



# Calvary MESSENGER

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

Galatians 6:14

## AUGUST 2021

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Calvary Messenger

August 2021

**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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## Lord of Life and King of Glory

Lord of life and King of glory,  
Who didst deign a child to be,  
Cradled on a mother's bosom,  
Throned upon a mother's knee:  
For the children Thou hast given  
We must answer unto Thee.

Grant us then pure hearts and patient,  
That in all we do or say  
Little souls our deeds may copy,  
And be never led astray;  
Little feet our steps may follow  
In a safe and narrow way.

When our growing sons and daughters  
Look on life with eager eyes,  
Grant us then a deeper insight  
And new pow'rs of sacrifice:  
Hope to trust them, faith to guide them,  
Love that nothing good denies.

May we keep our holy calling  
Stainless in its fair renown,  
That, when all the work is over  
And we lay the burdens down,  
Then the children Thou hast given  
Still may be our joy and crown.

*Christian Burke*  
*Public Domain*



## The Value of a Child

*If a group of people are out in a wooded area exploring its beauty, and a child strays from the party of people and gets lost, immediately they spread out over the hillside and search every spot hoping to find the child. The beauty of the woods doesn't seem so impressive any more. All attention now is focused on the search for a blue-eyed little girl—maybe less than two years old and perhaps weighing less than thirty pounds. But even though she is young, and still only very small, she is much more precious than all the vast bulk of mountain that was being admired only a few minutes before. The little girl is a human being. She can love and laugh and cry. She can sing and speak and pray. The mountain can't do those things. The child is a living soul, and therefore is a very precious possession.<sup>1</sup>*

**O**ne of the rich blessings and responsibilities God gave to Adam and Eve was to bear children. When Cain was born, Adam said, *"I have gotten a man from the LORD."* It is an awesome privilege

<sup>1</sup> *Bible Hints On Child Training*, Bible Helps, Inc.

to realize that man and woman are able to bring another soul into this world. It is truly a miracle! The psalmist talks about the work of God taking place in our mothers' wombs when we were being formed. *"For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them"* (Psalm 139:13-16).

It is a wonderful experience when you hold your child in your arms for the first time. Here is a new human being! Here is an eternal being! God gives us the ability to bring a new human being into this world—made in the image of God. Jesus was willing to come to this earth and die on the Cross for this child. Each human being has more value than the whole world. *"For what shall it profit a man,*

*if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"* (Mark 8: 36-37). We should value each child as highly as God values them. Our overarching goal in life should be to nurture, teach, and protect this "image of God."

One of the best ways to show value to our children is to provide a healthy and happy Christian home for them. Fathers, one of the greatest gifts we can give to our children is to love their mother. A godly mother provides the best possible care to your children because of her maternal love for them. King Solomon used a mother's love to determine the mother of the surviving child of the two women in I Kings 3:16-28. Parents should be like the shepherd in John 10:12-13 who risks his life for his sheep in contrast to the hireling who flees when danger approaches. *"But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep."*

A lifelong commitment in marriage protects children from abusive relationships of live-in boyfriends and stepfathers. A lifelong commitment to a healthy marriage saves children

from emotional and physical dangers related to child-custody battles. Many children are caught in the crossfire of jealous spouses. Even if we may not be involved in these kinds of relationships, a lifelong commitment does not guarantee a healthy homelife. Despite a commitment to each other, our children can still be vulnerable to neglect and a variety of abuses.

Family life is full of responsibilities. Providing for the basic needs of a family requires diligence and hard work. Rent or mortgage payments need to be paid. Vehicles bring surprising expenses besides filling the tank with gas. And, of course, we are not able to survive without food. These regular and visible expenses must be paid and steady employment is imperative.

God planned for mankind to have children in our younger years. Many first-time parents feel inexperienced, and indeed that is the case, but the strength and vigor of youth helps us to bear up under the emotional and physical strain of parenting. God also was gracious that we can normally begin with one and grow into our parenting. But this 24/7 job places strains and stresses physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Mothers, especially, can easily become overwhelmed

when nighttime is interrupted with feeding and nurturing. Fathers can easily become bogged down with the responsibilities of financial cares. Strong marriage ties and dependence on God provide strength for these responsibilities. The spiritual, emotional, and physical protection a godly husband gives to his wife helps her to bear the emotional and physical challenges in child-bearing and nurturing their children.

The husband should seek a livelihood that enables the wife to be a fulltime caregiver to their children. But many men provide financially at the expense of providing an emotional and spiritual presence of a father and husband in the home. (Read the “Youth Messages” for an example.) Months turn into years, and it is easy to neglect the emotional and spiritual needs in the family. The bills for these needs are not due on a certain day of the month but are best paid on a daily basis.

While there may be special times of teaching and training, the words in Deuteronomy 6 show us how we can teach as we live and live as we teach. *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: and thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in*

*thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up”* (4-7). There are countless ways that we can teach as we go about our daily lives, and indeed, we do teach, whether we do it intentionally or not.

When “*thou walkest by the way,*” or drive down the road in our day, there are countless ways to teach. First of all, we should teach by example. If other drivers spring surprises on us, we can show our children how to respond to these surprises. And if, perhaps, we get pulled over for a traffic infraction, we can explain to our children that the law officer is here to keep people safe.


Mama will teach her children many important lessons when she announces with an excited voice, “Daddy’s home!” As she leads the way to the door, she encourages her little ones to go meet their daddy and warms her husband’s heart as he kneels down and greets his children with warm hugs and kisses. It’s difficult for Daddy to not become involved with family life when his beloved welcomes him at the door and his treasures come running to meet him with shrieks of excitement!

Children learn the importance and value of church life by seeing their

parents' faithful involvement and attendance. They learn how to love others who disagree with us when we are gracious and respectful even if we do not see eye-to-eye with our brethren. While it is important to teach by example, our children will understand why we do what we do if we appropriately explain our actions.

A young family is a powerful

witness in today's broken world. You do not need perfectly behaved children to show the world that you value them. Your patient response to your children in public may be the only "family seminar" many people may ever attend. God bless you with His strength in the most important task you have at this time in your life!

–AY 

The **best thing** parents can  
spend on their **children**  
is time—not money.

## *Announcement*

### **Faithful Women Seminar 2021**

**Theme: Diapers, Attitudes, and Me**

Saturday, October 2, 2021

Walking With God - Lily Bear, Elida, OH

The Littles - Sylvia Yoder, Somerset, OH

Teens and Young Adults - TBA

In Community - Faye Shaum, Orrville, OH

For more information or to register, please call 614-873-1199  
or email [info@dmlmohio.org](mailto:info@dmlmohio.org)

*This seminar is sponsored and hosted by:*

*Deeper Life Ministries*

*5123 Converse Huff Rd.*

*Plain City, OH 43064*



## Minimal Personal Bible Study

Aaron Lapp, Kinzers, PA

In “The Bottom Line” feature of the last month’s issue of *Calvary Messenger*, I said I would present a personal Bible study guide this month. What will be presented is simple and will not take a lot of your time.

Years ago, our newspaper featured a stubby little cartoon fellow who carried a short one-liner caption every day with his comical squat stature. One day it said, “Be happy—pray a little,” accompanied by a make-believe reverent stance. From that, I borrow a similar version about Bible study, “Be blessed—study a little.” This plan will focus on one Bible chapter for one week. It will help you to become attached to the Word, as it is planted in you, so that you will grow thereby.

I call it the five-by-five Bible Study method. It is set up to be in use each of the five days in a work week for as long as you desire. First, you choose what chapter of the Bible you wish to study. To add a little fun to the project on your part, and some Holy Spirit direction, choose your first chapter by lot. If you want to study one of the epistles in the New Testament, you

could write the title of three books on three slips of paper, one title per ballot. Put the three papers in a basket or bowl. Include God right at the beginning by a prayer of dedication, asking God to reveal His choice for your very first book. Keep the other two for your later use; selecting the next one by the same method.

Take a full-size sheet of paper and write the following, having equal spaces as a place where you can write your answers.

Monday- Ask yourself five questions concerning this chapter.

Tuesday- Write out five statements of fact from this chapter.

Wednesday- Note five exhortations you need. Underline the one you need most of all.

Thursday- Enumerate five things for which you thank God in this chapter.

Friday- Write out five key words in this chapter.

Each day you will read this chapter. Gradually, you will become immersed in it. Keep your paper for later reference. It could be helpful



for teaching Sunday School at a later time or even right now. Preachers could use it as a general analysis for a given book of the Bible whether they have in mind to preach soon from this book or perhaps later. Parents could use this five-by-five method for their family devotions. The children could be encouraged for their input. To sharpen analytical skills, if a child makes a statement of fact on Monday's devotional, the parent could write that down for Tuesday's slot. Dad could do the moderating, Mom could be the scribe, or a capable teenager could do the writing. Children could be directed to take turns for their contributions, perhaps to have them first ask a question on Monday evening. It also could be used in multiple-week winter Bible schools in certain classes as a five or 10-minute introduction to each class or used in a variety of other ways.

This exercise, if used for some time on a regular basis, could help us be more observant in Sunday School class, during the regular preaching time, or as we read the Bible for ourselves. The discipline of this approach to the Bible could help us to read with more focus and with additional purpose to our own daily reading. It could and should help us to better remedy the wandering-mind syndrome in our personal devotions.

In the longer term, it could be used with the longer books of the Bible, such as the four Gospels, Acts, Romans, or I Corinthians. Matthew has 28 chapters, so one chapter per week would extend to 28 weeks or seven months. That would be the happy result of a minimal Bible study transitioning into an interesting major Bible study.

There are many good devotional books on the market which often have a good story or an exciting illustration. The five-by-five method could do you good for a change by getting into some of the meat of the Word by your own effort and discipline. You might make some good, personal discoveries which you will clinch in your heart and mind for a lifetime.

There are various ways in which the Bible could be more interesting to us as we become more familiar with its richness. A more workable knowledge of God's Word should have the blessed effect of being better exercised in a profitable humility and other Christian graces. The Bible says, "*Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you*" (James 4:8). Surely, we all would appreciate the prospect of God being near us, by day for prosperity, and by night for protection.

The condition is that we should draw nigh to God. How can we do

that? On both sides of this text, God exhorts us to humble ourselves in His sight. How close we are to His Word is an index to how near we are to God Himself. Every revival, whether experienced by an individual, a particular congregation, or a larger community, **always** has a greater and renewed interest in the study of God's Word. That renewal was not only narrowed to the promises of God but also more directly to His commandments. It is a selfish and proud heart who rejects the commandments of God but tries to personally claim the promises only. Humbling ourselves before God shows having a need which only God can fill. He seeks to do that in our lives by a practical and working knowledge of His living Word. It is alive, and it generates life for us.

I am suggesting this method for

the five week days. On Saturday morning one could make a study of the Sunday School lesson, and on Sunday morning read the larger context of the Sunday School lesson.

**The Bottom Line** is that preachers often have a difficulty in knowing how to begin a study for a sermon or how to end their sermons. Whereas, many lay persons have a hard time getting started in any meaningful plan for their personal devotions. This simple, ready-to-use plan is meant to be easy, quick, and maybe a little bit of fun for everyone. In family devotions, Dad is burdened with making it interesting for the children. Teenagers are skeptical on how to make their personal devotions interesting for themselves. Try these few ideas—you might end up liking it! And at the same time, you could be aware of a new closeness to God.



## The Artist's Masterpiece

*Michelle King, Port Royal, PA*

A masterpiece flowed from His brush: exquisite, luxurious, with all kinds of indescribable loveliness. Surely, the richest hues of earth flowed from His hands—even heavenly—like the deepest textures melted upon a glassy surface, clear as crystal;

far more brilliant than Beethoven, lovelier than Da Vinci, a priceless masterpiece, the visible definition of "exquisite". An absolute evidence of beauty and splendor—robed in velvet, drenched in sapphires, kissed with sunlight, speaking life to all who cared to listen, to look, to ponder, to

feast on the finest fare of art. Such glorious colors, such radiant strokes, the canvas shone like a million fresh snowdrops, like a meadow of velvet lilies, golden daisies, and scarlet roses, like rubies and diamonds and purified silver. Such a delicate picture, such a reflection of its Maker, Author, Artist, and Lover; a glimpse of heaven, a handful of gold, like a new-found treasure, like radiant sands which slip through your fingers, for the picture has disappeared—vanished, fairly melted into a sea of blue.

A duplicate will never flow from His fingers on the canvas of *le ciel*.<sup>\*</sup> And yet, the sun will rise again, and the Creator of heaven and earth will once more paint His strokes on the canvas of heaven. He paints such beauty, yet it's only a mere reflection of His character, a portion of His glory, a tiny piece of His very heart, a glimpse into His soul, and only a chord from His eternal orchestra. He has painted every morning, every month, every year, all the way back to His first, "*Let there be light*". With the darkest rivers of midnight thunder, the brightest rays of brilliant dawn, the thickest chasms of mysterious fog, the lightest wisps of cloud swirled with rich hues of yellow and orange, the darkest and brightest, deepest and lightest strokes


of midnight amethyst and rose-gold scarlet.

His paintings are expected, though underappreciated perhaps, yet one day time will stop forever, and the last drop of paint will be spilt on earth's sky. Life, as we know it, will be gone forever, like smoke that has vanished. The canvas will be ripped from top to bottom by the coming of the Artist Himself—terrible, lovely, majestic, glorious, supreme, heavenly, brilliant, luxurious, radiant, exquisite, INDESCRIBABLE. Oh, glorious day for all who love the Artist! For all who endeavor to mirror His character—all who have His stroke of scarlet on their hearts—will fly to glorious, endless bliss in heaven which is shining with His light, sparkling like diamonds, robed in grandeur, luxurious, and fragrant with the loveliest flowers of heaven. Overflowing, fairly drowning in His LIGHT, His heaven shines with colors I have no name for, for there are new colors in heaven, far richer than earth's gold, deeper than scarlet, more brilliant than our most radiant hues of orange and yellows, far lovelier and precious than all the shimmers and radiant gleams of amethysts, rubies, and pearls. Robed in radiance, drowning in bliss, rising like the deepest ocean with a thousand choruses aglow

with heavenly chords, living and breathing a brilliant color-filled, radiant, joyful, painless, tearless, and bright existence that never dies, that never sees or dreams of any evil anymore for all eternity. Such boundless bliss, for the Artist dwells there forever.

But oh, for those who have no love for the Artist, who never appreciate His masterpiece, who never wear His scarlet stroke upon their hearts, what absolutely horrific, terrifying, and malicious eternity awaits them! Drowning in choking, airless clamor, their only companion the lonely screams of bitter regrets, hate and evil, nightmares of falling with no hope of rising. Screams of torture and demons' cackling laughter visit the soul. And perhaps worst of all, an atmosphere so dark and sinister that the sharpest sickle could only scratch the surface. Never again will they hear a child's laughter, a calm melody, conversations with family and friends, the songbirds at dawn, the crickets at evening, or the owl at midnight. There will be no light, no joy, no mercy, no peace, no song, and no mirth forevermore. Oh, what a bitter place, sorely under-rated, horrifically real, awfully wicked, drenched in a sticky, mirthless atmosphere of evil—INDESCRIBABLE. Oh, what dread of clenching fists and clawed

talons and whispering demons and devilish schemes ever behind them, out of mind; ever within them, out of control; ever beside them, out of sorts; ever above them, out of reach; ever under them, for the falling never stops. Oh, what horrid, bloody atmosphere of undying torture! Oh, what intense, endless, scorching fire which burns! The Artist's Presence will never bathe the wretched prison with Light, for the absence of His Presence is the essence of its existence.

Yet, for now, we still have time, the present time, a gift from the Artist Himself, time to enjoy the masterpiece of each glorious morning, time to love the Artist, time to learn about His character, His attributes, His splendor. Time to allow Him to color His scarlet stroke upon your heart—scarlet, for it's His own blood—and time to reflect His grandeur to the nations. The same Artist of each morning is the Savior of the world. He died for you because He loves You. He conquered the grave because the most malicious darkness cannot contain the most brilliant Light. For He is the Artist, the Creator of the heavens, the essence of Truth, the God of the universe, the Lover of our souls, and the Hope for all mankind. His name is JESUS. 

# What I Learned from My Father

*Sarah (Overholt) Alimowski, North Port, FL*

**W**hat I learned from my father:

He taught me how to catch, clean, and fillet a fish. How to carry a gun, change a tire, use an ax, saw, and hammer. How to tell the difference between a regular and Phillips screwdriver.

He taught me how to drive a car, boat, bus, and tractor. How to cut the grass, use a rake and a hoe. How to use a paint brush, duct tape, crow bar, and jumper cables.

He taught me how to sing, speak, and read with expression.

He taught me table manners and how to walk and sit.

He taught me that everything happens for a reason. To never stress out when the car breaks down, has a flat tire, or you miss your flight.

He taught me to be calm in a crisis. To live fearlessly even when you're not confident.

He taught me to stand alone and never be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ.

He taught me how to show hospitality, never meet a stranger, and show respect to everyone regardless of race or social status.

He taught me how to plant a watermelon, pick a watermelon, throw and catch a watermelon, and

sell a watermelon.

He taught me that the man with the biggest beard often has the softest heart.

He taught me how to write letters, songs, and newspaper articles and be interviewed by journalists and news reporters. How to host conferences and lead tour groups.

He shared with me his enjoyment of biscuits and gravy, grits, and fried chicken. Root beer floats and foot-long hotdogs.

He taught me how to chew Hubba Bubba bubble gum to plug a diesel leak in the semi-truck. How to cleanse a knife wound with diesel fuel and eat garlic for any infection.

He taught me how to read a map, read the Bible, and read biographies.

He taught me the value of spontaneity, flexibility, and serendipity. To be honest, blameless, and harmless.

We didn't always get along or see things "eye to eye," yet I always knew I could trust him and knew he loved me. I also learned that I want to be a better communicator than he ever was.

I thank God for my father:

The honorable John J. Overholt (1918-2000).

*[Written on Father's Day, June 21, 2020.]*




# The Search for Answers

Hadassah Eichorn, Free Union, VA

One day, twelve men went up into a mountain to hear the greatest Teacher Who ever lived. He told them many things about life and how it should be lived. There were many things that these men did not understand about life. They had many hard questions and difficult problems. Their Teacher, being wise, knew that the search for answers is sometimes just as valuable as the answer itself. So He told them, *“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; for everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened”* (Matthew 7:7-8).

So the men asked. They asked their Teacher hundreds of questions—hard questions that had scary answers and humbling questions that exposed their ignorance. The men sought truth and discovered that truth is found in unlikely places: a stormy sea, a basket of bread and fish, a sick man’s bedside, a leper colony, a Samaritan well, an upper room, a garden, a hill, a cross, and an empty tomb. The men pursued understanding and knocked at its door. Sometimes it revealed things they didn’t want to see. Often it showed them how much they still had to learn. But, in all their search, they

found their Teacher’s words to be true.

One day, twelve students sat in a high school classroom. As they studied, they came to realize that finding answers is hard work. They came up against many hard questions and difficult problems. There were many things that they couldn’t understand. Their teacher, being wise, did not tell them all the answers, but instructed them to search out the answers themselves. So the students asked questions—hundreds of questions—questions with hard answers and questions that exposed their ignorance. The students sought truth and found it, sometimes in their books and in classes, and at other times in more unlikely places like the cleaning closet, the lunch circle, or the volleyball court. The students pursued understanding and knocked at its door. It often revealed things about themselves they didn’t want to know. Every time, it showed them that they still had much to learn. But always, when they had the courage to ask the hard questions, seek out the whole truth, and pursue understanding, they found the promise to be true. 

*[This was part of Hadassah’s graduation speech. Submitted by Jonathan Martin.]*

# God Has Time


God has time to watch the stars fade  
And the sun grow dim and cold,  
See the endless ages enter  
And the centuries unfold.

God has time to watch the redwood  
Grow to full maturity,  
And to note the ceaseless minutes  
Nibbling at eternity.

God has time to shape the sunbeams  
And the slanting, silvery rain,  
Color every flower that groweth  
And to count the amber grain.

God has time to note the falling  
Of a sparrow to the ground,  
And rejoice with all His angels  
When a lost sheep has been found.

And when life's short race is finished,  
And we face the setting sun,  
He'll have time to smile upon us  
And to greet us, one by one!

*Ruth M. Williams*  
*Public Domain* 

## marriages

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

### **Brenneman-Wagler**

Bro. Andrew Mark, son of Vera and the late Henry Brenneman, Rochelle, VA, and Sis. Rosemary Lynn, daughter of Titus and Donna Wagler, Cross Hill, SC, on May 15, 2021, outdoors at the Wagler farm for Cross Hill Mennonite Church by Jason Stoll.

### **Coulter-Peachy**

Bro. Jacob, son of Kinley and Rebecca Coulter, Honey Grove, PA, and Sis. Brenda, daughter of William and Linda Peachy, East Waterford, PA, on June 11, 2021, at Shade Mountain Christian Fellowship Church by Daniel Fisher.

### **Horst-Yoder**

Bro. Drew, son of Marvin and Esther Horst, Trenton, TN, and Sis. Christine, daughter of Noah and Verna Yoder, Lyndon, KS, on January 29, 2021, at the Lyndon Amish Mennonite Church by Lawrence Overholt.

### **Kauffman-Raber**

Bro. Benjamin, son of Marcus and Susan Kauffman, Chesapeake, VA, and Sis. Martha, daughter of David and Barbara Raber, Tippecanoe, IN, on June 26, 2021, at United Pentecostal Church for Clay Street Church by Scott Burkholder.

### **Miller-Lapp**

Bro. Darrin, son of Nolan and Nadine Miller, Spencerville, IN, and Sis. Barbara, daughter of Merv and Ina Lapp, Latrobe, PA, on June 26, 2021, at Word of Life Church for Trauger Mennonite Church by Merv Lapp.

### **Peachey-Peachey**

Bro. Brian Austin, son of Marvin and Martha Peachey, Lewisburg, PA, and Sis. Rebekah Anne, daughter of Ivan and Kay Peachey, Dyke, VA, on March 20, 2021, at Dayton Mennonite Church for Faith Mission Fellowship by Jonathan Martin.

### **Ramos-Stutzman**

Bro. Alonso Ramos, Bird-in-Hand, PA, and Sis. Gloria, daughter of Enos and Mary Stutzman, London, OH, on June 12, 2021, at Grace Evangelical Church for Bethesda Fellowship by Elmer Stoltzfus.

### **Rutt-Petersheim**

Bro. Micah James, son of Linford and Erma Rutt, Schaefferstown, PA, and Sis. Arietta Fern, daughter of John J. and Anna Mary Petersheim, Narvon, PA, on June 12, 2021, at Pequea Amish Mennonite Church by Dave Stoltzfoos.

### **Stoltzfus-Stoltzfus**

Bro. Andrew, son of Paul and Michelle Stoltzfus, Narvon, PA, and Sis. Darlene, daughter of Chester and Rebecca Stoltzfus, Honeybrook, PA, on May 8, 2021, at Martindale Mennonite Fellowship Center for Summitview Christian Fellowship by Dave Stoltzfus.



### **Stoltzfus-Stutzman**

Bro. Jared, son of Dan and Naomi Stoltzfus, Slanesville, WV, and Sis. Elizabeth, daughter of Glen and Verda Stutzman, Auburn, KY, on May 22, 2021, at Plainview Mennonite Church by Dan Stoltzfus.



## **cradle roll**

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

**Beiler**, Darren and Diane (Yoder), Plain City, OH, fifth child, third daughter, Ella Jane, June 9, 2021.

**Beiler**, John Mark and Esther (Fisher), Gap, PA, first child and son, Cole Hudson, May 9, 2021.

**Esh**, John and Kathleen (Schlabach), Charlotte, TN, first child and daughter, Kiara Brooke, June 12, 2021.

**Graber**, Justin and Carolyn (Villalobos), Melvern, KS, sixth child, fourth son, Kayden Jace, January 23, 2021.

**Herschberger**, Darrel and Maria (Yoder), Lovington, IL, sixth child, first son, Carter Isaiah, April 2, 2021.

**Kauffman**, Bryan and Emily (Shirk), Lott, TX, first child and daughter, Jackie Grace, June 10, 2021.

**Kreider**, Dan and Audrey (Kuhns), Arcola, IL, third child and daughter, Sarita Hope, March 28, 2021.

**Kuepfer**, Dale and Julia (Erb), Milverton, ON, first child and daughter, Ariana Jewel, May 17, 2021.

**Mast**, Hans and Bethany (Smucker), Hutchinson, KS, first child and daughter, Isabella Grace, June 25, 2021.

**Miller**, Jared and Charlene (Stoltzfoos), Gap, PA, third child and son, Quinton Dean, June 3, 2021.

**Miller**, Myron and Leona (Lapp), New Holland, PA, second child, first son, Aryan Josiah, May 12, 2021.

**Peachey**, Matthias and Carmen (Gingerich), Wytheville, VA, first daughter, first son, Madelyn Claire and Nicolas Brent, June 1, 2021.

**Schrock**, John and Teresa (Overholt), Fredonia, KY, second child, first daughter, Jubilee Dawn, April 29, 2021.

**Schrock**, Robert and Leanna (Wagler), Stuarts Draft, VA, third child and daughter, Alta Claire, May 14, 2021.

**Shenk**, Brian and Cynthia (Kauffman), Hutchinson, KS, third child, second daughter (one son deceased), Kiana Rachele, June 27, 2021.

**Swartzentruber**, Dwight and Renita (Overholt), Vanleer, TN, third child, second son, Carson Paul, February 25, 2021.

**Yoder**, Albert and Karisa (Stoltzfus), New Holland, PA, fourth child and daughter, Kenisha Gabrielle, May 13, 2021.



## ordinations

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

**Bro. Orion Shirk**, 41, (wife, Lynelle Horst), Latrobe, PA, was ordained minister for Trauger Mennonite Church on May 2, 2021. Preordination services were given by Phil Miller. The charge was given by Merv Lapp. Chet Stoltzfus shared the lot.

**Bro. Lester Wagler**, 38, (wife, Lois Overholt), Lyndon, KS, was ordained deacon for the Lyndon Amish Mennonite Church on May 16, 2021. Preordination messages were given by Reuben Beiler. The charge was given by Lawrence Overholt. Nathaniel Sommers shared the lot.



## obituaries

**Hochstetler**, Raymond, 75, of Topeka, IN, passed away to his heavenly home June 23, 2021, while surrounded by his family at Parkview LaGrange Hospital. He was born June 29, 1945, in Shipshewana, IN, to the late Perry L. and Pennola (Boley) Hochstetler. On May 5, 1964, in LaGrange County, he married Helen Weaver who survives.

Other survivors are six daughters: Karen (Peter) Kaufman, Topeka; Penny (Howard) Mast, Adamsville, TN; Velda Slabaugh, LaGrange; Anna (Jon) Yoder, Goshen; Diane Lehman,

Bristol; Doris Kaufman, New Paris; three sons: Harry (Susan), Goshen; Jay Dee (Rosetta), Myakka, FL; Dale (Carolyn), Middlebury; 30 grandchildren, 38 great-grandchildren; and a sister, Catherine Kelley, Lakeland, FL.

He was preceded in death by three grandchildren, three brothers: Emil, Lester, and Leroy; four sisters: Verna Blalock, Edna Gingerich, Erma Beachy, and Alma Kuhns.

Raymond had been a milk truck driver for several years and then worked at Sunny Brook RV from 1993 until retiring

in 2010. He was a member of Fairhaven Mennonite Church. For the last 10 years he and his wife enjoyed wintering in Myakka City, FL. He was a nature lover and enjoyed fishing and feeding the birds and squirrels. He enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at Fairhaven Mennonite Church June 27, 2021, conducted by the Fairhaven Mennonite Church ministry team. Burial followed at Thomas Cemetery, Goshen.

**Miller, Wilma M.**, 85, of London, OH, passed away suddenly at her home on June 12, 2021. She was born July 23, 1935, in Madison County to the late Dan and Gladys Miller. She married Eli Miller on November 20, 1956.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Eli.

She is survived by children: Danny (Debbie), Lorene Miller, Carol (Kevin) Lee, Lyndon (Sheila); and seven grandchildren: Justin Miller, Joshua Blackwell, James Coots II, Abigail Miller, Katlyn (Shem) Gakunju, Rosanna (Sammy) Waweru, and Lance Miller. She is also survived by her only sibling, Bertie (Ray) Stutzman.

Wilma loved children and also mothered the foster children who were part of their home and hearts over the years. Wilma and Eli were quite the team as they tackled projects. She would get a picture in her mind, convey that to Eli, and they completed many projects together. Wilma loved working outside

and relished beauty.

Wilma was a member of Bethesda Fellowship Church. She loved her family and church and prayed faithfully for them. She longed to go to her heavenly home. Several times in the past week she talked of not being here much longer. Her desire was granted, and she was eager to go.

The funeral service was held June 15, 2021, at United Bethel Mennonite Church with the burial following at the Bethesda Fellowship Church Cemetery.

**Peachey, Israel Rufus**, 78, of Mannsville, NY, died May 19, 2021, at Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown, NY. He was born October 30, 1942, in Belleville, PA, to the late Aaron Z. and Barbara (Zook) Peachey. He married Salinda L. Byler on November 12, 1963.

He was a member of Northern Light Christian Fellowship. For many years he lived in Belleville, PA, and was a member of Pleasant View Amish Mennonite Church where he served for a time on the Master's International Ministries Board. He enjoyed traveling to various international missions.

He was a painter for many years, specializing in roof and barn painting and later did lawn care. He also enjoyed bee keeping, fishing, and reading. After he and his wife had health challenges, they relocated to Mannsville, NY, to live next door to their daughter and husband.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children: Sylvia (Joe) Kurtz, Mannsville; Ivan (Kay), Dyke, VA;

Wilmer (Vera), Ellisburg; Barbara (Mark) Peachey, Denver, PA; Sadie (Nathan) Yoder, Lewisburg, PA; and Alta (Billy) Waldner, Ephrata, PA; 51 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren; six brothers: Rufus, Aaron, Elmer, Leroy, Ben, and Rudy; three sisters: Katie (John R.) Peachey, Fannie (Joe) Yoder, and Annie; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a son, Daniel, two brothers, one sister, and a sister-in-law.

The funeral service was held on May 21, 2021, at Northern Light Christian Fellowship, Woodville, NY, with Michael Kurtz, Justin Yoder, and Joe Kurtz serving. The graveside service and burial were at the Locust Grove Cemetery in Belleville, PA, officiated by Arlen Kurtz and David Peachey, Sr.

**Wengerd**, Magdalena (Maggie), 89, of Millersburg, OH, died June 1, 2021, at Compassionate Care Hospice in Canton, OH, following a brief illness. Maggie was born August 18, 1931, in Millersburg, OH, to the late John V. and Katie (Miller) Erb. On November 26, 1953, she married Alvin H. Wengerd. Alvin preceded her in death on January 21, 2011.

Maggie was a farmer's wife and homemaker. She enjoyed piecing quilts. Maggie was a faithful member of Messiah Amish Mennonite Church.

Surviving are her six children and spouses: Ferman (Fannie), Liz (late Andy) Miller, Katie (Dwight) Kratzer, all of Millersburg; Homer (Sharon), Mobile, AL; John (Arlene), and Martha

(Perry) Yoder, Millersburg. Maggie is survived by 20 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, and one sister-in-law, Verda (late Albert) Erb.

In addition to her husband, Maggie was preceded in death by son-in-law, Andrew Miller, Jr., sister, Amanda (Aden) Miller, two brothers: Valentine J. (Mattie) Erb, and Albert J. Erb.

The funeral service was held June 4, 2021, at Messiah Amish Mennonite Church with Philip Miller officiating. Burial was at the church cemetery.

**Yoder**, Eli M., 102, died November 18, 2020, at Walnut Hills Nursing Home, Walnut Creek, OH, where he had been a resident for the past two years. Eli was born February 6, 1918, during World War I, in Reno County, KS, to the late (Kansas) Mose Yoder and Rebecca (Mast).

His family moved to Holmes County, OH, in 1925. He grew up during the Great Depression, and then in 1941-1945, during World War II, he spent his time working in alternative service as a conscientious objector. After returning from service, he farmed until 1980, and then spent the next 20 years as a taxi driver for the Amish. He was a member of the Bethel Fellowship Church. On November 2, 1944, he married Ella Yoder. They were married for 52 years before she died January 4, 1997. On May 2, 1998, he married Anna Schrock. They were married for 15 years before she died August 29, 2013.


Eli loved Jesus, life, working, memorizing Scripture and poems,

reading, playing his harmonica, and talking with anyone around. When he moved into the nursing home, he delighted in the fact that there was always someone around to talk to. Even after his sight and hearing were failing, his memory and his mind remained strong. He wrote down his memories in 2010, and they were submitted to the *Budget*, who published them in their weekly newspaper over a period of several months. In 2018, these memories and family photos were compiled for his 100th birthday and printed in a book, so Eli had book-signing engagements. He loved to give his books away. Other highlights in his golden years were his Monday morning breakfasts at Boyd and Wurthmann Restaurant with his age 90 and older group of friends, and his Wednesday trips to the Mt. Hope Auction.

In addition to his parents, Eli was

preceded in death by his brothers: Allen, Jacob, John, Elmer, Albert, Levi, and Henry Yoder; sister, Elma Wengerd, sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, two infant sisters, son, Mose E. Yoder, and son-in-law, Raymond D. Mullet.

He is survived by daughters: Anna Mullet, Verna (Wayne) Keim, Rebecca (Steve) Mullet, all of Berlin; and sons: David (Rosemary), Grantville, MD; Roy (Katy), Steve (Ruth), and Mark (Dorothy), all of Millersburg; daughter-in-law, Martha Yoder, Millersburg; and stepson, Marvin (Irene) Schrock, Walnut Creek. He is also survived by 38 grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, 56 great-grandchildren, and 26 step-great-grandchildren.

A private memorial service was held November 22, 2020, at Bethel Fellowship with Mark Yoder officiating. Burial was at the Bethel Fellowship Cemetery. 

## observations

In June of 2019, my two youngest sons and I joined a group of hundreds of folks who were riding bicycles across Kansas from Colorado to Missouri. It might be tempting to think that there aren't many hills in Kansas. Indeed, Kansas has a reputation for being quite flat. However, variety in the terrain is considerably more apparent from the seat of a bicycle than the seat of a car. Our bicycle route took us through some areas of Kansas that would

effectively correct the misconception that all of Kansas is flat.

A friend sent me a clip a couple of years ago regarding research that some folks at the University of Kansas had done to evaluate the “flatness” of Kansas and other states. Indeed they found that, statistically speaking, Kansas was flatter than a pancake. But interestingly enough they also discovered that Illinois, North Dakota, Louisiana, Minnesota, and Delaware are all flatter than

Kansas. But Florida is the flattest of them all!



We live in far southeast Kansas. Every time we travel to my home community in Reno County, near Hutchinson, we drive through the scenic Flint Hills. This geological oddity lies just to our west. Since we live between these hills and the Ozark Mountains, our area is referred to as the Ozark Foothills. The Flint Hills stretch from northern Oklahoma almost to the Nebraska/Kansas line. The soil covering the flint in these hills is very shallow, which is one factor that makes these hills unsuitable for tillage.

But they do grow outstanding grass. The grass quality makes the Flint Hills very attractive for cattle-grazing purposes. During times of peak nutritional content, outstanding weight gains are reported, sometimes exceeding two pounds per day for weaned calves grazing Flint Hills grass exclusively. The Flint Hills mark the western edge of the old tall-grass prairie characterized by native grasses like big bluestem. West of the Flint Hills, the short-grass prairie is characterized by grass species that prosper with the lower precipitation that is common further west.



Our family recently had the

opportunity to spend a wonderful evening visiting and catching up with one of my childhood friends who is now one of the editors of a newspaper in a well-known city. Most of our conversation was spent reminiscing about our growing up experiences. But we also updated each other on our lives which includes our current work and church settings. He is a “sometimes” reader of *Calvary Messenger* and offered encouragement and affirmation for my efforts. I invited him, like I’ve invited you all, to send me things he thinks would bless our readership. If I can use one word to describe what I felt from my friend that cuts through the childhood commonalities that we share, I would choose the word “respect.”



During the time when our locale was experiencing pandemic-related mitigation directives, I had the opportunity to interact with a couple of our county commissioners about how these prescriptions affect church life. The two whom I interacted with were a decorated military veteran and a practicing Catholic. In the discussion with the veteran, our peace position came up. He seemed to have a working, albeit very narrow, knowledge of what I’ll refer to as “nonresistance.” That term is helpful for us to understand some of the

historic implications of this teaching of Christ. But there might be better terms, like “enemy-love”, etc. The county commissioner who is Catholic noticed and commented about some of the differences between his church services and how we practice church.

There is one overriding sentiment that I felt from the interaction with both of these commissioners despite our differences. I felt respect.



It recently occurred to me that these two interactions in the last several months are with members of the press and government. It seems to me that many dear folks in my faith family have demonstrated a profound and growing distrust of both of these entities in the last months.

It is not my impression that current news media cultivates a predominantly friendly attitude toward Christian values. This applies to news outlets that are both more favorable to the donkeys and those more favorable toward the elephants, politically speaking. I’m remembering that Jesus encouraged His disciples to expect opposition from those who were opposed to Him. Jesus’s warning provides a backdrop that makes me grateful for the times and ways in which the news media presents God and His followers in a favorable light. Examples of this do occur.

Maybe these things don’t happen often enough. But Jesus warned His followers that this should be expected.

Human interactions with real people who are part of the press when we have the opportunity can be helpful. Life is simpler if we see things as all bad or all good as is our tendency. But things that are simpler aren’t always more accurate. Putting human faces to the canvas we paint invites the painter to exercise caution and reevaluate when he is tempted to paint the whole picture with one broad brush and one solitary color.



Jesus told His followers to be “wise as serpents and harmless as doves.” Philip Yancey opined that when professing Christians get involved in politics, they tend to be “harmless as serpents and wise as doves.” I’d rather identify with Christ’s exhortation than Philip Yancey’s characterization of Christians.

I desire that my attitude toward government and the press begins with what the Scripture teaches as I seek to honor God in my response to the powers that be—not only for wrath, but also for conscience’s sake. That means that the respect I try to cultivate toward all men extends to people who are part of a system that I don’t see as friendly toward Christians. I hope that those with

whom I interacted in the press and government felt the respect from me that I felt from them. This respect is not only articulated in words but can also be observed in our actions. I think I have room to grow in some of these areas. Anyone care to join me?

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Catholic Social Services (CSS) is an agency that offers foster care and adoption services in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Their policy is that they do not work with same-gender couples who wish to provide foster care nor those seeking to adopt. Of course this position has its roots in their understanding of Scripture. The city of Philadelphia refused to renew their contract with CSS because the policy was seen as discriminatory. The agency and some Catholic couples sued, alleging that their religious rights outlined in the first amendment were being trampled. The case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. In June of this year the Court handed down a unanimous decision affirming that CSS had a basic right to practice their faith this way, particularly since those who are gay and wish to foster and adopt can work with other organizations who will accommodate them. This decision was interpreted as a significant nod toward the legitimacy of religious rights and freedoms.

The makeup of the Supreme Court

currently consists of six justices appointed by Republican presidents and three appointed by Democrat presidents. The current session of this court has resulted in a higher than normal number of decisions that are unanimous, rather than decided by divided opinions. Those who serve have often communicated a clear desire to be seen as adherents to the rule of law and not acting at the behest of any political party.

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In early June of the current year, Michael Packard was diving for lobsters near Cape Cod, MA, with his full diving gear when he found himself inside a humpback whale. The esophagus of whales is not large enough to swallow a human. Mr. Packard reported that it was totally black where he was and that he was intensely squeezed. The whale spat him out in the water since he was unable to swallow him. He was quickly plucked from the water by those on his vessel and taken to shore where he was hospitalized. He didn't suffer any broken bones but had considerable soft tissue bruising.

Some of us would probably reassess the risks of our vocation after an encounter like this. But Mr. Packard isn't inclined that way. He looks forward to resuming his lobster diving soon.

-RJM 



# Cultivating Friendship in Marriage

Denver Yoder, Somerset, OH

*“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: for we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband”* (Ephesians 5:25-33).

**W**e all enjoy good friends. No one enjoys being around a grump. Proverbs 18:24 says, *“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh*

*closer than a brother.”* In marriage your spouse is much more than your brother or friend—far surpassing biological family ties.

I have many friends whom I keep contact with: my siblings, cousins, nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts, and a host of others. But of all my friends, one stands out above the rest—my wife. My wife is not only my friend, but beyond that my only bosom companion.

Marriage is not a salad bar where you walk by and choose what you want. Marriage is for life—there is no more choosing. Never entertain thoughts of wondering how it would be with someone else. If your marriage is going to be successful, there can be no more salad bars. Thinking about others will destroy a good relationship. Proverbs 16:28b says, *“a whisperer separateth chief friends.”* Choosing to love or give undue attention to another after marriage is whispering to others what only belongs to your spouse and is a very decisive means to separate friendship in marriage.

God sees everything and even knows your thoughts. Nothing will escape His judgment. It is imperative

to be pure with your spouse if you want to retain God's blessing in your marriage.

The purpose of stimulating friendship in marriage is to make a good thing even better. *"Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another"* (Romans 14:19). If you make this verse your motto, you will cultivate a full-blooming marriage friendship into fruit bearing.

*"Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets. Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee. Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth"* (Proverbs 5:15-18). All others are excluded from your intimate friendship. This friendship must be different from all others.

Ephesians 5:25, *"Husbands, love your wives (wives love your husband), even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."* Notice that He gave Himself. Is one of the greatest causes of failed marriages because of selfish partners who are not willing to give themselves?

Colossians 3:19 tells us to love our spouses and *"be not bitter against them."* Infidelity in marriage can

provoke your spouse to bitterness. How often has your spouse suffered emotionally or physically because of bitterness or the silent treatment? Be observant toward your spouse and build a bond that does not allow anything between you.

Express your appreciation and love often, both in words and action. Thank her often for the good meals, clean house, and clean clothes. Help her if help is needed or volunteer your help. Your wife likes to hear lots of sweet stuff if it comes from a pure heart. Be sensitive of feelings. Be quick to forgive and restore peace. Far too often women carry burdens in their lives that are heavier than their delicate shoulders were created to carry. Why? Because of uncommitted men.

It is important to pray for your spouse. You should find it easy to do so. Praying for your spouse in sincerity will deepen your love for each other. Your prayer should be without selfish motives but solely for the spiritual and physical betterment of your spouse.

Leave no regrets. Think about your departure. I like to leave the house with a kiss. Do not leave the house with hasty or unkind words. You may never have the opportunity to apologize. You may be carried back to your home in a casket.

Proverbs 17:17a says, “A *friend loveth at all times.*” A good husband and wife love each other at all times. Song of Solomon 5:16 says, “*His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.*” Can you say these words with meaning from a sincere heart?

The way you treat your spouse indicates your real heart character. I have no patience with men who can freely joke about their wives. This shows a lack of character and integrity. One man said his wife doesn't need to know everything he does. If you try to hide something from your spouse, it's a sure strike against your character, integrity, and commitment.

If my wife is the queen of my life, why should I joke or pass her faults or weaknesses on to others? Being transparent is very important. A good marriage has no room for secrets. If your spouse is your best friend, you have no need to fear transparency. When you live honestly before God, you can be free and will have nothing to hide. If selfishness enters into your life, you fail to seek the best interest of your spouse. You can expect to reap a healthy crop of bitterness and strife if you sow seeds of selfishness.

We enjoy being together.

Sometimes we visit, and sometimes we just sit together in companionable silence. When I wake up at night, I like to reach over and touch my wife before going back to sleep, just to make sure she is there. My wife is such a comfort to me; without her I am just like a lost puppy.

Try to understand your spouse's emotions. Men, when your wife is moody, seek to find out why. It is not as important to understand as it is to listen. A word fitly spoken can often quickly alleviate those moods. The opposite is also true. Hurts go deeper and require more effort to correct if we counterattack with harsh words.

Seek each other's best interest. Don't expect your spouse to be something she is not. Accept her as she is. Make her feel and prove that she is your true lover. Pray that God will keep you from ever doing anything you will live to regret.

One of the reasons marriages fail is because we become selfish and do not seek each other's best interest. “*Let no man seek his own*” (I Corinthians 10:24a). When we sow seeds of selfishness in a marriage, we are not seeking the other's well-being, and we will reap a healthy crop of bitterness and strife. To consistently put your mate's well-being before your own takes the Holy Spirit's enabling because your nature is selfish.

Women sometime express their thoughts differently than men. They may comprehend differently. They understand differently. Seek to understand her.

Your wife doesn't want to be your mother or maid. Don't compare your wife with your mother. She wants to be your only heartbeat—your only love. The more your wife feels like your mother, the less she will feel your love.

Take time to communicate. In successful marriages the husband and wife must spend time together alone. If our schedules never allow time for togetherness, we are too busy. We need times of togetherness to talk, to work things out, and to share dreams. We should reevaluate our focus in life if the words "I am too busy" are the norm.

Be forgiving. Be quick to apologize and accept blame or accountability. Shifting blame is a mark of immaturity and will destroy your spouse's confidence in you. To say "I'm sorry" can be such a healing balm on a very sore wound.

Cultivate romance. Take time to enjoy each other alone when your focus is solely on your spouse. Your honeymoon doesn't need to end two weeks after marriage. But special times don't have to be elaborate. It

can be as simple as going out for her birthday or your anniversary. Flowers or small gifts can be meaningful. Stress the utmost importance of moral purity. Would it be safe to say that nothing destroys marriage as quickly and as devastatingly as infidelity?

In the marriage relationship there will be an end—a time of reaping—a time to say goodbye. The time to start preparing for a good harvest is NOW. If you don't like the results you see, you better plant some seeds of a different nature. Marriage can seem like heaven, or it can be very distasteful. Peacefully working together in harmony is a beautiful foretaste of heaven. There is a lot of growing required. It's not about getting your spouse to grow into your image, but it's about husband and wife growing together into God's image.

God grant strength to each so that when the time comes when you are called to stand by the casket of your spouse and say your last goodbye, you can say, "Goodbye, sweetheart," without regrets. Live your life so that when you watch the casket lowered in the grave, you can say, "Truly, that was my dearest friend. I have no regrets."



## Brother Andrew, 1928 to Now

*Madeline Peña*

**A**ndy van der Bijl, now called Brother Andrew, was born in the Netherlands during 1928. His family included eight people, with Andy being the third oldest. They grew up quite poor, living in the worst conditions of their village in Witte. Every Sunday, the family would go to church, during which Brother Andrew would go on his adventures. He did not care for the church as a child, and the love of God his parents had did not greatly impact him then.

During Brother Andrew's childhood, in 1939, World War II had begun. Living in the Netherlands put Andrew and his family right in the heart of the heated war. Near his home, dikes were blown up, causing flooding and destruction. Then the Nazis took over his country. Andrew spent much of his adolescence running from forest to swamp with other boys his age, trying to escape the Nazis. The Nazis were trying to capture the boys to become Nazi soldiers. Andrew actually fought the Nazis the best he could by banding with other boys and stealing the Nazis' equipment.

Bloodshed and gore filled the memories of Andrew's early adult life. Andrew's season in the army was one of hardship, to say the least. When he was sent to Indonesia, he was even forced to kill a mother and baby, which horrified him. He did not turn to the Lord during this time, even though he always kept his mother's Bible with him. While in the army, his mother passed away, which led Andrew to drink alcohol heavily. Also, the horror that he saw in the war was a huge contributing factor to Andrew's alcoholism. He could not escape his haunting memories no matter how hard he tried, but the young man realized that alcohol was not the answer.

To make his situation more desperate, Andrew was wounded. At age 20, he nearly had his leg amputated because of a bullet through his ankle. This ended his military career abruptly. This experience convicted Andrew. It also spurred on questions inside him that he had not recognized before. Brother Andrew was wondering about the Gospel.

After leaving the army, Andrew felt purposeless. And when the Dutch

lost the war, he simply wanted to die. But he remembered the nuns who cared for him, and he remembered his mother's faith in the Lord. After being released from the hospital, Andrew started going to church to find the answers he had been searching for. He was hungry for God. The young man would attend church meetings and Bible studies. He started reading Scripture more and more. One night, in his search for God, Andrew radically gave his life to Christ. He prayed, "Lord, if You will show me the way, I will follow You. Amen."

After Andrew surrendered his life to the Lord, an evangelist named Arne Donker came to Andrew's hometown, Witte. The evangelist pastor held a missionary meeting which Andrew attended. This is when Andrew answered the call to missions. He said "yes" to bringing to others the news of salvation that he had most recently accepted. It was a monumental moment for Andrew, and he knew his life was forever changed.

He started working at a new factory in town. Andrew knew God was calling him in the direction of leaving his country, but he wasn't sure where. So he started a very successful Bible study with his coworkers at the factory. He was a light to the men's lives around him. In September 1953,

Brother Andrew started his studies at the WEC Glasgow Bible College.

Andrew would study here for two years, and the biggest lesson he learned was how to live by faith. He should have known the Lord would be teaching him this because at the entrance to his new college, the words "*Have faith in God*" were boldly written on the doorway. It caught Andrew's attention, and it would be a preface to his new journey ahead.

Andrew had to take even larger steps of faith for the next chapter of his missions journey. After completing college, he did not know where God was calling him next until he saw a magazine ad. It was for a youth rally in communist Poland and Andrew could not have felt more drawn to it.

In 1955, Andrew was on his way to a communist youth gathering in Warsaw, Poland. Brother Andrew's main goal was to bring Christianity to communism while in Poland. The missionary was attempting to evangelize the communists. What was so bold about Andrew is that he told the government of his Christian faith before he arrived. But what is more shocking is that he was still invited into the country. The Lord was clearly calling him to Poland. This trip was life-changing for Andrew. He was compelled to act when seeing the devastating impact communism had

on the Polish people.

People were crammed into ghettos with very little drinking water and even smaller amounts of food. They were wearing rags in the harsh elements, and many children were without a home. What was worse than this to Andrew was the oppression against the Gospel and the Bible. Above all else, what tore Andrew's heart the greatest was the lack of Jesus Christ in the lives of the broken, sick, and lost.

During his time in Poland, working behind the Iron Curtain, Andrew received his calling from the Lord. He was called to bring Bibles to the communists and even further beyond, though he did not yet know where. Andrew would bring Christ to where Christianity was persecuted against; a most dangerous mission.

Before going out to new nations, he went home to Holland. He witnessed to the free church concerning the persecuted church, gaining support for the mission of aiding persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ all around the world.

From his very first trip to Poland, Andrew started passing out Bibles to the Polish people. He visited a church in the area, and he learned how to encourage the local Christians. He spent three weeks with the first Baptist church that he visited.

Andrew felt that the Lord confirmed his calling because the church was greatly encouraged. This was his first mission trip over the Iron Curtain border. He was banished from the country once the communists found out what he had been doing. Brother Andrew was a true rebel for the Kingdom of God.

From Poland, he was called to go from country to country, all under the control of communism. In his Volkswagen Beetle he went to nations lacking Bibles. This Beetle was a vehicle God provided for his mission of transporting Bibles across borders. The single missionary would put his life on the line to bring the Gospel to those who had no exposure to Jesus. He also brought Scripture to those who already were hungry for God's Word.

During his journeys, Brother Andrew would encounter persecution himself. He would smuggle Bibles across the communist borders, relying only on God's protection from the military. He is famous for saying, "Lord, in my luggage I have Scripture I want to take to Your children. When You were on earth, You made blind eyes see. Now, I pray, make seeing eyes blind. Do not let the guards see those things You do not want them to see." And the Lord answered his prayer. Countless times, the guards

missed the Bibles on the backseat.

In 1958, Brother Andrew married a woman named Cornelia “Corrie” van Dam. They had been friends for many years, and after praying to God for a wife for a long time, Brother Andrew found that the Lord had brought them together. Corrie was such a support to the ministry that Brother Andrew had started. She also raised their five children while Brother Andrew continued to go on solo mission trips. The missionary was in real danger for his life each and every time that he brought a Bible across borders. Corrie trusted the Lord with Andrew’s life.

The solo missionary did not stay solo forever. A man named Hans soon would join Brother Andrew’s intense mission trips. Hans proved to be an important partner because the radical pair continued to grow into a radical group after Hans joined. Brother Andrew saw the fruit of working with a team, and many people started to aid in the mission. The team became

even bolder to go to Asia. Here, they carried on a ministry of preaching the Gospel and passing out Bibles.

However, they didn’t stop there. After the 1960s, the group would go into Middle Eastern and Islamic nations. The mission was to encourage the persecuted Church all around the world. In 2013, he stated “The Christians there can do nothing unless we start doing something. They depend on us. We are one body in Christ . . . In God, there is only one nation.”

The story of Brother Andrew is inspirational and moving. God used this man to impact many, many people all around the world, causing exponential growth for the Gospel. For all of the details of his testimony, we recommend Brother Andrew’s book, *God’s Smuggler*.

*[This article was originally published on the Bethany Global University Mission Blog, [www.bethanygu.edu/blog/#MissionaryStories](http://www.bethanygu.edu/blog/#MissionaryStories). Used by permission.]*



## A Woman After God’s Heart

### Singles and Sexuality

*Leona Mullet, Lott, TX*

*The following article was submitted by a reader who upon reading our recent series on Women and*

*Singleness, followed the urgings of the Spirit to share what God had worked in her own life during decades of living*





*life singly. I appreciate the genuineness and personal conviction in her words.*

*I also appreciate that there are real live readers out there who think and process and then compose and share, allowing the rest of us to benefit from additional truth.*

*Please note my contact information inside the front cover in the event that God's message is being written in your life and is begging for expression!*  
*Susan Schlabach*

**A**s a single for many years, I often wondered what singles are to do with sexuality. Of the broad range of topics that are often chosen to address the unique needs and desires of singles, I never heard sexuality being one of them.

So, why, I wondered? Well, truth be told, I don't believe there is an easy answer. Most of us have been taught from childhood what the "don'ts" are of sex. Any sex outside marriage is forbidden. We know it's wrong. No question there. So, yes, if in the rare occasion I ever even heard it alluded to, it only included the don'ts.

Is the answer to simply tamp down the sexual drives and desires God has placed into each one of us? Is it best to just pretend they don't exist? I believe the answer to that is a resounding NO. But before you jump to conclusions, hear me out.

I once heard said that unexpressed passion/sexual desires turn into depression. I believe there's truth to that. Now let me be clear. This is not to give anyone a free ticket to sinning. We know better. In any situation we are in life, be it married or single, we are called to self-control. But what I'm getting at is that something needs to be done with those desires.

God placed this legitimate desire inside each of us in varying degrees, and there is a legitimate outlet for them. So, what in the world am I talking about?

Let's think of those sexual desires as simply passion. I believe that the following is especially important for singles. What we can all do is to find a cause, a calling, or a service you can throw your heart, your love, and your passions into. While that will not take away the desire for physical intimacy, it will give you a legitimate outlet for those passions. Does that make sense?

I will share a few things I learned in my years as a single that compelled me to live life the way I did. I have no regrets of how I lived my single life.

Probably the biggest thing was, "Don't be afraid to get out of your comfort zone," and "Don't let fear stop you." I was pulled out of my comfort zone a hundred and one times plus. But that's how you expand your horizons! No regrets.

Ask God for opportunities. It's when we are open to serving wherever the Lord calls us that life becomes rich with meaning and experiences. For me it meant serving overseas, but it doesn't necessarily mean that for everyone. My single life was very rich with experiences and relationships that I have thanked God for many times.

I would also like to encourage that if you're carrying baggage (which I had plenty of), seek to work through it and get rid of it. Ask for help if you need it. We can be far better servants and more effective witnesses for the

Lord if we aren't carrying a load of baggage. Getting rid of it makes life a whole lot lighter and more enjoyable! And if marriage is in God's plan for you, you'll be much better equipped for that too.

With being happily married and spending a lot of time at home, just working (sound familiar, anyone?), I sometimes struggle with feeling that I don't have the opportunity to be a witness for the Lord like I used to. What am I really doing for the Kingdom? However, it's amazing how God answers the prayer for opportunity if we just ask Him!



## junior messages

# Beaten Down by Poverty (Part II) Jane Is Gone

*Mary Ellen Beachy, Dundee, OH*

While Mark was teaching instruction class at church, I walked the short distance to visit with Jane\* and her aunt until time for the church service. Pudgy little George was happily sitting in a basin of water on the floor, getting his Sunday bath. Jane generously served me tea and cassava. We discussed what work she could do to earn some money. She

wants to work. Sometimes she sells chapatis (a fried African tortilla). Her chapatis are delicious, and we buy them for church functions and for ourselves. She said the neighbors like her chapatis too, but don't always pay her. How can she turn them away? It is hard to make a living.

I enjoyed walking to church with Jane and small George. Mark preached from I Peter 1. I was

holding George, entertaining him with pens and an empty toilet paper roll. He is sweet, fat, and happy. Thankfully, his burned face is nearly healed now, though scarred.

It seems strange that this is December. Christmas will soon be here. After church, Mark gave everyone a pen for Christmas. They were delighted. Small things are big in Kenya.

One day I was surprised to see a fancy silver and red bead necklace hanging on George's neck. I had seen beads on other babies too and wondered what they were for. I asked Jane about it. She said her aunt bought them for George. They were charms for protection. Well, they did not protect George from getting burned, from malaria, and all the other sicknesses that this household had. On a Monday afternoon I visited them and asked questions. I told them I want to understand African culture. Why do they put those beads on babies? They told me that children die because people cast a spell or an evil eye on them. The beads are to protect against such a spell. The darkness and superstitions are so real. People do not automatically lay down all these fears when they come to Jesus. They need someone to walk with them and show them the Way.

We had a good time of sharing

out under their mango tree. We had our Bibles and read Psalm 34:7, *"The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."*

"Will beads really protect your children?" I asked. We discussed I John 4:4. We can overcome because God is greater than Satan. There are many verses in the Psalms about trust. I wrote some out for them and encouraged Jane to look up more. Her aunt could not read, but Jane could read to her. I encouraged them to pray for God's protection every night and every day, and that they should ask God for direction about those beads on George. Oh, that they would learn to pray, take their burdens to God, and hear Him.

I desire that the fear of God may become real in their lives. I hope they can believe that God is so much stronger than those who cast spells. God can protect George.

My friend Cynthia had mission experience in Ghana and Kenya. She said, "God wants to show Himself strong in our lives. He doesn't need beads or any such thing to solicit His attention. He simply wants our complete trust. But I also do not doubt the need of added prayers in that dark stronghold."

One day some of the men from church were having a meeting at

our house. Jane came to help me make lunch. She cooked and stirred cornmeal into boiling water till it was so stiff she couldn't stir any more. She dropped the hot mass out on a plate and patted the mound of ugali smooth and round. This favorite Kenyan food was ready to slice with a knife. The men were happy with the ugali and chicken. I was happy with Jane's good help. George was playing busily on the floor with a few small toys.

I wish the story of Jane had a happy and hopeful ending. I enjoyed many hours with her. The last time we were together, when it was time for me to walk down their dirt trek to the main road, small George sat down in the dirt and sobbed that he was not allowed to go with me.

Soon after that, on a day when her aunt was away, Jane took things from

her aunt's house and left the area with a young man who was their neighbor. I never saw her again.

I still think about Jane. I pray for her. Was my time with her in vain?

Mission work is a lot about planting seeds. We sow, but often we do not reap the harvest. I tried to be faithful, and I loved Jane. God can still work in her life. God is the One Who truly changes lives and brings people to Himself. God knows where Jane is and what she is doing. God cares for her much more than I do.

To be a missionary is more than lovely words:

It is a commitment to care about people.

It is conduct that is kind.

It is love revealed in action.

A missionary helps when it is not convenient.

He gives even when it hurts.

*\*not her real name*



**youth messages**

# Financial Focus for the Future

*Josh Kooistra, New Concord, OH*

**T**he older we get, the more we realize how important the decisions were that we made as a youth, and the massive implications that they have on the

rest of our lives. Even now as barely a decade and a half removed from first entering the youth group, I have looked back and wished that I had made different decisions in my

life—especially financially! I took the liberty of reaching out to Anabaptist Financial (AF) and asking a few questions to help stir up your minds and cause you to think through the long-term ramifications of your financial decisions, and potentially open a dialogue within your own circle of peers. Thanks to Richie Lauer and Mark Peachey for taking the time to answer these questions.

***What are some things that young people can/should be doing today to set themselves up for financial stability in the future?***

*Richie:*

Learning and embracing a Biblical concept of stewardship provides a basis for spiritual stability, which includes (but is not limited to) financial stability. Finances are important, but money is the least of the important things in life.

God owns everything.

We are invited to serve as stewards:

- of His Word
- of our families, friends, and church brotherhoods
- of life, health, sound minds, and God-given abilities
- of money and things

Money and things are just tools in the God/man relationship.

- Ye are God's husbandry (garden).
- Ye are God's building (project).
- God wishes to use us to help build

His Kingdom.

We are laborers together with God.

***Do you have any examples of young people (or families) who have gotten themselves into financially difficult situations as a result of failing to put to practice the answers laid out in the previous question?***

*Mark:*

At one of AF's Family Finance seminars, I spoke with a young father who was telling me about his business that he had started. It was going OK, but I could tell that it wasn't without some struggles. He mentioned a previous job that he had where he was making LOTS of money. I asked him why he left that job and this is what he told me. He was leaving at five in the morning and not coming back until six every night (on the good nights). He was trying his best to make as much money as possible so he could provide for his young family. He thought that if his wife had plenty of money she would be happy. He was so busy that he often didn't have time to do anything in the evening with his family. When his wife wanted to go and visit her parents (living in the same community), he was just too busy or came home too late. He would massage his conscience with thoughts like, "I'm just trying to provide for my family." His wife did

not nag at all but one night when she wanted to go visit her parents, he again said he was too busy and that she should just go by herself. That night she broke down and cried and told him that she doesn't care about the money but cares about their children growing up without their dad, and she would much rather have time with her husband and do things together. That night this young father finally understood that in trying to provide for his family he was actually neglecting them. He repented of his ways (quit the old job and started a new business) and was now trying to provide not only on a financial level but more importantly on a spiritual and emotional level.

***Are there resources for young people today to give them a better understanding of some of the things touched on in these questions and help them formulate a plan to put this information to use and principles to practice?***

*Mark:*

There are a number of resources that are available today for young people in "helping" them to figure out how to handle money. Not all resources are equally helpful from a spiritual standpoint. As you evaluate a resource, I encourage you to ask yourself, "Does this teaching encourage me to embrace

the Biblical concept of stewardship and brotherhood or does it really teach that it is all about me and taking care of myself?" I think Gary Miller's book, *Charting a Course in Your Youth*, should be mandatory reading for all of our youth. Gary has several more books that I would recommend that you read: *What Happened to Our Money?*, *Jesus Really Said That?*, *The Other Side of the Wall*, and *This Side of the Global Wall*.

Stewardship Resources offers Young Family Finances Seminars and Budgeting Seminars that are geared toward young people. You can find some of the resources online at <https://www.afweb.org/resources/family-finance>. The goal of these seminars is to teach basic biblical stewardship principles that can help young (and older) people avoid financial pitfalls. The five topics addressed in the Young Family Finance Seminars are: Giving/Brotherhood, Debt, Savings, The Major Expenses, and Working Together.

How young people handle money before they are married can have a direct bearing on how "tight" the finances will be after they are married. Young people have a great opportunity to save while they are still living at home because they have very few expenses. Often a young person doesn't think about how

much money it will take to raise a family. If you can save now toward a down payment on a house instead of squandering the money on frivolous spending, you will be thankful later. Examples of frivolous spending include: excessive/expensive hunting or pleasure trips, stopping at Wawa/Sheetz/Turkey Hill every day to get a snack or lunch, going to a coffee shop often, purchasing the unneeded pickup truck just because it's cool and it's what all the other fellows do. If you can learn to be content as a young person, you will have learned a very valuable virtue.

I do think that as a young person you should take at least a year to go into voluntary service. There are several reasons I suggest this when talking about finances. A) It's a great place for you to learn self-control in your spending. B) It can remind you that you are very blessed. C) A side benefit is that it may help knock off some of the rough edges that your parents and siblings weren't able to get done. I think it's sad that our VS units need to struggle to find enough volunteers to be fully staffed. Are you allowing the loss of wages to keep you from saying yes to the call?

***Is there anything else that you would like to add, or give input for the readers or me? Maybe a favorite quote or verse in regard to the current topic?***

*Mark:*

If you ask a 70-year-old what he would do differently if he could re-live his life, you will seldom hear him say that he wishes he had made more money and put more effort into that. He will say he regrets not spending more time with his children in a constructive and godly manner. I encourage you as a young person to seriously consider the stewardship parables that Jesus gave in the New Testament (Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 19:11-27). Whether we want to believe we are stewards and not owners of what we have does not change the fact that we are stewards. When you come before God, how will you give account for how you stewarded the resources God gave you to steward?

If you have any questions, feel free to get in touch with:

*Mark Anthony Peachey*

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Periodicals

## THOUGHT GEMS

It's hard for children to learn manners when they never see them.

• • • • •

One good way to correct your children  
is to correct the example you are setting for them.

• • • • •

A child's love is the purest thing on earth.

• • • • •

Riches are a blessing only to those who make them a blessing to others.

• • • • •

Many men lay down their lives trying to lay up money.

• • • • •

The only place you can find financial security is inside your income.

• • • • •

A successful marriage is the result of falling in love often—  
with the same person.

• • • • •

The bonds of matrimony are good investments  
only when the interest is kept up.

• • • • •

When a man marries a woman, they become one—the trouble starts  
when they try to decide which one.

• • • • •

In some marriages most troubles are relative.