



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

Galatians 6:14

JUNE 2004

Meditation	
<i>Walking With God</i>	1
Editorial	
<i>Give Me This Mountain</i>	2
An Accident Report	5
Announcement	6
Reader Response.....	6
Thoughts While Giving Blood.....	7
What Our People Want.....	8
Marriages	14
Cradle Roll.....	14
Ordination	16
Obituaries.....	16
Observations	18
Mission Awareness	
<i>A Widows's Faith in a Great God</i>	21
Look Up	23
Ministers' Meeting Message 2004.....	24
My Mother's House	30
My Castle of Dreams	32
Helpers at Home	
<i>Our Talents</i>	34
Junior Messages	
<i>We Never Go</i>	35
Worker Needs	37
Thought Gems.....	back cover

JUNE 2004

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 Saviour;
 To welcome prodigals back to the fold and family of God;
 And to help defeated Christians find victory in Christ Jesus.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(Calvary Publications, Inc.)

Elmer Glick, Chairman
 Nathan Yoder, Vice-Chairman, Sec.
 Enos D. Stutzman
 David L. Miller
 Glenn Yoder

Editorial correspondence for CALVARY MESSENGER, marriages, births, obituaries, and general articles—send to the EDITOR. MISSIONS/YOUTH/JUNIOR MESSAGES—mail to their respective EDITORS.

SUBSCRIPTIONS, renewals, changes of address, etc.—mail to CIRCULATION MANAGER. WHEN YOU MOVE, please notify the Circulation Manager one month in advance, giving your old and new address in full, so that your mailing label can be properly corrected and your credit be kept in order.

CIRCULATION MANAGER/TREASURER
 Mark I. Beachy
 11095 Pleasant Hill Rd. NW
 Dundee, OH 44624

EDITOR

Paul L. Miller
 7809 S. Herren Rd.
 Partridge, KS 67566
 Ph/Fax 620-567-2286
 paulmiller@mindspring.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Elmer D. Glick
 RR 1 Box 47-C
 Augusta, WV 26704

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

David L. Miller
 P O Box 73
 Partridge, KS 67566

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Simon Schrock
 Enos D. Stutzman

MISSIONS EDITOR

Floyd Stoltzfus
 6150 Beaver Dam Rd.
 Narvon, PA 17555

YOUTH MESSAGES EDITOR

Ken Miller
 76 Locust Grove Ln.
 Stuarts Draft, VA 24477

JUNIOR MESSAGES EDITOR

Mrs. Anita Yoder
 10393 N 1100 W
 Ligonier, IN 46767

HELPERS AT HOME EDITOR

Mrs. Mary June Glick
 10351 Fayetteville Rd.
 Bealeton, VA 22712

Calvary Messenger (USPS 767-160) is published monthly by Calvary Publications, 2673 TR 421, Sugarcreek, Ohio 44681. Subscription rates are: 1 year (U.S.) \$7.50, 3 years (U.S.) \$21.00. For congregations using the every-home-plan, \$6.00 per year to individual addresses. Second class postage at Sugarcreek, Ohio. Postmaster: Send address changes to Calvary Publications, Inc., 11095 Pleasant Hill Rd. NW, Dundee, OH 44624.

Walking With God

Bonnie Martin

Hicksville, OH

WALKING: Before I can walk, I must stand. Stand fast; stand in the evil day; sometimes stand alone. Stand unashamed of the Gospel of Christ.

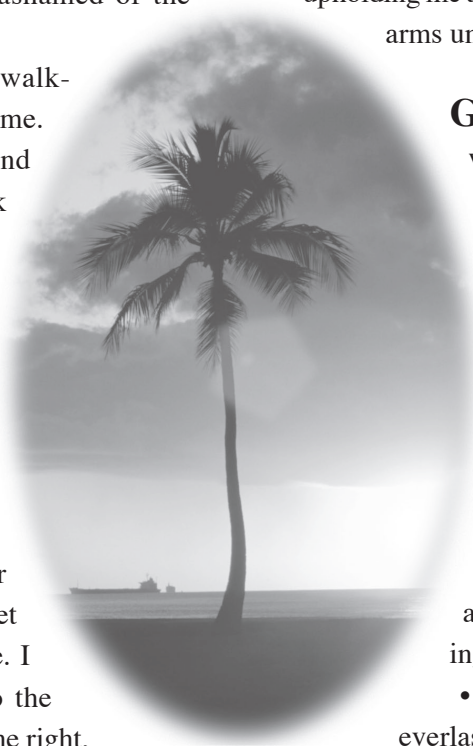
Then I must walk—
one step at a time.
Walk by faith and
not by sight. Walk
in newness of
life. Walk not
after the flesh,
but after the
Spirit. Walk in
the light.

WITH: I must
not run ahead or
lag behind, but let
Him set the pace. I
must not turn to the
left hand nor to the right,
but allow Him to choose the
path.

This allows me the freedom to enjoy the sweet fellowship and divine companionship along the way.

Walking with God, I find unity of

spirit. Can two walk together except they be agreed? When I walk with God, I experience His right hand upholding me and His everlasting arms under me.



GOD: Walking with God! What a blessed privilege! What better companion and friend could I find for life's journey? He is the One who:

- knows the path,
- will supply all my need according to His riches,
- loves me with an everlasting love,
- leads safely, even through the valley of the shadow of death,
- knows the way to heaven!

If I but walk with God, He will lead me to His home!

Give Me This Mountain

Are you ready for an Old Testament history quiz? Here's a list of men who were given important responsibility in Israel's history. How many do you recognize? **Shammua? Shaphat? Igal?** You aren't sure? How about **Palti?** Or **Gaddiel? Gaddi? Ammiel?** Let's try **Sethur? Nahbi? Geuel?** Do these names sound familiar? Why not check the Cradle Roll this month? Perhaps you will find a new baby boy carrying one of these names.

But probably not. Here's why:

These men went on an important mission with Caleb and Joshua. No more identification is needed. Nor is it surprising that those strange ten names have been lost to infamy. After The Twelve returned, their discouraged, exaggerated reports might have seemed wisely cautious. Many in Israel probably even assumed the majority to be right, so they endorsed their faithless counsel. Notice that "Joshua" and "Caleb" are still quite commonly used as baby names. They have earned a place of respect in our minds. But have you ever heard any of the other ten names used even

once for a newborn child?

Moses, their leader, was not simply pursuing his own dreams. He was following God's directions in leading God's people from Egypt into Canaan. To check things out, he sent out 12 spies. These men were to bring back ideas of how to undertake The Conquest. Instead they returned to explain to Moses why he had proposed Mission Impossible. Their unbelief became their life sentence.

After Moses' death, Joshua went on to lead the people of Israel into occupying the land of promise. Joshua's exploits are well known while Caleb's contribution is more obscure. Caleb was probably not endowed with some of the specific leadership gifts that Joshua had, but he had a faith-filled perception of the facts and an unadulterated commitment to doing what God wanted, even when it wasn't easy. Apparently he was the key witness who had helped Moses restore sanity to the difficult situation that panic had cast over them.

This story is recorded in Numbers 13. After the majority of the 12 spies had given their gloomy comments,

Caleb stilled the people. That, in itself, was a big job. With the tide of public opinion possibly running about ten to two, it would have been easier either to give in, or to keep quiet. **Caleb was too principled for that.** With people feeling sorry for themselves, crying and moaning over their hard lot in life, he must have needed a megaphone just to get their attention. Then he spoke with conviction, “Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.” (verse 30)

The pessimists tried to drown him out with, “We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.” Next they ratcheted up their persuasive efforts by saying, “The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of great stature. And there we saw the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.” Fear had carried them far from trust in a loving God. Indeed, unbelief always ends in despair.

Yet Caleb stood firm. And time proved him and Joshua right, with the ten other spies wrong--dead wrong.

Forty-five years later, much of the land of Israel had been claimed for God’s people. Caleb was 85 years old, and we expect him to

slow down and start taking it easier. Instead, he again shows himself a man of courage. In Joshua 14:6-15, he rehearses the events of many years earlier. He points out that he chose the difficult option of standing with Joshua against 10 pessimistic spies. He proceeds to ask for his promised inheritance in the mountain country surrounding Hebron, which lies some 600 feet higher in altitude and 19 miles southwest of Jerusalem. The rugged terrain was not the only challenge, however, because big people, the Anakims, (possibly kin of Goliath) who inhabited the land when the spies investigated, still occupied the area.

Caleb, with his “face to the wind,” said, “As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out and to come in.” (14:11) Whether others saw him as he saw himself is not indicated, but it is clear that Caleb was willing to do all he could. And God honored his availability and his willingness to undertake a tough job.

After his family had moved into their rightful territory, a daughter asked for access to springs. Caleb thoughtfully granted her request. Thus he shows himself not to be simply right, but also considerate of others’ opinions and needs. (Joshua

15:13-19).

He stood on the promises of God. He went on in the strength of the Lord. God blessed his efforts. He claimed the land promised to him and his descendants. And after that, the land had rest from war.

An unknown song writer* has penned these words, depicting Caleb's remarkable confidence in God:

Give Me This Mountain

1. *"The challenge now is here, What cause is there to fear?"*

I will follow to the place that God has called.

And though the task ahead is great, There is no need to wait.

God's command is: 'Conquer cities fenced and walled.'

2. *"This mountain I shall own, But not for me alone--*

For my children I shall claim this promised land.

Because the Word of God is sure, The future is secure.

All the power we need is in God's mighty hand.

3. *"Take courage and be strong; We'll sing the victors' song.*

All the blessings God has promised we may claim.

So let us hasten to obey; Our Savior leads the way.

He will help us win the battle for

his name.

Chorus: "Give me this mountain, Give me this mountain.

To the land where giants grow, That's the place I want to go.

Give me this mountain, This very mountain.

I shall conquer in the power of the Lord!"

We seem to have a shortage of "Calebs" in our day. In fact, we sometimes have a second problem. This problem comes when a soul is brave enough to show courage like Caleb had, then gets impressed with himself. His pride sidetracks him as he turns to taking honor for himself, then to lording it over others. Indeed, "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city" (Pro. 16:32).

The "Anakims" within often present us with greater challenges than do our circumstances, the "heights of Hebron."

(*If someone can provide information about authorship, I will gladly acknowledge it.)



"The Terrible Price of Darkness" is a new book introduced at the ministers' meetings this spring. It is a first-person account of bondage to,

then deliverance from powwowing. The author's name, Elaine Schrock, is fictitious, but the story is true. It sells for \$5, postpaid.

"Hey, Peachey" was a serial story we printed through the kindness of Willie Peachey in 2001. We found such keen interest in it that we have reprinted it in a 36-page booklet. It is available from our circulation man-

ager. Priced at \$2, postpaid. Quantity discounts available for both titles. One of each sells for \$6.50 total.

Order both books from:

Mark I. Beachy
11095 Pleasant Hill Rd. NW
Dundee, OH 44624
Telephone: (330)852-2982 -PLM



An Accident Report

By the editor

The U. S. Postal Service is properly contrite. They sent me the remains of a letter that apparently got mangled in their letter handling equipment. The return address and the stamp are gone. The writer's name is nowhere indicated. While some of the contents are intact, it leaves me with something incomplete.

The package it was returned in contained this message from the Postal Service:

"Dear Postal Customer:

"We sincerely regret the damage to your mail during handling by the Postal Service. We hope this incident

does not inconvenience you...

"We hope you understand. We assure that we are constantly striving to improve our processing methods in order that even a rare occurrence may be eliminated....

"Please accept our apologies."

Yes, I forgive the Postal Service. It does, however, inconvenience me.

And here's the bottom line: Unless the person who wrote, "A Word of Truth" comes forward, I will be unable to do anything with the material submitted for publication.



The best way to be right or wrong is humbly.

ANNOUNCEMENT

To all ministers and committee members:

Not enough ministerial directories were printed to meet demand at the annual ministers' meetings of April 6-8, 2004. Additional copies have now been printed.

Please indicate with your request how many copies are desired.

Contact:

David Sommers · 109 Ramey Rd. · Abbeville, SC 29620

Phone: (864)379-3205 · Fax: (864)379-3184

E-mail: dasommers@juno.com

reader response

How's That Again?

Thank you for that timely article on English grammar in the April, '04, issue. Thank you for addressing the problem. I am grieved that so many of our young speakers and ministers who recently graduated from our Christian schools are still in the same rut our forefathers were in misusing English grammar. Why haven't we overcome this in our modern educational system?

I recommend that every preacher and speaker who is serious about *dressing our speech and the testimony of the Lord in common language, read--or better, yet--write out* these statements to a mentor who knows proper grammar. The mentor could then give guidance and correction. The speaker could also assign his wife or another person to monitor

him for improper grammar while speaking.

I know that Bro. Ervin Hershberger was often grieved by the way our speakers abused English grammar.

Most of us don't like sloppy Sunday dress, so why not tidy up our sloppy Sunday grammar? I am hoping your article will make [more] speakers aware of the problem and help them to overcome it.

Lovingly,

Menno S. Beachy
394 Shoemaker Hill Rd.
Salisbury, PA 15558

• • • • •

Doubtful Practices

Thank you for the article "A Study of Doubtful Practices," (April, 2004, p. 18). I don't know if we have much

powwowing in our churches or not, but I think we do have some. These things should not be and we need to expose them.

The title should perhaps have been, "A Study of Unlawful Practices" or "...Unscriptural Practices."

Elmer Beachy
Salisbury, PA

• • • • •

The Price to Pay

Dear Bro. Paul,

May I call your attention to a glitch in the Junior Messages story in the May issue?

On page 34, the writer has the refugees who crossed the Amur River into China going to Harbin, Germany. I believe that should be Harbin, China.

James A. Goering
Dayton, VA

*Yes, it should. Thank you, Bro. Jim,
for pointing this out.* -PLM



Thoughts While Giving Blood

Author Unknown

[Many of us have donated blood. It is a small way to help. Just how small is portrayed in these lines. Most good deeds are done by busy people who could instead be doing something that would benefit themselves. Giving blood usually benefits someone we don't know. "Let us," nevertheless, "do good unto all men..." (Gal. 6:10a) -PLM]

He gave blood too, but...

He gave all;

I gave a pint.

He hung on a cross;

I lay on a stretcher.

He was pierced with a spear;

I with just a needle.

He was mocked;

I was praised.

He was condemned;

I was commended.

He was tortured;

I was babied.

He died;

I lived.

He went to the grave;

I went home.

He gave for all;

I gave for one.

**Thank you, Lord, for
the difference!**

*Submitted by Mrs. Laura Yoder,
Sarasota, FL.*



What Our People Want

(A Father's Day Feature)

Goyce Kakegamic

Thunder Bay, ON

[The following article is condensed and excerpted from a message spoken to workers at Northern Youth Programs at a Staff Fellowship at Dryden, Ontario, on January 30, 2004.

When people's expectations rise, as they have in northwestern Ontario, the question is sometimes asked cynically, "What do these people want?" Bro. Kakegamic's message sheds light on that question, when it is asked with a willing response to need and a corresponding sense of responsibility to God.

On a personal note, it was my good fortune to teach Goyce when he was a student in eighth grade, back in 1965-66. I praise God for that privilege and for Goyce's friendship.
-PLM]

But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God" (1 Cor. 11:3). "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" (Eph. 5:25). "One that ruleth well his own house..." (1 Tim. 3:4a).

I am honored and humbled to

speak to you from my experience, observation, reflection and thought on our people, our culture, and its relationship to our hopes for the future. I will speak about the future of First Nations people in Ontario and the challenges facing fathers in our homes today:

My home community is Kee-waywin First Nation in northwest Ontario. I have served nearly three terms as a Deputy Grand Chief of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation. I was fortunate to be raised in a loving and caring family. My father, David Kakegamic, is my hero. He taught me to work hard, look for inherent goodness in people and life. He taught me that people will usually do the right thing.

To avoid a clash of cultures is clearly one of the great challenges of the new millennium and will require the best of all of us. I get the distinct impression that in the situation we have today, it is usually assumed that it is the First Nations people who must make the necessary accommodation, if our future together is to be productive and peaceful. We sometimes feel that it is up to us to adapt. Reconciliation, as I see it, is

a cooperative venture. Harmonious and respectful involvement is clearly a shared obligation.

We [First Nations people] have no other home to go back to. Many Canadians and Americans trace their ancestry to some European country. We have no such place or history. This has always been our home. For such reasons, we now call ourselves First Nations people.

We believe that when we signed the treaties, they were really treaties between two nations. We do not see ourselves as conquered nations. When we signed treaties in the past, we were not giving up our territories or simply adding new commerce. [The unfortunate fact is that many of the treaties made with the governments of Canada and the United States have not been kept. Those First Nations people who have received Christ as Savior and Lord, are able to say, "We forgive." But they also seem to ask, "Can we be considered as equals now?" -PLM]

What is a fair share of our resources? It is time to make good the terms of the treaties. We desire to lead our people, our lands, our resources. We want this so we will no longer suffer the pains of hunger, of humiliation and of dependency. Chief John George spoke of this humiliation when he said, "I cannot look into your eyes, when I have my hand in

your pocket." But it's not just about money. It's also about self-respect and about taking our rightful places. We are not meaning to take anything that is not already ours.

I remember a time when I was at Lakeview Restaurant in Red Lake. I overheard a comment from a customer in conversation with his fellows, "What do those Indian people want, anyway?" I will let you in on the secret: We want a safe and a secure future for our children. We want our children to have access to a quality education. We want healthy communities. We want economic self-sufficiency and sharing of natural resources in our territory. We want to control the programs delivered to and provided for our communities. We want to maintain the good in our culture, our language, and other links to the past. We want agreements that were made in the treaties to be honored. We want our rights to be respected. We want to live in peace and harmony with our neighbors. And we want to contribute to broader society and to Canada.

Does this surprise you?

If you made a list of your priorities, how much different would that list be? I think that most, if not all, would be the same. The greatest challenge--the fundamental goal--for First Nations leaders is to ensure a sustainable future for our communi-

ties and for our children.

We need God's principles. I chose the Scriptures I did at the beginning because these are God's plan for the family to live by. Today that plan is under savage attack from all sides. If the traditional family fails, the church fails. Our nation will fall. The fabric of the traditional family is being ripped to shreds by divorce, alcoholism, neglect, abuse, materialism, abortion, abuse and suicide.

Since 1986 in Ontario alone, we have lost 254 of our sons and daughters to suicide. It is very sad because these people really want to live. If those would have lived and started families, they might by now have numbered a thousand people. Think of it, a thousand people just wiped off the face of the earth! This constant and crippling suicide of our sons and daughters has brought us to our knees. It has broken our hearts and wounded us to the very core of our being.

We may ask, Is there hope for us today? I say there is hope. God does speak. He has not left us in a state of moral confusion. He has not left us without answers today. He has not left us to go down the road of self-destruction and despair--alone.

I refer to one verse I gave at the beginning: "One that ruleth well his own house." Is that possible? Yes, it's possible that a First Nations

father [or any father] can become one that rules well his own house. The family must be revitalized. The home must retake the position of being the central and most vital institution. The starting point in this healing journey is for the fathers to take the lead again.

The fathers today are under great pressure as bread winners. I believe they are under greater pressures than ever before in our history. The future of our communities will be determined by the fathers of the land, not the politicians. If you are looking for hope for our land coming from Ottawa, with all the funding, forget it! It will not happen! If there is to be a spiritual turnaround in our country and our territory, it must be led by the fathers of our homes.

If the fathers would take their position in the homes as "kings" and "priests" of God, humbling themselves, confessing their sins, crying to the Lord, showing some emotion and tenderness to their families, and providing spiritual leadership, I believe the rest of the family would follow. Father as king leads and guards the family. He administers the finances. He must lead. There is nothing to debate about that. That is not my opinion; it is God's opinion.

We also read that the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ

is the head of the church, and He is the Savior of the body. God settles the battle for headship of the family in 1 Corinthians 11:3, "But I would have you know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of the woman is the man and the head of Christ is God."

I always say, One body with two heads is a freak. It may make a great circus attraction, but it will cause nothing but chaos in your home. Father is the king of the home. He loves enough to die for his wife and children. Do we love our families like that or do we abandon them? Father is the loving monarch, who is willing to die for his wife, the "queen" of the house, and for his "royal subjects," his children.

How can we fathers rule our houses well? We must also retake our positions as priests. Wives cannot follow a "parked car." Fathers need to move and give spiritual leadership. Fathers must lead financially. God is saying to fathers throughout our territory, "Pull up your socks and start acting like men. Be men of God. Be priests to your family and let My image be reflected and projected through you--to your family, your wife, your children and to the community you live in."

Why are we where are today with Columbine and our public schools? We have sown, now we are reaping.

You cannot sow bad seed and expect a "crop failure." What we have sown in the last several decades, we are reaping today. I say to the fathers, Until we return to God, and to his laws, the nightmare will continue in our communities.

I used to say that things "are really going to the dogs." I've stopped saying that out of respect for my dog. Look at how far our communities have fallen in the last 20-30 years spiritually and morally. We are no more sliding down a moral slope, we are in a moral free fall. Many men lament to me how badly things go in their families. Some say, "I can't love my family the way I should. I cannot give up my self-centered life. I cannot give up my drinking."

I say that's not true. You can. The basic problem is that you just won't. If there is to be healing in our homes, it must start with us as fathers. The fathers of this land can have healing if they will turn to God and to his laws. We have all the resources we need to make a spiritual turn around. God is saying to the fathers, "Look, I am the mighty God. I am Jehovah. I am the Alpha and the Omega. I am the first and the last. I am the Conqueror of Calvary. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. I have conquered the powers and principalities of darkness. I have given you the power of my blood. I have given you

the power of my name. I have given you the power of my Word. I'm on the throne."

So you see, fathers, we can turn around. We have all the resources in God. But we have to be willing to pay the price of dying to self, and turn around and go to God's laws.

The lost son in Luke 15 left home in riches; he came home in rags. He left home as a son; he came back home smelling like swine. Here was a Jewish boy, who was not allowed even to touch pigs and yet, he was living with them. This was "the lowest of the low" for this young man.

There are many homes in our territory who think that their homes are beyond repair.

Fathers, no matter how low your children have gone, know this: There is no depth of sin that the grace of God cannot reach or heal. The grace of God is greater than sins of our children. I say to the fathers, "Don't ever give up on your children. If they don't have you, who have they got? God can bring your children back and make them princes and princesses, if we are willing to pay the price."

A man was on a playground watching his children play. Another watching parent said, "That's my daughter in the yellow dress."

The man told her, "The boy in the red sweater is my son." After a

while, he got up and said, "Tommy, it's time to go."

The little boy came running and said, "Please, Daddy, five more minutes."

"OK, Tommy, five more minutes." Tommy went skipping happily back to play. Then, after a while, Daddy said again, "Tommy, let's go. Mommy will be waiting for supper."

The boy said, "Daddy, please, five more minutes."

"OK, five more minutes."

A woman turned to him and said, "You are a patient father."

The man replied, "Years ago, Tommy had a brother. We lost him. And I vowed that I would never make the same mistake with Tommy. He thinks he has five more minutes to play. The truth is, I have five more minutes to watch him play."

Fathers, we need to know that today is the day to love our children. Tomorrow our babies won't need to be rocked. Tomorrow our children won't be asking us, "Why?" Tomorrow our children won't be needing our help with their school lessons. Tomorrow our children will not be asking us to come to their school activities. That will be over. I say to the fathers, Tomorrow it's going to be over forever. Today is the day to love our children. Children are never too big or too old for a hug. My 26 and 28 year-old children still check

my pocket for a chocolate for them.

On November 12, 1934, a baby boy was born to a 16-year-old mother. He was neglected and abused. He was left for days by his mother. In 1939, she was arrested for armed robbery. When she got out of jail, the boy was eight years old. Life for this boy was terrible, as his mother went from one man to another. When he was 12, she put him in a group home in Indiana. After 10 months, he ran away.

His mother rejected him. At 13, he was convicted of armed robbery. At 16, he had a long criminal record and was sent to a federal prison. He got beaten, abused and raped. At 17, he killed a fellow inmate with a razor. Then he got involved in a cult. At 33, he was released from the federal prison. Upon his release, he begged to remain in prison. He said, "Prison is the only home I know. Please let me stay." But he was sent away.

Soon he began a reign of terror in southern California. He "butchered" 40 people. One of them was an actress, named Sharon Tate. Today we

know him as Charles Manson.

One day this boy was a baby looking for love and he found none. And he became a monster.

Today we ask, is there any hope for us--for our fathers and our families? What can we do to address the loss of 254 of our sons and daughters who took their own lives? One who was 16 when she died, had said before to me, "I don't want to die." She didn't want to die; she was just looking for love. Parents, wake up!

Is there any hope for us in this corrupt society in which we live? God does speak. We have His Word today. I tell my constituents, "The Bible is the best psychological book in the world."

The most important relationships we can make anywhere are the relationships in our homes. We husbands should help our wives with the work in the home. One of the greatest gifts we fathers can give our children is to love their mother. There is hope. We can learn to apply God's principles. It is possible, by reaching out to God!



Beware of him who reminds you that you can't take your money with you; he might try to take it with him.



marriages

Plank-Weaver

Bro. John Wayne, son of Lewis and Mary (Yoder) Plank, Montezuma, GA, and Sis. Jolene Sue, dau. of Daniel and Linda (Yoder) Weaver, Montezuma, GA, on Jan. 24, 2004, at Montezuma Mennonite Church by Donnie Swartzentruber.

Weaver-Bontrager


Bro. Levi Weaver, (deceased wife: Mary) Auburn, KY, and Sis. Ida Bontrager, (deceased husband: Delbert) Spencerville, IN, on April 24, 2004, at County Line Church of God for Hicksville Christian Fellowship by Willard Hochstetler. Future home: Auburn, KY.

Yoder-Graybill

Bro. Titus Lamar, son of Iddo and Viola Yoder, Lott, TX, and Sis. Hannah Beth, dau. of Wilbur and Gladys Graybill, Guys Mills, PA, on Mar. 20, 2004, at First Church of God of Meadville for Faith Builders Fellowship by Milo Zehr.

Yoder-Miller

Bro. Norman, son of Wilbur and Viola Yoder, Mendon, MI, and Sis. Linda, dau. of Mary and the late Harley Miller, Goshen, IN, on Mar. 6, 2004, at Pleasant View Mennonite Church for Woodlawn Church by Elmer J. Miller.

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

cradle roll

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

Beachy, Gabriel and Sheila (Ropp), Wellman, IA, fourth child, third dau., Rebekah Ileen, Feb. 7, 2004.

Bontrager, Devon and Kathy (Lantz), Donalds, SC, sixth child, third dau., Miranda Joy, Dec. 30, 2003.

Byler, Daniel and Julia (Erb), Poole, ON, second child, first dau., Rachaune Faye, Mar. 10, 2004.

Gerber, Glen and Karen (Wagler), Gadsbill, ON, second child and son, Craig Mervin, April 6, 2004.

Gerber, Joseph and Rhonda (Kuepfer), Milverton, ON, first child and dau., Kayla Marie, Dec. 2, 2003.

Glick, Linford and Martha (Borntrager), Paradise, PA, fourth child, first dau., Serena Faith, Apr. 2, 2004.

Jantzi, Derek and Janice (Gerber), Wellesley, ON, first child and son, Justin Derek, Dec. 19, 2003.

Jantzi, Ronald and Jennifer (Mullet), Milverton, ON, second child and son, Randall Jared, Mar. 1, 2004.

Kuepfer, Jeff and Rhoda (Wagler), Millbank, ON, fourth child, second dau., Annette Rhoda, Feb. 15, 2004.

Lebold, Floyd and Kathy (Jantzi), Lucknow, ON, sixth child, second dau., Jessica Kathryn, Feb. 16, 2004.

Miller, Clifford and Judy (Stoltzfus), Mifflinburg, PA, third child and son, Chadwin Tyrell, Apr. 6, 2004.

Miller, Ellis and Lynita (Miller), Hutchinson, KS, second child and son, Niccolas Andre', April 10, 2004.

Miller, Gerald and Cathy (Burkholder), Guys Mills, PA, third child, second son, Tyler Sean, Mar. 19, 2004.

Miller, James and Amy (Kropf), Wellman, IA, second child and son, Jackson Ray, Jan. 31, 2004.

Miller, James and Judith (Hochstetler), Franklin, KY, fifth child, third son, Mitchell Connor, Feb. 16, 2004.

Miller, Marcus and Lisa (Gingerich), Kokomo, IN, second child and dau., Hannah Grace, Mar. 6, 2004.

Peachey, Bob and Barbie (Stoltzfus), McClure, PA, third child, second dau., Emily Joy, April 9, 2004.

Peachey, Louie and Olive (Yoder), Woodville, NY, seventh child, third

dau., Charity Joy, Jan. 27, 2004.

Peachey, Michael and Regina Ann (Miller), Titusville, PA, third child, first dau., Ashley Brooke, April 24, 2004.

Stoltzfus, Alphie and Teresa (Troyer), Gap, PA, fourth child, second son, Michael Andre', Mar. 18, 2004.

Stoltzfus, Stevie, Jr., and Erma (Beiler), Honey Brook, PA, fifth child, (one deceased), third dau., Charlene Grace, Mar. 18, 2004.

Troyer, Jason and Holly (Mast), Crossville, TN, second child, first dau., Misty Joy, Apr. 4, 2004.

Weaver, Eldon and Susanna (Otto), Kokomo, IN, fifth child, fourth son, Jeremy, Mar. 14, 2004.

Wengerd, Wilmer and Clarellen (Deweiler), Cochran, PA, third child, second dau., Rosa Lynn, Mar. 2, 2004.

Yoder, Aaron and Nora (Yoder), Fredericksburg, OH, sixth child, second dau., Louise Hope, Mar. 12, 2004.

Yoder, Ben and Rhoda (Miller), Holmesville, OH, fifth child, fourth dau., Kari Kaylene, Mar. 15, 2004.

Yoder, Douglas and Lillian (Bontrager), Auburn, KY, first child and dau., Cheyanne Rose, Mar. 31, 2004.

Yoder, James and Lucrecia (Wagler), Uniontown, OH, second child and dau., Audrey Shalom, Apr. 2, 2004.

Zook, Lavern and Patricia (Miller), Lewisburg, PA, third child, second son, Donavon Eric, Apr. 1, 2004.

ordinations

Bro. James Hershberger, 41, was ordained to the office of bishop March 28, 2004, at Summersville Mennonite Church, Summersville, KY. Preordination messages were given by Stephen Beachy, Belvidere, TN. Bro. Lonnie Eash was also in the lot.

Bro. Elmer J. Stoltzfus, 36, of Bethesda congregation, Plain City, OH, was ordained to the office of bishop April 18, 2004, at Plainview School. Preordination messages were brought by Sylvan Weaver. The charge was given by Perry Troyer, assisted by Sylvan Weaver and Nelson Beachy.

Bro. Jim Yoder, 47, was called by the united voice of the church and ordained to the office of bishop at Cedar Springs Mennonite Church, Clarkson, KY, on April 18, 2004. Preordination messages were brought by Leroy Lapp. The charge was given by Melvin Troyer, assisted by Leroy Lapp and Rudy Overholt.

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



Corrections to Cradle Roll:
Miller, Marlin and Leanna (Burkholder) Rural Retreat, VA, second child, first son, Kylan Lance, Mar. 5, 2004.

Yoder, S. Wayne and Clara (Bender), Wytheville, VA, second child and dau., Shonda Danae, Oct. 29, 2003.



obituaries

Jantzi, Jared Larry, 17 months, died of a heart condition on Feb. 7, 2004. He was born Aug. 14, 2002, son of Paul and Nancy (Wagler) Jantzi, Milverton, Ontario.

Besides his parents he is survived by two brothers and seven sisters, all of the home. They are Edward, Marie, Miriam, Mary Lou, Joanne, Joyce, Stephen, Charlene and Cheryl. Maternal grandparents are Norman and Esther Wagler, Nithburg; paternal grandparents are Leonard and Mary Jantzi, Brunner.

Preceding him in death was cousin, Brandon Wagler.

Funeral services were held Feb. 10, at Cedar Grove A.M. Church, with Arthur Gerber, Mahlon and Larry Ropp serving. Burial was in the Cedar Grove Church cemetery.

Miller, Ida, 80, Middlebury, IN, died from cancer Feb. 19, 2004. She was born April 23, 1923, in LaGrange County, the daughter of Daniel W. and Elizabeth (Kauffman) Weirich.

She was a homemaker and a charter

member of Woodlawn A.M. Church, where she was active in the women's sewing circle. She was also an avid cook and gardener.

On Nov. 28, 1946, she was married to Harry E. Miller.

She is survived by her husband; three daughters: Freida Bontrager, (widow of Ervin Bontrager), Middlebury; Norma (Wayne) Schrock, Millersburg; Marilyn Faye Miller, Goshen; a son, Floyd (Linda) Miller, Middlebury; five grandchildren; three sisters, Katie Weirich, Sarasota, FL; Nona Yoder, Middlebury; Anna (Eli) Chupp, Shipshewana; and four brothers: Harry (Orpha) Weirich and Harley (Fanny) Weirich, both of Middlebury; Eli Weirich, Augusta, WI; and Ora (Katherine) Weirich, Goshen.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and a brother, Joe Weirich.

Funeral services were held at Woodlawn Church on Feb. 23, with Elmer Miller and Ed Yoder serving. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Nisly, Fannie Viola, 71, Hutchinson, KS, died on April 18, 2004, at her home after a brief illness. She was born May 7, 1932, daughter of Dan D. and Amanda (Schrock) Nisly, at Hutchinson. A lifetime Hutchinson resident, she was a homemaker, operated a bake shop and participated at the Reno County Farmer's Market with her sister.

She was a charter and faithful member of Center A.M. Church, Hutchinson.

She is survived by her sister, Lizzie

Irene Nisly, and many cousins and friends. Many adults and children have fond memories of Fannie and Lizzie being their Sunday School teachers.

Preceding her in death were her parents.

Funeral services were held at Center A.M. Church on April 21, with David Yoder, Paul Miller and Oren Yoder serving. Eli Yoder served in the committal at the West Center Cemetery.

Steckly, Joel Daniel, beloved infant son of Ronald and Sharon Steckly, of Millbank, ON, was stillborn on July 27, 2003, at Stratford General Hospital.

He is the dear brother of Matthew, Jeffrey, Mary, Jennifer and Michael. Also surviving are grandparents, Melvin and Marietta Roes and Aaron and Elsie Steckly.

Joel was preceded in death by grandmother, Mary Roes. Memorial service was held on July 30 at Mornington A.M. Cemetery, with Grandfather Melvin Roes officiating.

Yoder, Mattie, 89, Fredericksburg, OH, died Mar. 12, 2004, at Walnut Creek Nursing Home, after a period of declining health. She was born Dec. 4, 1914, in Holmes County, OH, the daughter of Eli and Lizzie (Weaver) Miller.

She was a member of Shiloh Fellowship Church, Fredericksburg.

On Dec. 31, 1946, she was married to Dan Yoder. He died in Dec., 2001.

Surviving are children: Elizabeth

(Richard) Gerber, Millersburg; Eli (Rozena) Yoder, Winesburg; John (Rebecca) Yoder, Fredericksburg; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and a brother, William Miller, Wooster.


Preceding her in death were seven brothers and two sisters.

observations

I know of no place in Scripture where the terms, Executive Committee or Bishop Committee are used. But in Acts 15, a group of servant leaders met at Jerusalem to consider a matter that was of general concern to the churches. Inter-congregational relationships were an integral assumption of the New Testament church.

It is certainly preferable that local problems are worked out on the local level. But when this is not possible, we typically resort to calling in a three-man bishop committee to review the situation and to make appropriate recommendations. It is not God's ideal that any church should be paralyzed with unsolved problems.

Undoubtedly, this method has rescued many situations and restored them to a functional level. But such a committee does have some disadvantages. In spite of their best efforts and intentions, it is often difficult to

Funeral services were held March 15 at Gospel Haven Mennonite Church, Benton, with Roman B. Mullet and Sam Schlabach serving. Burial was at the Yoder Cemetery, Salt Creek Township, Holmes County. 

get a complete picture in so short a time.

It is regrettable that sometimes when the committee leaves that one or more parties feel that the investigation was too hurried or too preconceived to have been satisfactory. Under the present system, there is no provision for additional review.

At least four decades ago, after our local congregation had been organized, we received a request by mail. The question of our affiliation had not been settled. The request came from a group who was in the process of forming a new congregation. A bishop committee had been there to investigate their eligibility for membership in the larger fellowship. Their recommendation was perceived to have been inconsiderate and unsatisfactory. We were asked to consider helping them to organize with certain provisions seen as more favorable to outreach into the local community.

We agreed to meet with brethren from the group making the request along with the bishop committee. We were interested in mediation rather than fragmentation. We became a third party, listening as both parties enlarged on their perspectives and their concerns.

After this, we three ministers as the third party met to consider what we had heard. We made non-binding recommendations to both parties. The recommendations were essentially that the brethren accept the committee's decisions and that the bishops would help the new congregation to self-government as soon as seemed reasonable.

Both parties accepted these recommendations. It seemed that when they took time to clarify their positions and listen to each other, there was reconciliation rather than division.

What's the point in recounting such a story? Unfortunately, this is not the only time that the work of bishop committees was considered less than satisfactory. It makes one wonder if a third party to listen and possibly make non-binding recommendations does not still deserve consideration.

It occurs to me that the five-man bishop committee is a body whose statement of purpose would be ideally suited to such a function. I hope

the following points are worthy of your consideration:

— The function of the elected bishop committee is specifically non-binding. This is to preserve our concern to keep our system congregational rather than conference-controlled.

— Bishops are typically busy people. For their work to be potentially eligible for review by fellow bishops should be non-threatening and welcome.

— It is assumed that all are interested in whatever is best for all concerned. "In the multitude of counselors there is safety."

— I have sought the counsel of a number of trusted brethren before writing this statement. This included several former members of the elected bishop committee. But I intentionally did not consult with any who are presently serving.

— There may be times that the elected committee would be asked to review a situation without the prior involvement of a three-man investigation.

— Perhaps the involvement of other impartial third-party listeners would also deserve consideration at times.

Anyone who feels so led, is welcome to make response to this proposal.

•••••

The film, “The Passion of the Christ,” by Catholic Mel Gibson, has generated some \$26 million in revenue the first week-end of its showing. It has received strong statements of endorsement from prominent evangelical persons and organizations.

The essence of the film is to depict the suffering and death of Christ. Because of its bloody, brutal violence it is R-rated. I believe this means it is not recommended for family viewing. *The FCM Informer*, March-April, 2004, has an article by David Cloud that provides an in-depth analysis of the film. The following statements are gleaned from the article:

“The film goes far beyond beyond what is reported in the Gospel accounts in terms of raw, bloody violence.”

“It reflects Catholic theology, including a prominence of Mary during the ordeal that is not supported by

the record.”

“Mel Gibson’s history in the movie industry does not portray Christian moral values.”

“One character in the play has been filmed in poses of pornography and perversion.”

Could it be that one of the reasons that the movie is so popular is because of its extreme violence? For a film to be both “Christian” and violent is unusual, to say the least.

We should not diminish or depreciate the intensity and bitterness of His suffering in the garden, the cruel mockings, the crown of thorns, and His death on the cross. But let us be reminded that it was not the level of suffering that atoned for our sins so much as it was the quality of the sacrifice. At Calvary, “God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself.” (2 Cor. 5:19) The suffering and death of the thieves who died with Him did nothing to atone for anyone’s sins.

-DLM



*A friendly dog is liked by old
and young;
He wags his tail and
not his tongue.*



A Widow's Faith in a Great God

Isolina Aguilar as told to Naomi Yoder

Isolina's husband, Santos, pastored a small church in Aguilares and found a job at the Mennonite Children's Home where he worked for one year. He died very suddenly of a heart attack at age 49, leaving Isolina to care for four little boys. She felt deep pain at the loss of her husband, but what she felt even more keenly was that of what would happen to her boys and where she was to go. She had no house of her own.

The day of my husband's burial I cried out to God and told Him that I didn't know what to do. *Lord, give me strength.* Although I was only six weeks from giving birth to our fifth son, I was given a strength in my being that only God can give.

Even though not able to read, I remembered many verses that my husband had taught me. Verses came to my mind on how much God cares for the widow and the fatherless. Another verse that came to my mind was Psalm 37:25, "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his children begging bread." I

claimed those verses believing that God would provide for us.

My two oldest sons stayed at the Mennonite Children's Home for a time, finishing their school year. Since I couldn't provide for five boys, the oldest stayed at the home for one year and the second son for two years.

Leaving my three youngest at home, I washed and ironed for a living, earning \$1.14 a day. My third son was instructed to take care of his youngest brother. He did the best he could. He would put him to bed and he would go off to play with his friends, forgetting that his brother would eventually wake up again. The neighbor lady would end up taking care of him until I came home. When I approached my son about being more responsible for his little brother, he replied, "Yes, Mama, I took care of him but he woke up."

When there was no food in the house, we would fast and pray. Whenever we would pray and ask God to bless us, I would feel a great peace in trusting God. God worked miracles. He sent sharing people to our house with food. My sons never

had to beg nor did we ask for favors, but we trusted God to provide for us.

At times when people came to visit me, they asked, “What are you going to do; what will happen to these boys?” I would tell them that I sure don’t know, but God does and I’ll trust in Him. Then they’d say, “Poor Sister Isolina, how she trusts in God!” Yet others would tell me, “You need to find yourself a man to help you take care of these boys.”

“God is my Father, husband, mother, sister, brother; I don’t need a man,” I told them. “He’s my ALL.” The Lord gave me words to say to these people.

In my prayers I always told the Lord, “These boys are Yours, don’t let them wander away from You and out into the world.” When they were sick with high fevers, I prayed, “Father, please heal them. You know I have no money to take them to the doctor.” God answered my prayers and it often took one little pill and they were okay again.

Prayer was my strength. I was a sinner before God and alone with these boys. I never imagined the marvelous work God would do for me.

My boys learned to pray before they could read. I don’t have anything to repay God. He didn’t give me only a little--He gave me much. I don’t have words to express all that happened to me while I was raising my boys. I never felt as though I were in tribulation. My God always gave me strength to go on.

Today, those same people that questioned Isolina about what she expects would happen to her sons now say to her, “How the Lord has blessed you!”

Isolina’s simple faith and trust in God has been a tremendous challenge to me. Although she’s unable to read the Bible, her prayer life is alive and vibrant. She praises God for His faithfulness to her and for her five sons who are born-again Christians.

As of today, two of her sons are very much involved in the new children’s home in El Salvador. The third son is a pastor; the fourth a pastor’s assistant and the fifth is attending university, studying for a degree in accounting. The three younger sons also teach school at the AMA church school in Aguilares.

[From AMA Newsletter]



Look Up

*Sylvia Kauffman
Allensville, PA*

My friend, if you get lonely, or
Downhearted as you may.
Just look to Christ, He'll help you
And give you strength each day.

Step out in faith, my brother, or
A sister you may be.
It doesn't matter who you are.
Christ said, "I care for thee."

My God sees every flower, when
It dies or fades away.
And how much more does He love you,
Than flow'rs that soon decay.

His love was clearly shown us, when
He died on Calvary.
Christ shed his blood and gave his life,
For folks like you and me.

The invitation's open now,
"Come unto Me and rest;
I'll gladly take the load you bear;
And you can be my guest."

So, friend, let's take the offer and
Just trust to Him our all.
We know He will his promise keep,
And help us not to fall.



Ministers' Meetings Messages—2004

The meetings held on April 6-8 at Abbeville, SC, were hosted by Cold Spring and Cross Hill congregations. Other area congregations also assisted in providing food for the multitude that gathered. The beautiful mild spring weather added to the pleasant time spent together under the gracious hand of God.

The level of inspiration obtained in this year's meetings was very high and hard to measure. In the months ahead, we shall bring highlights from the spoken messages, D.V. Notes from the first two messages follow. -PLM

1. Ministry With Purpose

Gary Raber, Antrim, OH

God has called us to more than an office. We are called to do a work for Him. He gave us this call before we were born. When Jeremiah made excuses about his inability to speak, God told him to go and do what he was assigned to do. We have been separated unto the Gospel of Christ. For this, we must have the touch of God upon our lips and our hearts. Paul in Ephesians wrote that we should "be holy and without blame before Him in love." We must pur-

pose in our hearts that that is what we shall be "to the praise of His glory."

Jesus' heart cry was "that they might **know Thee.**" It is be our heart's cry to know God and Jesus Christ, whom God sent. Paul prayed that he might know Him, and the power of His resurrection. We like that, but what about the fellowship of His sufferings? How does it appeal to us to be made conformable unto His death?

The world takes note when the church works together in harmony. Christ would sanctify and cleanse us by the washing of the water by the Word. He will present unto Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but one that is holy and without blemish before him in love. If we are to fulfill His purpose for the church, we must minister in the Spirit. Unless we are born again by the Spirit of God, we are none of His and we minister in vain.

The life of the church is in Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. We dare not depend on a system. We must obey His Word. We must not depend on a revival series here, or a seminar there. We must be men of God who are filled with the Spirit of God and who preach a simple

and powerful Gospel. We must not depend on our own ability; our sufficiency is of Christ. We sometimes think that we must be witnesses. It is from the outflow of His life within that we are witnesses.

When Jesus prepared Himself to minister, He was led into the desert by the Holy Spirit where He fasted and prayed for forty days. Then He could minister to people in their need. Wherever He went, He touched lives in the power of the Spirit. The people marveled at the gracious words that came from His lips. They were words of comfort, love and healing, not words that were hurtful, degrading and critical. He said that He came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.

He calls us to minister as **servants**, as **shepherds** and as **soldiers**.

Jesus was a servant. Isaiah 42:1-3 says, "Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him; he shall bring forth judgment unto the Gentiles. He shall not cry, not lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: He shall bring forth judgment unto truth."

When Jesus took a towel and washed the feet of his disciples, He tried to comfort and mend hurting

hearts. He seemed to say, "I want to help you and serve you." A servant is under authority. Jesus came to do his Father's will. When we get actively compassionate, we approach life like He did.

Compassion means to be moved to do something. If a caregiver has love for those he serves, it makes a big difference. When the rich young man came to Jesus and did not see his own need, then Jesus beholding him, loved him. He desperately wanted the young man not to turn away. He spoke the truth in love. Nevertheless, the man turned away sorrowful and unhelped.

In our relationships with our people, let us listen well. Let us be open with our people. We have nothing to hide. In Hebrews 4:12-5:2, we are given an explanation of how Jesus came to help us. He has compassion on the ignorant. He is not the elite counselor who exalts Himself over his counselee. We can be like that, when we identify with those we would help.

This applies to our families, to our children. It may require us to say, "I'm sorry, Son, I got mad at you. I shouldn't have said that. I didn't have a right attitude." We should also say that to our people when it's true. It would open the door for healing and for "towel" times of ministry. It's when we realize that we can't

effectively hide anything, that we humble ourselves and “come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy... to help in time of need.”

God’s ministers are shepherds. In John 10:1-5, we find the qualities of a good shepherd. A good shepherd is known by his sheep. Our sheep are our children and “our people.” Do they have confidence to approach us, to ask questions?

A good shepherd knows his sheep. Do you know where your sheep are spiritually? Unless our churches are too big for that, we might say, “I wondered why you weren’t in church on Wednesday night;” or “Is somebody sick at your house?” or “I’m concerned about your being habitually late on Sunday morning; is there something we can help you with?”

We must also commend our people. To that young brother who is starting to wear the beard or that young sister who honors her authorities above her own preference, a good word of affirmation is in order. The young father who diligently trains his children in the way they should go, is to be encouraged.

A good shepherd feeds his sheep. Give them a balanced diet. As no honorable doctor would give pleasant Pepto-Bismol instead of a bitter medicine needed for a much more

serious condition, so we must face the need and preach accordingly. I do not recommend doing personal work over the pulpit. There are ways of “prescribing strong medicine” without attacking people.

A good shepherd leads his sheep. He says, “Come, let’s go.” You can’t drive sheep. Scolding, demanding, belittling and shaming does not work. The difference between demanding obedience and commanding respectful compliance is important. We command respect when we earn it. The minister who says, “It’s time you stop being lazy and get involved in prison ministry,” is not commanding but demanding. He who says, “Would you be willing to go with me to the prison service on Thursday night?” is giving a helpful example as he provides leadership.

Materialism may make our efforts at teaching simplicity and responsible stewardship of little effect if we live in large, elaborate homes, drive new, expensive vehicles and use all the latest technology. While we are free to use things, let us not underestimate the lure of owning many things while we neglect our greater tasks. We are strangers and pilgrims. If our brotherhoods are to make progress against the problem of materialism, it must start with us, the shepherds.

The Good Shepherd gives his life

for the sheep. Good shepherds lay down their lives, as well. We must be available when we are needed. Good shepherds pray for the needs in their flock. Timeliness sees how to nip a problem in the bud. Prevention is much better than putting off action until the situation requires a much bigger solution.

Vision gives us purpose for life. A church without a vision, is like a car without brakes or a horse without a bridle. There is no control. In such a case, almost anything could happen. Vision senses danger ahead.

God wants soldiers. He wants our churches to reproduce, spiritually. How shall we do this? Brethren, let us endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. Soldiers must sound warnings of the enemy nearby.

Let us rise up and build! Let us travail in ministry till Christ be formed in our lives and in our churches!

2. Feeding The Minister's Soul

Menno Kuhns

Sullivan, IL

Matthew 5:6 is our key verse, "Blessed are they **which do** hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled."

2 Corinthians 3:17,18 says: "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding

as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." As we look into God's Word, as in a mirror, we absorb its message into our hearts, into our souls, into our very character. We notice that much of what God says to us, He says through other people. We are also to dig for ourselves for those treasures of divine truth in His Word.

As we study, I hope we hear not only with our intellect, but with our hearts. Hearing with the heart, reading the Scriptures and allowing its truths to penetrate our hearts, that is the goal. When we are given precious truths from personal study of the Word of God, we have gifts from heaven we can get nowhere else.

Hunger is an indication of health. A sick person probably doesn't want to eat very much. I fear that we approach the Bible in too much the same way. A farmer who was lazy, chose the Scripture, "Let your moderation be made known to all men." He was not very consistent, however, and when he sat down to eat, he chose another Scripture; "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might." He had it reversed. We should search the Scripture as if our very life depended on it--IT DOES! A lazy preacher may study just to have something to say, but that will

not bless his people.

The person who is prospering, the Psalmist says in Psalm 1, “his leaf... shall not wither.” As I look over the congregation, I think I’m seeing a few withered leaves. If our delight is in the law of the Lord, I see nothing dreary and unexciting in the Word of God. Do you?

John was invited to eat the little book in the angel’s hand he saw in Revelation 10:10. “it was in my mouth sweet as honey; and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter,” John said. John was further instructed, “Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.” Why was it sweet in his mouth, but bitter in his belly? I don’t know. Wait a while. That’s one of those mysteries I expect to understand better after a while.

“Now we know in part, but then shall we know as also we are known.” That’s another mystery, because it seems to say we will know God as He knows us. I ask, “How can that be, and have God still be omniscient God?” But if we wait, we will know what it means. When I read of all the inhumane activity, the violence and wars in the Old Testament, that’s something of a bitterness to my belly. I know that God has a purpose in having it all recorded. There would be much about the person of God that

we wouldn’t know, if those things were not recorded.

God began to reveal Himself when, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.” Later He gave many prophecies that were fulfilled in minute detail. Even though I find it hard to understand certain things in the Bible, I do not find it hard to believe the Bible. There is only one prophecy still unfulfilled, that is that Jesus will return. I fully expect that one to be fulfilled any time now.

We “are given exceeding great and precious promises, that by these [we] might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust,” according to 2 Peter 1:4.

Job had confidence in God. He said “I esteem the Words of his mouth more than my necessary food.” Why didn’t he say the written word? We believe that Job is the oldest book in the Bible. As far as we know, Job had no written Scriptures to read.

The Bible is the only written communication between God and man. Always remember that! It is absolutely authentic and complete!

I really cringe when some people question the words that Jesus said. If Jesus didn’t mean what He said, show me a man that is qualified to say what He meant. I will take Jesus at His word.

In the past, religious leaders kept the Bible from the people. Many of them could not read. They said that all their people needed to do was to gather and hear the leaders read the Scriptures. Into that setting came Martin Luther, who withstood this and said: “Indeed, thou canst not read the Scriptures too much, and what thou readest, thou canst not read too well, and what thou readest well, thou canst not too well understand, and what thou understandest well, thou canst not too well teach, and what thou teachest well, thou canst not too well live.” One thing he was saying was that the Scriptures deserve to be read the best that we can possibly read them.

It is truly said, “You are what you eat.” What is chewed and swallowed, is assimilated into your bloodstream and nourishes all the various organs of your body. For the Word of God to be assimilated into our lives, a book is not chewed and swallowed. In a deeper sense, the life of the Word becomes life to us as we believe it. The Word of God is more than paper and ink. God’s grace includes divine influence upon the heart.

I miss Bro. Ervin Hershberger today. I know if he were still in this world, and it were possible for him to be here, he would be here. [Ervin went home to be with God last September.] I would often hear

him teach the Word of God. When I heard him, I would listen with awe and say to myself, “What that man knows, I could know, if I would just apply myself.” He knew the names of obscure people in the Bible and the meaning of their names. Bible characters were his personal friends. I think he must be over there now, enjoying the friends in the Bible he got to know through careful and reverent study. And I could hardly even pronounce their names! Types and shadows he understood. He studied the Scriptures, for his heart was in it, and it changed him from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

We must share our heart with our people. Unless it comes from the heart, it may only be a talent show and a display of knowledge. The knowledge of the holy is understanding. That speaks of our relationship with Him, which is built upon our experiences with Him. Our knowledge of Him is enhanced by earnest study of the Scriptures.

I would to God that every one of our people would hunger and thirst after God. If that were a reality, there would be no more church splits and no more broken relationships. And many other struggles we now have, would be no more.

Truth and righteousness are Siamese

twins. They belong together and will always stay together. For the children of God, He promises this: "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." When you are free, you are pronounced righteous in the sight of God. And you will be walking in His ways, when you hunger and thirst for his righteousness.

God really wants us enjoy Him. For many years I was scared of God. He struck our barn with lightning and burned it down. It was rebuilt. Four years later he struck the new barn and burned that down. My dad cried. I realized that that was an act of God. I thought He was enjoying Himself

scaring me. Every time another storm came up, I thought God was after me again. I didn't enjoy Him, because I didn't know Him. We are created to glorify God and to enjoy Him. Now that I am learning to know Him, I enjoy God. He is the dearest friend I ever had.

One may be ever so religious, but it avails nothing unless Jesus is living within. We cannot give it to each other. Each of us must be born again and washed in the blood of Christ. He alone sets us free to love and serve Him.



My Mother's House

*Mary Ellen Beachy
Dundee, OH*

[One song of yesteryear carried this line, "What makes a happy family? Listen and I will tell...." If you are a grandparent and wonder what to do for your grandchildren, you may find useful ideas in response to that question here.

*When distance separates grandparents and grandchildren, visits are rare. Then anticipation and enjoyment intensify. Let neither generation take the other for granted.
-PLM]*

My mother's house will never make it into *Good Housekeeping*. It is not fine or fancy. Yet all my children love it there. It is "children friendly."

Grandma herself is its biggest attraction. She is never too busy to sit and talk. She loves children and takes time to play Memory, or checkers or Tower Climb.

She has no fancy dishes or knick-knacks sitting around that little hands may not touch. But there are Tinker-

toys out in plain sight, just waiting to be enjoyed. A box of Lego blocks are in a corner behind the recliner. A shelf in the corner of the living room overflows with colorful children's books. More books are on a low table in front of the sofa. Mom welcomes my children on her lap for a cozy story time.

I sometimes envy those who live close to their mother's house. We have 450 miles to travel. Without question, all our children love to go visit Grandma and Grandpa. They enjoy the old fashioned marble roller that sits in the sewing room. My six-year-old remembers the magnetic letters on their refrigerator. The older ones remember the collection of bathtub toys that my brothers played with in my childhood.

Mother loves to read. She has stacks of books and magazines in every room. I have no fear that my children will find a book of adverse influence. Mother believes in having only books that are upbuilding and edifying.

Mother loves to help children enjoy the great outdoors. My heart is warmed when I look out her window and see her walking hand-in-hand with my three-year-old son, enjoying

fresh air, sunshine and the antics of lambs and kids.

Mother gives my children individual attention. She admired the drawings of my nine-year-old. So he drew a special picture just for her. She gave him affirmation by getting him to read a story aloud. She invited him, "I would like if you would write me a letter and draw a picture for me each week." The idea appealed to him.

Mother wants me to have a vacation when we go "home." She loves it when I sit to read or rest. I appreciate that, but I also like to do things for her, like working in flower beds or cleaning while she plays with and cares for my little boys.

We, my mother and I, appreciate each other intensely. Partings are hard. We wish we wouldn't live so far apart. Bless her heart, she says the most important thing is that I have a faithful, Christian husband and so she accepts it as God's will for me to live so far away.

No, my mother's house is not fine and fancy. But it is full of what really matters--time for people, affection and care. No wonder we all just love it there.



My Castle of Dreams

Lois Whitt

Montezuma, GA

On the crystal sands of my shore of life,
I built a castle tall.
Its gables were in splendor wrought;
I thought it had no flaw.

The great stained windows through which I gazed
Reflected my manmade dreams.
Those fortress walls with gold o'erlaid
Rose high with silvery gleams.

But then, one day, on my azure shore,
There gathered a dark storm cloud.
The rain fell fast with destructive force,
And with lightning and thunder loud.

Those waves that seemed so far away
Were even now drawing near.
As their pounding beat upon the walls,
My heart trembled in fear.

And then those once-tranquil waves,
Reached out with an icy hand.
Crumbling my castle so perfectly made,
Into tiny bits on the sand.

As I huddled there, near my crumbled dreams,
My tears now mixed with the rain,
My soul trembled with the ruin;
My heart throbbed with the pain.

And then I felt a comforting arm,
And a voice whispered softly, "Trust Me,
I'll see you through this heart-rending blow,
I'll calm this raging sea."

As I laid myself in the arms of God,
He commanded the storm, "Be still."
A wonderful peace crept over me,
He my wounded heart did fill.

The Master of waves then took my hand,
And led me to higher ground.
Where He ministered to my crying heart,
And in Him new peace I found.

He said, "Dear child, if you'd ask of Me,
I could your dreams unfold.
But you heeded not my offered hand,
Seemed drawn toward the ocean wild.

"You thought you knew better than I,
And built your castle grand
Right on the shore, where the breakers roll,
And upon self's sinking sand.

"Child, if you'd give me those crumbled remains,
I'd repair them now for you,
I'd put together a masterpiece,
If I help you start anew.

"But, child, you must move to higher ground,
Far above this sandy shore,
To a rock that's forever anchored in Me,
Where breezes blow and eagles soar."



Our Talents

Mary June Glick

“**W**hat is that in thine hand?” God asks Moses this question in Exodus 4:2. According to Matthew 25:14-30, God gives each of us talents. [One unit of currency in New Testament times was called a talent, but it also applies to the abilities given by God.] Those who use their talents will be blessed with more. Often we become so busy with our daily work and responsibilities that we neglect to use the talents God gave us.

We may also look at others and think, *If I could only do what they are doing, then I would be happy.* We may be afraid to take risks or to try in fear that we won’t do well enough. We forget that our talents will mature and blossom with time and effort. There is something that is uniquely “right” for each of us to do. As we cheerfully work on the few things, God will entrust us with more.

How do we find our talents? First, we need to be willing to be used. It can be rather scary, but we need to be available to help on different projects and activities. We may find that we enjoy something if we just give it a

try. Then there are things we could learn to do, even though we don’t think we would enjoy them. I have never enjoyed sewing and yet when we lived in Belize, sewing classes were my favorite contact with the women of the village.

I think of an elderly woman who has used her talent of sewing to bless hundreds of needy children with dresses though the years. Many others have sewed warm comforters for relief. In heaven, I think it is quite possible that someone will be thanked for bringing them to faith in Jesus Christ through giving them a warm comforter or dress.

How many of you have a story in your mind that you like to share with someone? Write it down and take the risk of sending it to a periodical. It may be rejected, but try again. You may be thinking of encouragement you would like to give to young mothers. Is there a poem that is stirring within you? There are those who can write songs and others who can supply the music. Grab your pencil and find a quiet corner and write.

Do you enjoy gardening? How

about sharing some extra produce with a neighbor? Or how about a creating a bouquet of flowers for an elderly person? They won't criticize your flower arranging abilities. You may be surprised at how your ability will grow as you continue practicing it.

Is cooking a talent? Yes, it certainly is for some women. It provides a wonderful opportunity to bless others by taking a meal to a sick mother or inviting people in to your home. Women with a talent for cooking will enjoy trying new recipes. The kitchen becomes their place of

ministry.

I may not have mentioned your special talent. Just remember that we can't limit God with what He would do with us. Life is an adventure as we use our abilities and talents for His glory. We can never know what surprise God has for us around the next bend of the road. God will use us as long as we are willing to be used.

We all want to stand before God one day and hear these words of commendation and welcome: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."



junior messages

We Never Go

Anne Miller

Quaker City, OH

"Daddy, may we go see the Fourth of July fireworks in town this year? Everyone else is going!" insisted Kendall.

"I know. It's not fair that we can't ever go!" wailed Jenna.

"Fireworks are not necessarily wrong in themselves, except that they are a terrible waste of money. Some families blow up hundreds

of dollars in one single night. Just think of how many poor people all that money could feed and clothe," Daddy replied, trying to make the children think.

"You went last year with your cousins, while Mama and Daddy were gone on their anniversary trip," Mama reminded their five children. "However, I agree with Daddy that

this does not mean we should take you this year.”

“One thing that really bothers me,” Daddy continued, “is that we Mennonites go to town and mingle with everyone else to watch this patriotic show, but when there’s war, we say we are conscientious objectors and refuse to go fight. Kendall, how do you think the neighbors would feel if they saw you, year after year in town, enjoying the fireworks that honor the USA, but when you are older and the USA is at war, you refuse to go? Will the officers really believe that you have a strong conscience against going to war? We want to be consistent. In World Wars 1 and 2 the Mennonites and their boys were scorned and hated because they did not go to war, while their own boys were being killed. Today it is too easy for us to compromise.”

Kendall and Jenna looked rather crestfallen. “Why do we need to be so different from everyone else?” Kendall sighed.

“We need to think ahead, how the things we do today affect our future. The fireworks are beautiful, and it may be all right to watch them sometimes, but wouldn’t it be better to see them on a neutral day than on July 4th, when so many Americans watch them with patriotic feelings?” suggested Mama.

“Mama, what does patriotic

mean?” seven-year-old Rachele wanted to know.

“Patriotic means loving your country very much, thinking it is the best. People show they’re patriotic by flying the flag in front of their homes, or by going to war and being willing to die for their country,” answered Mama.

“We love our country very much,” continued Daddy, smiling encouragingly at the children. “However, we need to remember that our citizenship is not here on earth but in heaven.* We are pilgrims and strangers while living here.”

“I still wish we could go,” Jenna sighed.

“I know; I do, too,” agreed Kendall. “But what you said, Daddy, does make sense even though I don’t understand it all.”

“You’ll understand more as you grow older. But for now, Mama and I appreciate your cheerful obedience,” finished Daddy lovingly.

*[*Perhaps we could say it this way: Our primary citizenship is heavenly. We actually hold a dual citizenship. Thus we carry passports when we travel internationally. We accept other civil rights, such as owning property, while being careful not to have our earthly privileges overrule our heavenly loyalties. -PLM]*



Worker Needs

at Mountain View Nursing Home

Nurse Aides--2 in July; 2 in September

Orderlies--2 **NOW**; 2 in September

Kitchen--1 **NOW**; 1 in August

Housekeeping Aide--**NOW**

Activities Aide--**NOW**

Openings for short-term workers for the summer building and maintenance projects are available.

Please contact: **Mark Webb**

at 1776 Elly Rd., Aroda, VA 22709 (540)948-6831

E-mail address: Markwebb4@Juno.com.

Those traveling the highway of humility
won't be bothered by heavy traffic.



THOUGHT GEMS

The next time you are feeling down, think of all the terrible things that didn't happen to you.

• • • • •

Flattery may be somewhat like chewing gum-- we enjoy it briefly, but we don't swallow it.

• • • • •

Plant a little gossip, and you will reap a harvest of regret.

• • • • •

The surest way to happiness is to lose yourself in a cause greater than yourself.

• • • • •

A broken home is the world's greatest wreck.

• • • • •

Wisdom is saying the right thing, even when it means saying nothing.

• • • • •

It is better to teach children the roots of labor than to hand them the fruits of yours.

• • • • •

It is possible to learn from an enemy things we won't learn from a friend.

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

Periodicals