - Dave Snyder

Feeling the Emotions - Ben Waldner

Setting Goals - Denver Yoder

Testimony: "Walking Together Through Life"

- Kenton & Wendy Martin, PA

Cultivating Loyalty - Ben Waldner

Worshipping Together - Denver Yoder

Registration Deadline: March 15, 2020.

For more Information or to register, please call 614-873-1199

or email info@dmlmohio.org

This seminar is sponsored & hosted by:

Deeper Life Ministries

5123 Converse Huff Rd | Plain City, OH 43064

Phone: 614-873-1199 | Email: info@dmlmohio.org



the bottom line

In Traveling About

Aaron Lapp, Kinzers, PA

Esther and I were returning from a visit to Michigan and stopped at Sideling Hill Plaza for lunch. While eating, some distinctive people began entering, every man religiously removing his hat precisely at the point where they entered the inner door. The men were clean-shaven; not one had a least little bit of a moustache, nor did

any of them have a big, popular, "Duck type" beard. Not one had shaved his head, but each of them had a similarly characteristic haircut. Not one had cut-off trousers, as did some old men with cut-offs, displaying, as it were, their unattractive, bony legs.

But this noticeable group also had women among them whose dress

and hairstyle were also alike. They were a consistent and distinctive group, moving about to get their sack lunches, obviously unashamed of who they were. When they went to leave, the men each donned his hat at the door and proceeded to their vehicles. Were they a very plain Mennonite group, or Mormons, or Quakers, or what? On their vehicles was printed their identity: "United States Army."

Our Beachy Amish heritage had a church administration that found it important to prescribe distinctive attire and hair styles for men and women. That all is fading with a gradual replacement of adornment with personally selected attire.

The replacement principle always brings on something else to occupy time, space, and things to that which was discarded or lost. All growth requires change but not all change is growth. Changes are needed to go from the old life of sin to the new life in Christ. We are also aware that change can take place from godliness to ungodliness or from ungodliness to godliness.

The message in Romans 14 was about eating meat that had been offered to idols in heathen worship. Verse 12 says, "So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God." If we are at all inclined to be a local witness for Christ, we should give some thought to how we talk, how

we do business, and how we dress. No one likes to be told what they must do or how they must dress, but at the same time, most people love to receive acceptance and approval by those with whom they wish to associate and consider as friends. The world mostly approves for every man to do that which is right in his own eyes, except the U. S. Army and a few such like.

Many years ago, my wife and I accompanied our youth on a chorus tour to Canada. We spent some time at Niagara Falls. At that time, our church allowed the veil-type covering for travel. Our church administration preferred the white veils rather than black ones. However, several sisters preferred the black veils for travel and wore them on our walk around the falls. Several people stopped my wife and me and said, "We understand your ladies who wear those white caps on their head. We have a question about the ladies who wear those black things; are they the rebellious ones?"

Many years ago, before seat belts were mandatory, Marian and I each drove a van to take our school's older grades on a field trip. Our first stop was at Indian Echo Caverns. The students had some money to spend, so they bought Indian headdresses, hatchets, or maybe a drum. With that they looked a bit like Indians. They began being Indian-like in their talk: making threats and preparing for an

attack. Strangely, all became quiet. Then there was an announcement, “It’s morning.” Suddenly, an attack broke out between two sides. Fortunately, we were only a mile from our next stop. At that point, a clearer understanding was given about how we will travel on our way back to school.

It has been easy over the years to observe a correlation on how one acts relative to how he dresses. Parents and teachers know all about that.

Our appearance in public is a witness to what we believe and propose to take a stand on. It can be clothes that say, “anything goes” in my life or else that “my life and my body matter to me.” The crossover away from godliness begins in the heart but does not remain there. The choices of attire and grooming are an indication of the direction chosen in life. We say direction, because clothes are not neutral; clothes can lead toward the life we choose. Many articles of clothing, its colors, patterns of print, and style are incremental to change and lead the way to where one is disposed to go with his life.

There are no single, stand-alone issues in life. Clothes are predecessors to life in choices for entertainment and extra-curriculars which have taken up much time, energy, and money for those who are given to self-enjoyment and pleasure rather than self-denial and Christian service.

At our new church outreach in Connecticut, some people in the community said, “We want to visit you in your church, and when we do our ladies will wear dresses.” No one said that women’s slacks are not allowed in attendance. For them, it was a change toward modesty and womanly decorum. We need not be ashamed nor feel unappreciated by being modest in dress. More often, people are inclined to express favorable compliments for our simplicity and modesty. It calls attention to us as a church group rather than our own personal taste for clothes or hair style. Calling attention to the person by wearing unusual clothes is more or less the goal for new styles which are meant to credit the individual. Distinctive attire calls attention as an identity of a church group, and by it the general public is more apt to think of God.

The Bottom Line is that how one chooses to dress speaks a message. Clothes are not neutral, neither by those who wear their choice of clothes, nor by those who conform to church guidelines. Rest in our soul because of Jesus brings a tranquility to the human quest to be known, remembered, and appreciated. That human significance is at peace with wearing clothes that are appropriate for the occasion along with the consideration of utility and practicality. I am not my own; I belong to Jesus Christ and to His church.



marriages

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

Beiler-Fisher

Bro. John Mark, son of Calvin and Verna Beiler, Gap, PA, and Sis. Esther, daughter of Emmanuel and Lydiann Fisher, Gap, PA, on October 12, 2019, at Ridgeview Mennonite Church for Summitview Christian Fellowship by Dave Stoltzfus.

Byler-Yoder

Bro. Marlin, son of John and Martha Byler, Richmond, MO, and Sis. Diane, daughter of Ivan and Rosemary Yoder, Lexington, IN, on October 11, 2019, at First Baptist Church for Living Waters Mennonite Church by Floyd Lengacher.

Funk-Anderson

Bro. Carlson, son of Dana and Susan Funk, Chambersburg, PA, and Sis. Norah, daughter of Steve and Violet Anderson, Rochelle, VA, on October 11, 2019, at The Haven, Charlottesville, VA, for Oak Grove Mennonite Church, Aroda, VA, by Wendell Hochstetler, Abbeville, SC.

Knepp-Miller

Bro. Ryan, son of Don and Nora Knepp, McArthur, OH, and Sis. Marianne, daughter of Ivan and Nora Miller, Wellston, OH, on August 17, 2019, at Christ Community Church for Still Waters Mennonite Church of Jackson by Paul Weaver.

Miller-Miller

Bro. Darren, son of Roman and Ruth Miller, Partridge, KS, and Sis. Jennifer, daughter of Donald and Donna Miller, Hutchinson, KS, on October 12, 2019, at Cedar Crest A. M. Church by Lee Nisly.

Miller-Stoltzfus

Bro. Brandon, son of Joseph and Hannah Miller, Malvern, KS, and Sis. Trina, daughter of John and Angela Stoltzfus, Morgantown, PA, on September 21, 2019, at Summitview Christian Church by Dave Stoltzfus.

Schlabach-Yoder

Bro. Anthony, son of Marvin and Laura Schlabach, Lexington, IN, and Sis. Kari, daughter of Ivan and Rosemary Yoder, Lexington, IN, on September 6, 2019, at First Baptist Church for Living Waters Mennonite Church by Floyd Lengacher.

Schrock-Hernandez

Bro. Benjamin, son of Stephen and Marilyn Schrock, Isabella Bank, Belize, and Sis. Suselie, daughter of Juan and Magdalena Hernandez, St. Margaret, Stann Creek, Belize, on October 5, 2019, at Hummingbird Mennonite Church by Alan Ruckert.

Yoder-Gingerich

Bro. Joseph, son of Tim and Verna Yoder, Tannersville, VA, and Sis. Janelle, daughter of Fred and Lillian Gingerich, Irvington, KY, on September 7, 2019, at Christ Community Church for Still Waters Mennonite Church of Jackson by Paul Weaver.

Yoder-Mast

Bro. James, son of Oren and Joanna Yoder, Partridge, KS, and Sis. Heidi, daughter of Marvin and Lois Mast, Hutchinson, KS, on October 5, 2019, outdoors at 500 East First Street, Hutchinson, for Center A.M. Church by Oren Yoder.

Small hurts can have
BIG IMAGINATIONS.

Yoder-Rhodes

Bro. Michael, son of Naomi and the late Eli Yoder, Virginia Beach, VA, and Sis. Diane, daughter of Frederick and Donna Rhodes, Columbiana, OH, on May 4, 2019, at Community United Methodist Church for Kempsville Mennonite Church by Donnie Brenneman.

Yoder-Troyer

Bro. Marvin Ray, son of Lynwood and Kathy Yoder, Oskaloosa, KS, and Sis. Julie, daughter of Robert and Nora Troyer, Aroda, VA, on September 7, 2019, at Pike Mennonite Church, Dayton, VA, for Oak Grove Mennonite Church, Aroda, VA, by Lamar Hochstetler.



cradle roll

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

Bear, Gail and Michelle (Smallfoot), Harrison, AR, ninth child, eighth living, fifth living daughter, Chloe Noelle, September 22, 2019.

Byler, Andrew and Andrea (Nisley), Meadville, PA, third child, first daughter, Riley Eden, October 19, 2019.

Herschberger, Darrell and Wanda (Hostetler), Arthur, IL, third child, second daughter, Amy Rachele, August 12, 2019.

Hershberger, Brian and Charity (Yoder), Russellville, OH, second child and daughter, Hadassah Beth, October 2, 2019.

Hochstetler, Norman and Norene (Miller), Torrington, WY, eighth child, fifth son, Bradley Norman, August 18, 2019.

Hunsberger, Conrad and Julia (Miller), New Philadelphia, OH, fourth child, second son, Malakai Neil, October 12, 2019.

Jantzi, Dean and Heidi (Jantzi), Wellesley, ON, second child, first son, Carson Dean, September 29, 2019.

King, Lavern and Marlene (Smoker), Belleville, PA, third child, second son, John Eli, October 1, 2019.

Kropf, David and Konni (Hostetler), Covington, TX, sixth child, third daughter, Alexis Darlene, August 17, 2019.

Kurtz, Mark and Marla (Stoltzfus), Belleville, PA, fifth child, fourth son, Willem Jesse, October 13, 2019.

Miller, Ezra and Martha Joy (Bates), Goodspring, TN, second child and daughter, Khloe Sage, October 13, 2019.

Miller, Robert and Martha (Yoder), Cumberland Furnace, TN, second child and daughter, Amber Grace, October 23, 2019.

Schrock, Jonathan and Dorothy (Schlabach), Lexington, IN, eighth child, seventh daughter, Julie Fern, August 16, 2019.


Stoll, Eric and Frieda (Smoker), Goodspring, TN, third child, second daughter, Heidi Anne, October 9, 2019.

Troyer, Samuel and Charissa (Stoltzfus), Plain City, OH, third child and daughter, Autumn Belle, October 5, 2019.

Wagler, Benji and Andrea (Lapp), Uniontown, OH, serving at Drumore, PA, first child and son, Ashton Mark, September 25, 2019.

Yoder, Jared and Rosanna (Miller), Hanover, IN, first child and son, Clark Terell, August 5, 2019.

Yoder, Julius and Verna (Schwartz), Auburn, KY, seventh child, fourth son, Kylan Brent, October 16, 2019.

Zook, Ervin and Kathryn (Lapp), Millerstown, PA, seventh child, fifth son, Lavon Earl, August 14, 2019. 

ordinations

May the grace of God be upon our brothers as they minister faithfully. Let us pray for them.

Bro. Derrick Gingerich, (wife, Deborah Wagler), was ordained as minister at Mt. Olive Mennonite Church, on March 10, 2019. Preordination messages were given by Wade Burkholder. Charge was given by David Wittmer, assisted by Wade Burkholder and Alan Byler. Wesley Wagler and Ryan Eichorn shared in the lot.


Bro. Mark Kurtz, 37, (wife, Marla Stoltzfus), Belleville, PA, was ordained as minister for Valley View A.M. Church. Preordination messages were given by Jonas Beiler, Malta, OH. The charge was given by Eli B. King, Jr., assisted by Daniel Fisher and Ben Stoltzfus. Mark Peachey and Dwayne Stoltzfus shared in the lot.

Bro. Marcus Lengacher, 32, (wife, Glenda Coblentz), Torrington, WY,

was ordained as bishop for Torrington Mennonite Church on September 15, 2019. Preordination messages were brought by John Mast, James Hershberger, Jim Yoder, and Josh Yoder. The charge was given by James Hershberger, assisted by Floyd Lengacher and Titus Troyer. Forrest Mast shared in the lot.

Bro. James R. Mullet, 46, (wife, Donna Hess), Newcomerstown, OH, was called by the church and ordained as bishop of Meadows of Light Church, Coshocton, OH, on May 19, 2019. The charge was given by Robert (Bobby) Miller, assisted by Roman Mullet and Phil Miller.

Bro. Dwight Swartzentruber, 26, (wife, Renita Overholt), Vanleer, TN, was ordained as minister at Lighthouse Mennonite Church on October 27, 2019. Preordination messages were brought by John Esh. The charge was given by Paul Overholt, assisted by LaVern Eash and Kevin Yoder. Julian Esh shared in the lot.

Bro. Jared Weaver, 28, (wife, Lucy Miller), Lyndon, KS, was ordained as minister for Lyndon Amish Mennonite Church on October 6, 2019. Preordination messages were brought by Roland Ulrich. The charge was given by Lawrence Overholt. Lester Wagler shared in the lot. 

obituaries

Gerber, Chadwyn Lavell, passed away peacefully into the arms of Jesus on Thursday, October 10, 2019, at Stratford General Hospital, Stratford, ON.

He was born 11 years ago on August 10, 2008. He attended Fairhaven A. M. Church, Poole, ON. Chadwyn will be lovingly remembered by his parents, Richard and Wanda (Kuepfer), of

Brunner, ON. He was the cherished brother of Austyn, Janita, Wendyn, Kierra, and Evanna. Chadwyn will always be remembered by his paternal grandparents, Ronald and Elaine Gerber, as well as many aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was predeceased by his maternal grandparents, Ezra and Eva Kuepfer.

The funeral was held at Faith

Mennonite Church on Monday, October 14, 2019, with his two uncles, Derek Jantzi and Steven Gerber, having the messages. Arnold Jantzi conducted the committal service at the Mornington A.M. Cemetery.

Miller, Keturah Viola (Wagler), 90, wife of Daniel L. Miller, entered into rest Sunday, October 13, 2019, at their home in Uniontown, OH, surrounded by her family.

She was born in Montgomery, IN, on January 4, 1929, to the late Harvey and Susanna Wagler and is survived by her husband and 6 children: Walter (Wilma) Miller, Minerva, OH; Norman (Martha) Miller, Roodhouse, IL; Raymond (Ada) Miller, Uniontown, OH; Stephen (Laura) Miller, Chesterville, OH; Christina (Sam) Yoder, Taylorsville, NC; and Dennis (Kelli) Miller, Uniontown, OH. She is also survived by 33 grandchildren, 82 great-grandchildren, a brother, Roman Wagler, and a sister, Esther Gingerich.

She was preceded in death by six brothers, one sister, and four grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Hartville Conservative Mennonite Church on Wednesday, October 16.

Miller, Perry L., 94, died October 18, 2019, at Mennonite Friendship Communities, Hutchinson, KS, of acute respiratory failure. He was born August 7, 1925, in rural Hutchinson to Levi D. and Clara (Nisly) Miller.

Perry was an educator, serving as principal and teacher in the Reno County, KS, schools of Elmhurst and Elreka for 32 years. After retiring from education, he worked in sales for Sturdi-Bilt Storage Barns for twenty years. Perry was a member of numerous organizations, including the boards of

Prairie View in Newton, Mennonite Friendship Communities, Mennonite Disaster Service, and Et Cetera Shoppe. In addition, he was a member of Gideons International and as a young man, served in a health clinic in Puerto Rico with the Mennonite Central Committee. Perry was a faithful member of Center Amish Mennonite Church. For many years he enjoyed teaching Bible classes at local prisons and participated in prison revivals in Atmore, AL. Perry loved people, embraced life, and inspired others to faith in Jesus Christ.

On November 11, 1948, he married Judith "Judy" Schrock in Riverside, IA. They shared 67 years of marriage prior to her death June 3, 2016. Together, they took loving care of their handicapped son. Perry and Judy did many activities together, especially after retirement. They enjoyed traveling to visit family and friends and working trade shows, representing the family business.

Perry is survived by sons: Gary Paul and wife Rosanna, Linford James, Allen Jason, all of Hutchinson, Wilbur Jay and wife Shirley of Columbus, OH; siblings: Willis, Mahlon, and Fred, all of Hutchinson, Mary Beachy and husband Joseph of Kalona, IA, Paul and wife Martha, Emma Troyer and husband Oliver, all of Partridge; nine grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings: Edwin, Harry, David, Daniel, and Elizabeth Wagler.

The funeral service was held on Monday, October 21, 2019, at Center Amish Mennonite Church with LaVerne Miller, Ronald Miller, and Dwight Miller serving. David Yoder conducted the committal at the West Center Cemetery.

Schrock, Alvin S., 91, of 280 Stuarts Draft Hwy, Staunton, VA, passed

peacefully on to eternal rest at his home on September 4, 2019.

He was born in Norfolk, VA, on September 17, 1927, to the late Simon and Sadie Schrock.

On October 17, 1948, he married Lucy Yoder who preceded him in death on September 15, 2003.

Alvin gave his heart to the Lord in his youth and was a faithful minister of the gospel after his ordination in 1958. He ministered to the Mt. Zion congregation until July 2015. At the time of his death he was a member of Bridgewater Mennonite Church.

He is survived by three daughters and two sons: Barbara Ann, of the home; Mary Lois, Raphine, VA; Sharon Joy, of the home; David Alvin (Miriam), Rutherford, TN; and Philip Ray (Rachel), Cumberland Furnace, TN. He is also survived by ten grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by one daughter, Miriam Ruth; three brothers: Harvey, Elmer, and Noah; and four sisters: Barbara Beiler, Amanda Summy, Amelia Beachy, and Mary Schrock.

The funeral was held at Pilgrim Christian Fellowship on September 7, with Bennie Byler and Glen Sensenig serving. Earl Eshbaugh conducted the committal at Mt. Zion Cemetery.

Yoder, Aoife Hope, was born sleeping on July 10, 2019, at University Hospital Waterford. Aoife is the beloved daughter of Duane and Lorita (Chupp) Yoder of Dunmore East, Co. Waterford, Ireland. Born at 38 weeks, all six pounds of her were perfectly formed. Though she never spent any time with us here on earth, she impacted many lives. We are comforted in knowing that when she opened her eyes in heaven, the first thing she saw was the face of Jesus.

In addition to her parents, Aoife is survived by her grandparents Merle and Esther Yoder of Lincoln, MO, and Monroe and Mim Chupp of Waynesboro, VA; 6 aunts, 9 uncles, and 12 cousins.

The funeral service was held on July 14, 2019, at Dunmore East Christian Fellowship, followed by burial at Kilbarry Cemetery Angels' Plot, with Anthony Miller, Dan Yoder, Wendell Hochstetler, and John Hostetler officiating.

Our broken hearts have been touched by the presence of Jesus and the blessing of caring friends during this time. We look forward to our family circle being complete in heaven someday.

"Precious Little One"

(Author Unknown)

Precious, tiny, little one,
You'll always be to me
So perfect, pure and innocent,
Part of heaven's family.
We dreamed of you and your life
And all that it would be.
We waited and longed for you to come
And join our family.
We never had the chance to play,
To laugh, to rock, to wiggle.
We long to hold you, touch you now
And listen to you giggle.
I'll always be your mother,
He'll always be your dad.
You'll always be our child,
The child that we had.
Now you're gone... but yet you're here.
We sense you everywhere.
You're our sorrow and our joy,
There's love in every tear.
Just know our love goes deep and strong.
We'll forget you never,
The child we had but never had,
And yet will have forever.



On September 6, 2018, Amber Guyger headed home after she had completed a 13½ hour shift with the police department in Dallas, TX. As she approached her apartment, she was texting on her phone with a man with whom she was in a relationship which contributed to her distraction. She walked through an unlocked door in the apartment complex where she lived, thinking it was her own apartment, and looked up to see a man standing there eating ice cream. She was still dressed in her police uniform and was carrying her service weapon which she drew and shot and killed Botham Jean. The problem was this man wasn't an intruder in her apartment. She was the one who was intruding in his. She had mistakenly snuffed out the life of a man who was minding his own business.

By all accounts Botham Jean was an upstanding, 26-year-old resident of Dallas. He was very active in campus ministry efforts while he attended a private Christian college in Arkansas. He was known as a person who took his Christian faith seriously. Others in his family were heartbroken that this son and brother died so unexpectedly and tragically, but their grieving comments about their loss carefully avoided rancor and bitterness.

About a year later, Amber Guyger was convicted of murder and received a ten-year prison sentence, which seemed quite light to many observers. At her sentencing hearing, various family members of the deceased testified. His 18-year old brother, Brandt, during his statement to the court in which he assured Amber Guyger of his forgiveness, voiced that he isn't sure if this is proper or not but would like to give the woman who killed his brother a hug. He rose from his seat, and they embraced for more than a minute during which he reassured her by saying, "I love you as a person and I don't wish anything bad on you." His comments were consistent with the attitudes that the family displayed throughout this ordeal.

The forgiveness that was extended by the Jean family to the person who unnecessarily took the life of their beloved son and brother is remarkable in various ways. They understand that for the Christian, our lives don't end with our funerals. To the extent that the family forgives, they will also experience its healing qualities as they process the acute loss they feel. This is in direct contrast to the caustic and corrosive effect that bitterness wields in the lives of those who choose

that. It's also worth noting that the forgiveness that the family is extending to the murderer doesn't prevent the legal process and consequences from taking their due course.



Hebrews chapter 11 elaborates eloquently on the role of faith in the lives of the patriarchs. In verses 13-16 the connection between faith as lived by God's children and the concept of being "strangers and pilgrims" is fleshed out and illustrated so well. The awareness that we do not belong here, that our primary citizenship is elsewhere, is part of the package of sustaining and enabling faith that characterized the lives of the faithful patriarchs. This is the faith that we should aspire to.

As we talk about the current events and the laws that we submit to, sometimes we hear people refer to "our" country, "our" president, governor, etc... Does it make sense to you that a person whose primary citizenship is a heavenly one, who doesn't participate in civil government, including voting, talks about "our" country? Would it better reflect a proper "stranger and pilgrim" awareness to talk about "this" country and "the state where I now live?" I try, even though I'm sure I slip up once in a while, to avoid first person possessive terms when I refer to these

things. The ongoing and unfolding drama in Washington D. C. offers us ample and helpful reminders of the huge gulf between our heavenly kingdom and the current state of civic affairs. A heavenly citizen tends to develop an ability to note these differences with increasing clarity.



On October 31, the House of Representatives voted to open an official impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump. The Democratic party has mulled the idea of impeaching the president for various reasons for many months. But it was a phone call between Trump and the Ukrainian president in which Trump encouraged him to finish an investigation regarding possible impropriety of an energy company that operated in Ukraine. This company had ties to the Joe Biden family. Joe Biden is running for president as a Democrat. Since soliciting the help of a foreign state against a political rival is problematic on many levels, some people are scandalized. Others say what was said and done was not a big deal.

In the weeks leading up to the vote, the Democrats spent a good bit of time gathering information they feel supports the impeachment process. The Republicans have exerted similar energy in their effort

to demonstrate their position that evidence supporting this measure is weak and that the process is rigged by those opposing the president. There are various steps in an impeachment process. By the time this *Calvary Messenger* arrives in your mailboxes this news might be a bit stale.

The 232-196 vote to open the inquiry in the House was remarkable since no elected Republican voted in favor of the measure, and only two Democrats voted against it. The deeply partisan vote offers very little assurance that the primary motive of either political party is to pursue the truth. The Senate will need to vote to remove President Trump if the process gets that far. Since the Republicans hold a majority in the Senate, there is little chance that this will result in removal of the president from office unless some of those in the Senate Republican majority break rank.

It used to be that those who are elected were expected to work “together” with others who were elected with different views. What we see now is that those elected seem to be more diligent in working “against” those with differing views than theirs. The prospect of the governing decisions in this country being made by whichever political party has the current majority constitutes a significant shift.

I had a recent conversation with a brother from a different church affiliation whose home congregation is comprised of people who vote. My friend has been chided and urged to vote in spite of his understanding that as a Kingdom Christian he shouldn't vote. He said he has been asked, “How do you expect things to get any better if you don't help out?” His reply is along these lines, “As I understand the scripture, I don't expect things to get better. Furthermore, you get one vote every several years, and I get to vote in prayer with my heavenly Father every day!”



My cousin recently told me a story about one of his ancestors on the side of his family tree that I don't share with him. Many years ago, Henry Ford approached an Amish bishop in northern Indiana, whose name I understand was William Yoder, with an offer that would have been enticing to many people. His offer was to this effect: if this Amish leader would allow his people to purchase cars, Henry Ford would give him a free car. This Amish bishop declined the offer, and the ingenious marketing strategy came up empty.



Some of us remember this month 20 years ago as a time of uncertainty. The uncertainty had to do with the

fact that much of the computer coding which regulated many automated systems had coding that was tied to dates that didn't move into the next millennium. As humans we tend to be vulnerable to fear things we don't understand well. Not many people understand computer coding which allowed anxiety to proliferate in varying degrees. Some people were downright alarmed and viewed what was known as Y2K as an unavoidable apocalypse in which civilization would grind to a halt as the world's automated systems would cease to work. Other people weren't so sure that there was much we needed to be concerned about. I remember a few

stories about people who stayed up to see the new year in, in which a devious prankster switched off the power at the stroke of midnight, much to the consternation of those who were nervous about Y2K. Of course, there were very few glitches and the scare ended up being a non-event.

While I freely admit there is much I don't understand about the world we live in today, I am very grateful that I serve a God who understands it all. When we leave our questions regarding things we don't understand with Him, we can do so with full confidence that our trust is "in good hands".

-RJM 

Christ as Savior

BRINGS PEACE WITH GOD;

Christ as Lord

BRINGS THE PEACE OF GOD.



Christmas Carol Kauffman (1902-1969)

Gail Emerson, Elnora, IN

Had it not been for a canary's "Christmas carol," the little girl born to Abraham and Selena (Wade) Miller in Elkhart, Indiana, on Christmas Day, 1902, would have been named "Gertrude." The canary, who had not sung before, suddenly began to sing shortly after the baby's birth, so "A. R." Miller decided to name his daughter, Christmas Carol.

Against opposition, the Millers had been early converts of evangelist John S. Coffman. Their faith, which was real and vibrant, greatly impacted their young daughter. There was no doubt in her mind that God was real.

A severe illness in her life at the age of seven brought an awareness of sin to Christmas Carol as well as an increased sense of the reality of God. At the age of ten she was fully convinced that she was a sinner in need of God's forgiveness through Christ. She gave her life to the Lord in salvation and immediately experienced that forgiveness and cleansing. She was later baptized and became a member of Prairie Street Mennonite Church in Elkhart. From her mother, who was also her Sunday school teacher, she learned by example the joy of witnessing to others.

While in high school Miss Miller was given a writing assignment to do for her English and Literature course. The teacher was impressed with her work and gave her much encouragement, for she felt that Christmas Carol had an unusual writing talent.

Miss Miller's relationship with Norman Hostetler developed into romance once they were allowed to date at the age of 16. The number "16" became special as they began dating on the 16th of September. They began celebrating the 16th of every month.

Their relationship continued to grow until they were finally married, not surprisingly, on April 16, 1924. They were able to set up housekeeping with beautiful furnishings that they bought inexpensively from their respective places of employment due to employee discounts.

Prior to their marriage, Norman had repeatedly mentioned that he felt called to go to India as a missionary. Christmas Carol was not pleased with this prospect as she was looking forward to living in her beautiful home here in America. She had told Norman she would go to India with him because she loved him—not

because she wanted to be a missionary.

After their marriage Sister Hostetler gave her husband reasons for not going to the mission field and suggested that they be missionaries where they were and give support so that others could go. Despite what she said, God kept bringing vivid reminders to her that she should love Him first and foremost and that her parents had given her to God and felt that He had a definite purpose for her life.

After twenty-six months of bliss, their day of celebration, June 16, 1926, turned to tragedy and mourning—Norman died of electrocution while on the job. Filled with grief Christmas Carol realized she would gladly go to India if she could only have Norman back again, but it was too late. All her beautiful things meant nothing to her now. God used this tragedy to begin to break her will. Two years later she was invited to go to Hesston College for a six-week Bible term. Before the term was over, she had yielded completely to the Lord and was willing to go ANYWHERE and do ANYTHING for Him!

Ten months later she began dating Nelson Kauffman. On June 10, 1929 they were united in marriage. God blessed them with four children: two boys and two girls. The furnishings in their home were meager and simple, but they were completely happy in the Lord!

The Kauffmans lived a while in Kansas, but Nelson was eventually called by the Mennonite Board of Missions to plant a church in Hannibal, Missouri. They were in their early 30s at the time. Nelson pastored there for over twenty years.

It was during this time in her life that Christmas Carol Kauffman did most of the writing for which she is so well-known. How many readers of this article can remember reading such wonderful books with titles such as *Lucy Winchester, Not Regina, Hidden Rainbow*, and *Little Pete and Other Stories*, just to name a few?

Nelson was then called to become the Secretary of the Board of Missions and Charities, so the Kauffmans moved back to Elkhart.

In her own words Mrs. Kauffman expressed that she believed God had blessed her greatly and that she was unworthy of such mercies. She felt God had given her a second chance—a chance to give God first place in her life—and we, through her books, have reaped the benefits of her choice.

Christmas Carol Kauffman went home to be with her Saviour January 30, 1969. She was buried in her hometown of Elkhart.

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Heart of Woman, Heart of God-Part II

Laurie Rolan, Marshallville, OH



Following is the conclusion of a talk given to mothers and daughters at Messiah A.M. Church (Millersburg, OH) by Laurie Rolan.

In creative service we mirror the heart of God. Indulge me with some practical suggestions of what that may look like.

Make your home a warm, welcoming place that invites folks to be comfortable the moment they enter. It doesn't take a lot of money to make a home inviting. Visit thrift stores and garage sales. If you need to, use paint, contact paper, or fabric to fix up worn objects. A blanket or throw pillows will minimize the shabby, hand-me-down couch! Houseplants, too, are an inexpensive way to spruce up your home.

The goal is not just to have a pretty home. It's to create a haven; a special place where your family and guests can relax. It's almost something you can sense as soon as you enter; you feel you can just be yourself. Husbands, especially, view their homes as a retreat from the demands placed on them every day. Honestly, I think our attitude is the bigger factor in setting the atmosphere in our home. A

cheerful greeting and hug surely beats hearing "Are you home already?"

Notes of encouragement slipped into a child's lunchbox or the suitcase of a traveling husband can be precious. Have a "You Are Special" plate placed for strategic occasions like a good test score, Father's Day, the day a child learns to ride bike—the list is endless. Record the occasions to reflect on later. Use it often. The years and opportunities slip by so quickly.

Plan impromptu picnics. Yes, they require effort. But isn't that a small sacrifice in view of the wonderful memories? I remember when having a dormer added to our house there was a big hole cut in the roof. After the workmen left at the end of the day, I carried our supper up there and we had a little picnic looking out over the neighborhood. My daughters still talk about it years later. It was little effort for a BIG memory.

Make blanket forts on rainy days. Decorate cookies. Turn a cardboard appliance box into a secret room and let

them sleep in it. Save empty boxes and cans from your cooking, and help them set up a play grocery store and take turns being the customer and grocer. It will keep them happy for hours.

Some of the above ideas might take a considerable amount of time away from routine duties. It's helpful to have quick meals on hand for those times unless you allow your children to help you make a simple meal. Those can be precious times of togetherness as well.

Pray for your husband when ironing his shirts. I like to pray for a different area of my husband's life with each shirt that I iron, his job, his health, his Sunday school class, etc. Surprise him by making his favorite meal; maybe one that takes a little more effort than normal.

These are just a few ideas to show you that creativity and service can go hand in hand. Creativity—because you're only limited by your imagination. Service—because whatever you did was for the benefit of someone else, and it required the sacrifice of your time and attention. Come up with your own ideas as the Lord inspires you.

But not all of us are wives or mothers, so how can the rest of us serve and be creative? Your opportunities for service may look very different from mine. Service may be something you have to actively seek out rather than waking up to it every day. And perhaps in a way it is more valuable because it was something you sought out,

specifically for the purpose of serving.

What about voluntary service elsewhere, long or short term? Does your church have a Kid's Club or a vacation Bible school? Volunteers are always needed. It's a great opportunity to serve, be creative, and make a difference in the life of a child.

How about serving a young mother who needs some alone time? Or helping an older person with their spring cleaning or raking leaves? They might appreciate help with their Christmas shopping or cards. It comes with the added benefit of forming a friendship that both of you will treasure.

Nursing homes are a wonderful opportunity to bless those who might otherwise lead a very lonely life. Our congregations often hold Sunday church services, but there are many other ways that you can bless the residents. You can spend time reading to someone or letting them reminisce about their lives. They love to relate memories and have a lot of wisdom to share. Taking a young child along usually brings smiles and cheer to the older soul who appreciates their innocence and energy.

Some hospitals are looking for volunteers to hold preemie babies. Homes for unwed mothers, pregnancy crisis centers, homeless shelters, or thrift stores are often looking for volunteers. You'll make contact with people you might never have met

otherwise. A friendly greeting or smile might be enough to make them feel they can ask you about your faith.

If you can't find an area in which to serve, maybe you can create one. I've often thought that a community food pantry would be a great project. You can meet grocery needs AND use the opportunity to tell them about the Lord. A little coffee shop would be a good opportunity as well. Your acts of service could bless the whole community!

So why do we women sometimes avoid taking advantage of those opportunities to serve and bless those around us? Maybe you feel that it's not "big enough" to make a difference, or perhaps you're afraid that your efforts will make you look foolish. Really? Jesus said that even a cup of water given in His name brings a reward.

All excuses aside, let's say you're not good at any of the things I mentioned, or they don't fit into your lifestyle. There are still ways that you can be used by God to bless and serve others.

Can you pray for someone? Start a prayer journal and add requests as you hear of them. Let the person know you're praying for them. Record the answers to those prayers; it'll strengthen your faith as well.

Would you be willing to address an envelope? Send a card or note of encouragement to a shut-in or a person in service. Whether you make the card or buy it at a dollar store, both

serve the purpose just as well. Keep a supply of cards and stamps on hand so you can do it effortlessly. I find that if I don't do it as soon as the Lord prompts me it rarely happens.

If you notice a new family in the neighborhood, it would be a lovely gesture to welcome them with a loaf of homemade bread or a pie. You might want to invite them to church while you're at it!

Can you paint a rock? My daughters and I are involved with a group that paints designs or inspirational quotes on small rocks and leaves them in random places for others to find. I've left them in stores, hospitals, libraries, etc. Once I saw a little girl find the rock I'd left at the grocery store. The look on her face was priceless—she was absolutely thrilled and carried it all through the store. She asked her mother, "Why did they do this, Mommy?" Her mother answered, "I guess to make people happy." Exactly! Oh, you say you can't paint? Then glue a sticker to the rock and write a Bible reference on it, and it'll accomplish the same thing.

Of course, there will always be Sunday school classes to teach and food committees to serve on. You may be voted into these positions rather than volunteering for them, but to do them cheerfully and to the best of your ability are acts of service that bless your whole congregation.

Make it your personal mission to

welcome visitors to your church. When my husband and I were first searching for a plain church we were invited to someone's home for lunch after the morning service. That contact turned into a friendship, source of information, and encouragement that eventually led to us joining the church.

Sometimes all a person needs is a listening ear. Take them out for coffee and let them share what's on their heart. You probably won't even need to say much; just listen. It could mean the difference between a spiritual victory and an ongoing struggle with loneliness and depression. Is that an act of service? I think it is!

That leads me to my final point—God made the heart of a woman to be tender, compassionate, and nurturing—just like His.

A few years ago a Sears ad stated, "Come see the softer side of Sears." It was meant to appeal to women through advertising pretty things that ladies like to buy. I think a brief description of woman herself could be "Come see the softer side of God!"

In our home, when the CAM newsletter comes in the mail, and we read about desperate needs around the world, who do you think gets all teary-eyed? I do. Not because my husband doesn't care about the needs of others, but because I'm by nature more tender-hearted.

To prove my point, watch little

children play. Boys like to crash trucks or set up a tower of blocks to smash it to bits. Not much tenderness or compassion being displayed there! Little girls will pick up their baby doll, wrap it in a blanket, and cuddle it. Why? It's part of a woman's nature to nurture, no matter her age!

When a little one gets a scrape, who do they usually run to? It's Mommy, because mommies are good at comforting and making it all better. Tenderness, nurturing, and compassion are closely linked to action (or service) because without action you're left with just sympathy—an emotion.

Compassion is both an emotion (feeling concern for someone) AND action or service (doing something practical to meet that person's need). You can feel sympathy for someone all day long but unless you DO something for them it doesn't really benefit either of you. Compassion demands that we put actions to our feelings. Again, our definition of service is *something done for the benefit of someone else that requires your time and attention.*

I hope that I've given you some ideas for ways that you can fulfill your special place in God's plan. And as you put those urges to create, serve, and bless those around you into action, take a moment to rejoice that God made you a woman after His own heart.



Sight for the Blind

Victor Rambo was born in 1894 to missionary parents in India. When he was a year old, he became deathly ill. The doctor told his mother she must take the baby away from their remote mission station and get him on a healthier diet, or he would die. It was a long and difficult thirty-mile journey by bullock cart to the nearest train station. God kept the brave mother and baby, her helper, and driver. They passed slowly through torrents of rain, raging streams, and other dangers.

Finally they reached the train station. The train ride was a blessing after the bullock cart and rains. When they arrived in Delhi, friends at the mission welcomed them with open arms. Baby Victor was put on donkey milk. The docile beast was led to the compound and milked right by the front veranda. His mother's sharp eyes made sure no dirty water was added to the donkey's milk. Victor got well and regained his lost weight. What a blessed relief to his mother Kate. She thanked Jesus for sparing her dear son.

God had a purpose for this small lad who would one day become a doctor and help restore sight to countless poor people in India.

Victor was a busy man who marched to the sound of two trumpets. His goals were new sight for the curable blind and new lives for his Master, Jesus Christ. Each patient treated was always told in some way that God cared about him.

On a lovely fresh morning Victor was surprised to see the chief police of their area waiting for him at his gate. "Is there anything I can do for you?" Victor kindly asked.

The policeman wondered if Victor knew a certain man? Victor said he did not. "I operate on at least twenty people a day. I cannot remember all the names. Bringing sight to the blind is my job. I look at the eye and see what needs to be done. I help anyone who comes."

"Did no one tell you about this man?" the policeman quizzed. "I will tell you; he was the worst thief in this area! He never stole anything the three years he was blind. You gave him back his sight, Doctor, and now he is back in jail for stealing."

Victor was appalled. He was quiet for a moment than quietly asked the policeman, "Tell me, sir, should I have taken out his cataract?"

"Yes," the policeman said, "You had to help him, of course. You had

to do it, just like I had to arrest him for stealing.”

A gentleman from Switzerland traveled to India to be treated by Victor. Victor wondered why he came to him. The man responded, “I have been told of all the work you do in successfully treating eyes, and because I heard that you are a man of prayer.”

Each day was different; patients arrived by any sort of conveyance from cart, to donkey, and even by camel. His patients were not always people.

Victor affectionately remembers the day a huge elephant lumbered to his eye clinic. As the man riding the giant beast dismounted, Victor kindly spoke, “Hello, brother, give us your name and let us know your trouble.”

“Oh no, doctor,” the man vigorously replied, “it is not I but my elephant that is sick. Look at her eye.”

Victor looked up and saw the elephant’s eye was closed and oozing pus. The driver excitedly told him it must have happened in the forest while feeding. “I think a branch scratched her eye. I have heard that

you are a kind doctor who treats eyes, and so I have come,” the elephant driver explained.

The elephant obviously needed help. Victor turned to direct a soft, ear syringe to be boiled and filled with medications. But Victor and his helpers feared to apply the meds to the powerful elephant’s eye.

“I will do it,” offered the eager driver. He reached up high and squeezed the medication onto the eye while the trunk thrashed back and forth and up and down, at times lifting the man off his feet. The eye was cleaned well and wiped with a sterile cloth.

The elephant, named Sundari, meaning Beautiful, came four days in a row and learned to calmly receive the treatment. The eye healed.

Victor never saw Beautiful again. He would always remember her fondly and knew it was a most interesting and successful case.

(To be continued)

Resource: Dorothy Clarke Wilson, Apostle of Sight, (Christian Herald Books, 1980)



You have not really lived
until you have done something
for someone who can never repay you.

Cars I've Had

Hector Troyer, State College, PA

I didn't know those feelings still existed inside me: a mixture of desire, jealousy, unfulfilled dreams, and a sense of unfairness. But as I looked at the car, I had a sudden sense that my carnal man was not dead. I thought I was past that point, about 20 years past that point. This surprise attack of emotion is not what I expected from an almost 40-year-old man who drives an aging minivan on a day-to-day basis. I thought I had long ago rejected the worldview that my vehicle defines my success in life. But today, as I stared at this beautiful car, all these long-dead emotions came rushing back in one brilliant flash. Suddenly, I WANTED that car. I wanted to be young, successful, attractive, cool, and everything that that car said about the person driving it. Maybe it didn't help that money has been kind of scarce around the house recently, and the minivan has been misbehaving on a regular basis.

So, let me tell you the story of cars (and trucks) I once owned. When I was about 15 my dad allowed me to adopt his 1970 Chevy pickup as kind of my own. I spent many, many

hours loving that pickup. This truck wasn't state of the art and not really beautiful, but it was mine, and I was proud of it. Many times, when I was filling up at a gas station, I would get positive comments about my truck.

When I was 20, I bought a four-wheel-drive 1971 Chevy pickup. This one I wanted to be really nice. It was a fun and very expensive project, and I soon discovered that I did not have enough money to complete it to the degree that I wished it was.

Later I bought a 1998 Dodge Cummins pickup. Now I was starting to get really cool. But about this time, I began to have some serious financial trouble. Within a year I had spent more money on this new truck than I had paid for it to start with. After some serious soul-searching I decided to sell the truck for what I owed on it.

And I bought a cheap car; like a \$600 car. It was a 1986 Cutlass Sierra with a cracked exhaust manifold and some pretty weak brakes. The power windows didn't work, but I paid for it in cash. I took this piece of junk on a 2,000-mile trip and actually made it

back. And I was saving some money to buy a better car.

Within several months I bought a 1996 Chevy Cavalier. I paid for it in cash. I let the dealer keep my Cutlass Sierra since it quit on me in their parking lot. My new car looked nice, but it wasn't the status symbol that I had always hoped to own. Nobody looked at me at the gas station. It wasn't fast, and it wasn't cool. I had made a conscious decision that my vehicle would no longer define who I was. I figured if a girl didn't want me in this car then I didn't want her.

I want to unsubscribe from the lie that vehicles define who you are, or that vehicles make a man. But the minute I crawl into a nice vehicle it no longer feels like a lie. I even drive differently, and my whole posture changes. So why does this matter? And why did I feel such strong emotion when I stood there looking at this car that embodied everything that I had ever wanted in a car?

What I drive is not really a matter of salvation, is it? Am I going to go to hell just because I drive a nice car? Probably not. But what is the attitude that gives me that desire? How does it make me feel toward those who drive something of lesser value? Should we bother to ask such hard questions? How many fellows have been turned down just because their car wasn't nice enough for the girl? How many

youth have been ridiculed because the vehicle they drove was just a little bit not cool?

The tendency to feel inferior because we drive a beater stems from the same set of values that makes us feel better than others when we drive a really nice vehicle. One feeling is just as wrong as the other. What can we do to unfocus, to un-fixate, and how can we relieve ourselves of this curse of insatiable desire?

I think one step is to recognize ourselves for who we really are. We are who we are no matter what we drive. Some people drive junk in order to feel humbler or less materialistic than others. A lesson I have learned in my vehicular experience is that driving junk can be just as much a waste of money as driving luxury vehicles. It is better to drive vehicles that reflect good stewardship.

Another way to reduce our wrong-headed value exposure is to reduce our advertising intake. Content that is directed at young men is usually well littered with vehicle advertisements. A diet of this type will bend our values away from good things and feed the desire to conform to unhealthy vehicle values.

Jesus says that our Father in heaven knows our needs. If we need a vehicle, we can ask God; He owns a lot of them. Praying about vehicle purchases also helps us to get it in context. Could

you conscientiously ask God for a late model luxury vehicle?

What emotions should our vehicles stir in us? How can we keep our vehicular values straight? Does your heart leap at the perfect exhaust tones

or the whistle of a turbo? Mine does. But I just must make that choice like the apostle long ago, to “keep my flesh under subjection.” I challenge you to do the same.



INDEX 2019

Authors and their Contributions

Abbreviations used: BL=Bottom Line; Ed=Editorial; GE=Guest Editorial;

JM=Junior Messages, Med=Meditation; MA=Mission Awareness;

Obs=Observations; P=Poem; RR=Reader Response; SM=School Matters;

W=A Woman After God's Heart; Y=Youth or Thinking Generation

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How empty is a life that is filled
 with nothing but things.

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

Periodicals

THOUGHT GEMS

Our aim should be to serve—not to be successful.

• • • • •

He who cares will share.

• • • • •

The truly busy person is so busy that he has no time
to think how busy he really is.

• • • • •

The greatest pleasure in life is to do a good turn and
have it discovered by accident.

• • • • •

Some people cast a stale crust on the waters and expect chocolate cake in return.

• • • • •

Every time you turn green with envy, you are ripe for trouble.

• • • • •

Praise, like sunlight, helps all things to grow.

• • • • •

God gives blessings to us, so we can give glory to Him.

• • • • •

Be sure to concentrate on your blessings—not your distresses.

• • • • •

The best way to boost the morale at the office is to tell the boss
when someone is doing a good job.

• • • • •

Life takes on new interest when we invest in the lives of others.

• • • • •

The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts it.

• • • • •

Beware of the musty, dusty, and crusty Christian.