



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

Galatians 6:14

JULY 2004

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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.

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“Dear God...”

Kaylene Miller

Leitchfield, KY

Right now life looks so hard
 So empty—so pointless.
 Why was I ever born?
 I’m so sinful, so stubborn,
 It’s so hard to give up my own will.
 I cling to it desperately.

And yet, I know
 I can never be truly happy until
 I give everything to You,
 I long for peace, for joy;
 For meaning in life.
 Sometimes I think I can’t go on any
 more.

Why can’t I get rid of these struggles?
 Everyone else looks so happy.
 They seem to be living in victory.
 I’m alone—You seem so far away.
 Oh God, if I ever needed You, it’s
 now.
 Please hold me—don’t let me go
 under.

But wait, I hear a whisper,
 “Dear child, I never meant
 For you to bear these burdens alone.
 I hear every prayer.
 I see every tear;
 I feel every hurt you feel.

“Give Me your burden, I’ll carry it
 for you.
 I am willing to forgive you;

I’ll give you grace for every problem
 you face.
 I created you; I know your frame
 I’ll never give you more than you
 can bear.
 Come close to Me, my child.”

Oh, what joy, what praise in my heart!
 I am not alone!
 God does really care about me.
 He’s reached down and touched my
 heart.
 He’s cleansed and forgiven me.
 Now there’s meaning in life!

Each day is a new opportunity
 To live for my Lord,
 To witness to others
 Of God’s saving grace,
 To let them know that He can
 change lives.
 And make life worth living.

He took all my fears,
 Gave me peace that no one and
 nothing
 Can ever take away.
 “O, God, I thank You,
 From the depths of my soul.
 For Your saving, keeping power.
 For making my life whole again.
 I want to serve you forever. Amen”

Academic Freedom or Scriptural Integrity?

One of the marks of the modern, “informed” mind is that of academic freedom. Since no question is forbidden, some assume that any response is of equal validity. That appearance is false.

Let’s say I may raise any question I can devise. I must, if my inquiry is honest, allow for an answer. While you cannot answer every question my truth-resistant mind can devise, that fact itself proves very little. God’s truth is found by those who really want it.

If I ask, but want only to titillate the imagination, I will find no safe and solid answer. If I despise absolute truth, I will not be satisfied with the answer the Master Designer of the Universe gives. God has provided us with His Holy Spirit-inspired Word. Since that is sufficient, I cannot expect Him to devise something else for me.

His will revealed in His holy Word is enough.

I accept the proposition that the Bible declares God’s will for my life. Can I prove that to everyone’s satisfaction? Probably not. But I believe it enough to place the well-being of my eternal soul upon it. I rest my fears and doubts on that divine proposition.

If I am wrong, I trust Him to show me.

If I am right, He will keep His promises and reward me for accepting His Son as the answer to life’s great questions. **Jesus Christ is my Savior and Lord.**

Tell me, what have I to lose if I am wrong? What if the Bible is false and some day “I die like a dog”? What have I missed out on? Absolutely nothing! The way of Christ is a good path. I have His promises. “No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.” (Psa. 84:11b; Note also Psa. 34:10) And what do I have to gain if I’m right? Everything good for time and eternity.

If you doubt that God said

what He meant and still means what He says in His Word, what have you lost? It is too horrible to contemplate!

Let me live and die with the Lord Jesus at my side. He has said, "I will never leave thee or forsake thee." (Heb. 13:5) I trust Him to tell only the truth.

I love Him. Count me a disciple of Christ. That way life makes sense. Otherwise, life seems almost a cruel joke and not a funny one at that.

•••••

Several people have helped me with credit for the song, "Give Me This Mountain." My wife, Martha, was the first to find it. And she found it "right under my nose" on a shelf of song books at home. It's strange that I didn't think of asking her for help, but not stranger than life itself, in which many struggle for direction, when God stands ready to help all who sincerely ask Him.

Frank and Flora Garlock composed the song referred to in the June editorial. Thanks to all who were willing to help.

•••••

I am fortunate to have obtained from Marvin and Mildred Yoder, Meyersdale, PA, a file of back copies of every *Calvary Messenger* I yet lacked. These were stored in Bro. Ervin Hershberger's collection. While I have not yet gone through every issue of every year, I believe I will be able to go back and make available anything published from January, 1970, to the present. If you ask for something, I will appreciate it to have you give me the date of publication as precisely as possible.

Should some of Bro. Ervin's inspiring writings be reprinted in the times before us? Give it some thought and let me know. Be free to make nominations of articles you wish to see published again. Thank you.

-PLM



As long as your
CONSCIENCE is your friend,
never mind about
your **ENEMIES**.

How Am I Driving?

In May, 2004, Eli M. Yoder. I think this article will bring some interesting comments. I loved it. Written with just a dollop of humor. A classic. His use of "Miserable comforter!" was funny. A little humor goes a long way in a religious publication, yet too much is too much. This article was a perfect blend. Mr. Yoder should write more.

The Christian's Relationship to the State

Subtitle: Capital Punishment and the Christian

May, 2004. A very broad and fascinating subject. In John 8, Jesus addressed this question. To the woman facing death and to her accusers, He said, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." (verse 7)

It seems crystal clear to me. Nearly all supporters of the death penalty cite the Old Testament, deliberately excluding what Jesus Christ said.

Robert J. Zani
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I'd Be Happy

*Harold Troyer
Belleville, PA*

If I could wipe the sliding tear
And calm some human's
trembling fear
Or draw the crying infant near,
I'd be happy.

If I could send a get-well card
To cheer someone who has it hard
Or counsel men in prison barred,
I'd be happy.

If I could sing some cheery note
And be the sad heart's antidote,
Or help another's burden tote,
I'd be happy.

If I could pray for secret heart
Though we be many miles apart
Inspire their soul like sunset's
art,
I'd be happy.



CALVARY BIBLE SCHOOL

ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Beginning in 2005, Calvary Bible School will be offering two 3-week terms followed by one 6-week term. This will make three terms over a period of twelve weeks.

2. The following changes are being planned for the third term: Each class will run as a six-week course

—There will be four, 75-minute class periods per school day.

—Each student will be expected to take three classes.

—Time required to complete related assignments outside of class may be approximately the

same as time spent in class.

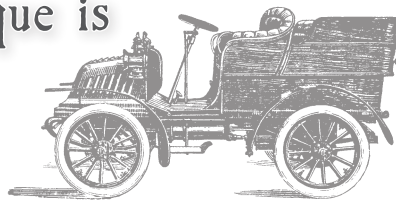
—Enrollment will be limited to 60 students.

3. An extensive renovation of the main building upstairs is being planned for later this summer. The intent is to provide better living facilities for teaching staff and their families. Some funds are already on hand for this project, but additional funds will be needed. There may be a later notice regarding labor needs. Funds should be sent to our treasurer: Tim Stoltzfus, 1311 Maplewood Rd., Harrison, AR 72601

The Bible School Board



The best antique is
an old friend.



The Cost of Religion

Daniel Kauffman (1865-1944)

From Gospel Herald, March 20, 1913

[Isn't it amazing how much conditions and needs among us today are similar to 90 years ago, when this was first published? - PLM]

The following, taken from the *Reformed Church Messenger*, carries with it its own comments:

“In one of the great interdenominational missionary meetings, a speaker talking very frankly, said: ‘Taking your own figures, let me say in the first place that religion is cheap in this city. I am afraid it costs you too little. I think you would appreciate your religion more if it cost you more.’ But what this speaker said is true generally of all communities.

“Taking this whole country over, we all spend for the maintenance of the churches of this country but \$250,000,000, an average of about \$7 per member. There are those who tell us that it costs too much to belong to the Church. But in the face of figures like that, they should not only be silent but ashamed.

“Our bill for soft drinks

is bigger. America's bill for automobiles costs twice as much as it costs to run the churches. Her jewelry bill costs three times as much. The same may be said of our entertainments. We need not mention other things which readily occur to our minds. As a matter of fact, religion is remarkably cheap.

“When we remember that it stands for the best things in life, for the things that save and cleanse, relieve, purify, and make strong; when we remember the price that Christ paid and what great leaders of the Church in days past endured that the faith once delivered to the saints might be ours, the cost to us of our religion seems pitifully small.”

It is a fact that people look too much at the cost of religion and not enough at the gain. But money is only a small item in the cost of religion. Religion costs, in the first place, the death of our old man, after which it means one continuous life of self-denial. Yet it is the best investment that any one can make. Fear not to invest heavily, for “he that

soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”

Furthermore, look at...

The Cost of Irreligion

Did you ever stop to consider what it costs not to be a Christian? Esau, for the sake of a mere mess of pottage, sold his birthright. While feasting upon his bountiful meal he looked upon his birthright with contempt. [His thought was] what good would the birthright do him after he had starved to death; but after he had devoured the price of his birthright and found himself just as needy as he would have been had he never seen the pottage, he realized what he had done and vainly “sought repentance with tears.”

So [it is] with the man who for the sake of gratifying the present desires of the flesh despises his eternal birthright. With him it is, “Let us eat, drink, and be merry;

for—.” Here the devil calls a halt and makes him believe that tomorrow he will [more] likely look after the interests of his soul.

Irreligion [is outrageously expensive! It] costs—

1. The sweet peace of God within the soul, which can only be had through the presence and infilling of the Holy Comforter.

2. That purity and goodness which can only be had through the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus.

3. That highest form of usefulness which is enjoyed by those only who spend their lives in helping others into the Kingdom.

4. A place at the right hand of God in the realms of eternal glory.

“What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?”



To Laugh or Not to Laugh

Dale Eby

Dundee, NY

Laughter is a life-changing gift to mankind. It has been proven that people who laugh

much have better health than do people who do not laugh. Dr. Clifford Kuhns reports that children, ages three to five, laugh

250-300 times a day, while adults ages 30-35 average laughing only 15 times a day. Does this mean then that laughter is always appropriate and good? Hardly.

“Scientists have been studying the effect of laughter on human beings and have found, among other things, that **laughter has a profound and instantaneous effect on virtually every important organ in the human body.** Laughter reduces health-sapping tensions and relaxes the tissues as well as exercising the most vital organ. According to *Executives’ Digest*, laughter, even when forced, results in beneficial effect on us, both mentally and physically.”

Scriptures corroborate this. Verses like, **“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones”** (Pro. 17:22) and **“A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken”** (Pro. 15:13). Let us acknowledge that God has purpose in laughter. We have likely seen how it can change one’s day to be involved in good, hearty laughter.

What makes us laugh? The causes of laughter during our day may be as varied as our personalities, but dry humor or a

witty joke is a quick way to bring a smile and some mirth. There are people who come up with the funniest comment at just the right time. Seeing others laugh can be infectious and make one laugh at the least expected times.

Laughter has an involuntary element to it, but laughter is also voluntary, for which we are responsible. Scripture tells us we are responsible for our actions, attitudes and words, thus we need to guard what we laugh at, as well as when we laugh at it. **It is not always right or appropriate or consistent with Christian testimony to laugh.**

Laughter deserves a conscious decision. The Bible says that there is “...a time to laugh, and a time to refrain from laughing.” (Eccl. 3:4) Sometimes there is extreme pressure to join in with laughter that hurt someone’s feelings or belittled them. Derision or scorn for people or what they value is not good humor. Laughter at the expense of someone else’s feelings is cruel. As Christians, we must consciously decide to refrain from this kind of laughter, realizing that laughter condones what triggered it while refusing to laugh squelches the fun. **When we find that we have hurt**

another, it is our responsibility to make amends.

Who and what we laugh at is our responsibility. If we live upright lives, we may become laughing stock to those around us, like Nehemiah (Neh. 2:19), or Job (Job 12:4), or Jesus (Matt. 9:24). Let's make sure we are not amused when someone is ridiculed.

There is a time not to laugh because sin is made less serious than it should be. We have the opportunity by laughing or not laughing to make serious things seem too light. **If laughter condones a sinful action, we need to realize that this makes an impact for approval.** How can we instruct children about the seriousness of sin when there is no sorrow expressed over it, and even chuckling about it? **If sin becomes a laughing matter, we are hypocritical and will lose our effectiveness in raising our children for Christ.** Even children's "cute" antics often reveal their sinful nature. Parents wisely keep a

straight face.

The Bible says, "For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool: This also is vanity" (Prov. 6:6). I was once in the presence of people who were listening to a tape of laughter. All that was on the tape was of different people laughing. It seemed like laughter simply for the sake of laughter.

Even though four-year-olds laugh 275 times a day, this does not mean an adult who has put away childishness will do so, too. Our laughter must not be empty, vain, and foolish. It has been wisely said, "We are not to stop laughing, but some time in growing up, we must start taking seriously the things we choose to laugh at, recognizing that our mirth shall be in harmony with the Spirit-filled life."

Let us be ready to laugh when it fits. It will do us good and will impact the world around us. Use it freely and use it wisely. Laughter is a good gift, that when used right, pleases our Maker and our Master.

NO ONE IS SAVED BY BUYING
A BIBLE HE DOES NOT READ;
AND NO ONE IS SAVED BY READING
A BIBLE HE DOES NOT OBEY.



marriage

Stauffer-Zehr

Bro. Karl, son of Susan and the late Charles Stauffer, Sturgis, MI, and Sis. Lois, dau. of Lester and Wilma Zehr, Grabill, IN, at County Line Church of God for Ridgeview A.M. Church, on Jan. 10, 2004 by Lester Zehr.

May the home established by this marriage be a little substation of heaven, where God reigns and His blessings flow.



cradle roll

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

Beachy, Clayton and Twila (Yoder), Bastrop, TX, third child, second son, Louis Paul, May 24, 2004.

Beachy, David Lee and Michelle (Hershberger), Free Union, VA, first child and son, Adam Pierre, April 16, 2004.

DeYoung, Robert and Miriam (Bender), Laurel, DE, second child and dau., Hannah May, May 10, 2004.

Graber, Laban and Regina (Miller), Caneyville, KY, fourth child, third dau., Ruth Elaine, Mar. 26, 2004.

Herschberger, Jason and Dorcas (Nisly), Arcola, IL, third child, second son, Kade Edward, May 7, 2004.

Kaufman, Steve and Arlene (Strubhar), West Farmington, OH, first child and son, Jared Valor, April 6, 2004.

Kemp, Jonathan and Rebecca (Knepp), Loogootee, IN, fourth child, second dau., Doretta Faye, April 4, 2004.

King, Floyd and Wilma (Petersheim), Honeybrook, PA, third child, second son, Trevor David, May 1, 2004.

Miller, Jeremy and Marla (Bender), Rural Retreat, VA, third child, first son, Westin Lavern, May 20, 2004.

Miller, Lloyd and Ruthie (Fisher), London, OH, third child, first son, Micah James, April 17, 2004.

Miller, Titus and JoAnn (Beachy), Suceava, Romania, first child and dau., Talitha Ruth, May 15, 2004.

Miller, Wayne and Rhoda (Kemp), Auburn, KY, second child (one deceased), and dau., Rachel Mae, Mar. 12, 2004.

Nisly, Larry and Amy (Yoder), Freeport, OH, second child, first dau., Morgan Jo, May 6, 2004.

Peachy, Richard and Twila (Miller), Lewisburg, PA, second child and son, Logan Brent, May 27, 2004.

Petersheim, Christ, Jr., and Ruth (King), Gap, PA, seventh child, fifth dau., Carmen Joy, April 28, 2004.

Stoltzfus, Lloyd and Sara Ellen (Stoltzfus), Port Royal, PA, eighth child, second son, Amos Clyde, June 2, 2004.

Yoder, Henry and Norma (Hochstetler), Clarkson, KY, second child and dau., Daisy LaShae, Jan. 14, 2002. Adopted May 4, 2004.

Yoder, Jonathan and Connie (Yoder), Montezuma, GA, fourth child, first son, Jenson John, May 8, 2004.

Yoder, Michael and Heather (Henderson), Aroda, VA, first child and dau., Glorianna Marie, May 7, 2004.

Yoder, Vernon Jay and Naomi Joy (Yoder), Burr Oak, MI, third child and son, Dakota Jay, Mar. 12, 2004.



ordinations

Bro. Kenneth Beachy, 36, was ordained to the office of minister at Haven Fellowship, Plain City, OH, May 23, 2004. Preordination messages were brought by Oren Yoder, Hutchinson, KS.

The charge was given by Lonnie Beachy, assisted by Oren and Mark Yoder. Sharing the lot was Nate Yoder.

Bro. Floyd Yoder, 38, Newcomerstown, OH, was ordained to the ministry Nov. 9, 2003, to serve at Salem A. M. church.

The charge was given by Roman B. Mullet, assisted by Jonas J. E. Miller.

Preordination messages were given by Robert Miller. Also in the lot were Marion Mullet and James Richard Mullet.

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



Graber, Mary (Schwartz), 86, died at Parkview Hospital, Ft. Wayne, IN, Jan. 14, 2004. She was born Dec. 25, 1917, in Allen County, IN, the daughter of Rudolph and Fannie (Stauffer) Schwartz.

She was a member of Ridgeview Amish Mennonite Church.

On Feb. 27, 1936, she was married to Jesse Graber. He is deceased. Surviving are eight children, 42 grandchildren, and 115 great-grandchildren. The children are: Fannie Marie (Alvin) Lengacher, Harlan, IN; Betty (John) Witmer, Grabill, IN; Rebecca (the late Menno) Lengacher, New Haven, IN; Mary Mae (Vern) Steury, Harlan, IN; Jesse, Jr., Middlebury, IN; Melvin (Emma), Spencerville, IN; Denis (Dorothy), Leo, IN. A brother, Menno Schwartz, New Haven, IN, survives.

Preceding her in death were her parents, a brother, Chris; daughter, Rosalie; three grandchildren and two great-granddaughters.

Funeral services were held at the Rebecca Lengacher residence on Jan. 17, with Dan Schmucker and Daniel Schwartz serving. Burial was in the Milan Center Amish Cemetery, with the committal by Bill Hochstetler.

Miller, William D., 69, died at his home, April 26, 2004. He was born August 8, 1934, in LaGrange County, IN, son of Daniel and Susie (Mast) Miller.

He was a faithful member at Fair Haven A.M. Church. Ordained as deacon May 18, 1966, he was diligent in visiting the sick and elderly.

On Dec. 3, 1953, he was married to Edna Ellen Miller. She survives. Also surviving are their three children: Glenn (Esther), Middlebury; Wilbur (Marilyn) Miller, Middlebury; and Maynard (Rhoda), Goshen, and eight grandchildren.

Other survivors include a sister, Anna (Mrs. Lester Miller), Skidmore, TX; and a brother, Wilbur (Mary Esther) Miller, Topeka, IN.

Preceding him in death were his parents, a brother, David, and a grandson, Jared Miller.

Funeral services were held at Woodlawn Church for Fair Haven, with Wilbur Yoder and Dan B. Miller serving. Burial was in the Thomas Cemetery, Goshen.

Stoll, Sarah (Hostetler) (Miller), 93, died after several months of poor health May 9, 2004, at Centreville, MI. She was born Nov. 4, 1910, at Somerset, PA, daughter of Solomon and Anna (Troyer) Hostetler.

She was a member of Pilgrim Fellowship Church, Nottawa, MI. She was married to Ammon J. Miller, Feb. 18, 1940. He died Sept. 16, 1976. Surviving are seven children, 26 grandchildren and 51 great-grandchildren. These children are: Alvin Ray (Martha) Miller, Goshen, IN; Floyd A. (Joan) Miller, Centreville;

Anna Mae (Levi) Mast, GA; Barbara (Moses, Jr.) Yoder, Centreville; Reuben (Esther) Miller, Sarasota, FL; Susie Marie (Howard) Schmucker, Sarasota, FL; and Raymond (Rosetta) Miller, Middlebury, IN.

She was married from 1978 to 1984 to Levi Stoll. His children are: David (and Edith) Stoll, Doris Stoll, Lewis (and Ruth) Stoll and Ann (and Victor) Wagler. Also surviving are 32 step grandchildren, and 156 step great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were a son, Marvin Jay Miller, three sisters, four brothers, and one grandchild.

Funeral services were held May 12 at Locust Grove Mennonite Church, with John Miller and Abe Schwartz serving. Assisting were Levi Mast, Abe Stoll and Greg Miller. Interment was in the Oak Grove Cemetery.

Yoder, Roseann (Lengacher), 95, died Sept. 28, 2003, at Hickory Ridge Nursing Home, Hicksville, OH, from complications of a broken hip. She was born June 20, 1908, at Woodburn, IN, the daughter of Peter and Rosina Lengacher.

She was a member of Ridgeview A.M. Church.

On May 3, 1931, she was married to Jacob Yoder, who served many years as a minister, and is deceased. They had three children: Catherine (Freeman) Schlabach, Plain City, OH; Edwin (Ada) Yoder, Middlebury, IN; Paul (Joan) Yoder, Hicksville, OH. Also

surviving are 14 grandchildren and 42 great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were brother Menno and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Ridgeview A.M. Church with Lester Zehr and Bill Hochstetler officiating. Burial was in the Stauffer Cemetery, with John Yoder conducting the committal.

King, Jensen Samuel, 5 weeks, went to be with Jesus Sept. 10, 2003. He was born July 31, 2003, second child of Myron and Mary Ellen (Yoder) King. The reason for his death was a genetic disorder, epidermolysis bullosa.

Survivors include his parents, his grandparents: David and Sara Yoder and David S. and Martha King and great-grandfather Eli B. King. An infant brother, Derek Austin, preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held at Valley View Church, with Eli King, David King and Daniel Pollard serving. Burial was in the Locust Grove Cemetery.

Safe With Jesus

Martha King

Jensen is now safe with Jesus
In His tender arms of love;
Resting sweetly and so peaceful
In those mansions up above!

Jensen is now safe with Jesus
Safe from the stormy winds that blow;
None of this earthly sorrow
Will He ever need to know!

Jensen is now safe with Jesus
Free from earthly pain and woe;
Safe within those gates of glory
Never tempted by the foe!

Jensen is now safe with Jesus
There's no health problem there:
For his body is so perfect
As he rests in Jesus' care!

Jensen is now safe with Jesus
Heaven's blessings to enjoy;
No heartaches or tears in heaven
Nothing will his peace annoy!

Jensen is now safe with Jesus
There is peace in knowing this:
He is safe within the portals
Resting in eternal bliss!

Mama, Daddy, relatives and all
Trust in God's salvation plan;
Live for Jesus and be faithful
Then we'll meet in heaven's
bright land.

Emmanuel Lapp

I wish to thank my many brothers and sisters in the Lord far and wide who prayed for my husband, Emmanuel, throughout the 26 years he was a prodigal. He passed away on May 6, 2004, at the age of 59.

In October, 2003, he began complaining of severe headaches. A few weeks later, he developed double

vision, a fuzzy feeling in his face and pain in his nose. Finally, after three different CAT scans and a biopsy in February, he was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor behind his nose that was eating away the bone of his skull. It was a form of myeloma.

A blood clot caused his instant death, after three hospital stays and three weeks of chemotherapy and radiation.

The weeks of his illness did not end as we had hoped and prayed they would. But we choose to rest in the sovereignty of God, His infinite wisdom, His perfect love and His absolute trustworthiness.

His hospital visits gave the children opportunity to sit by his bed and to shower him with their love and God's love. That brought a measure of healing to them.

The weeks of his illness, his death and the funeral were painful and complicated for us as a family, but we experienced a marvelous outpouring of God's grace upon us.

Emmanuel told his children and others, "Don't do what I did." To all who may experience an allurements to the world and what it has to offer, please know it is not worth what you pay for it. The price of the fleeting pleasures of sin is extremely high.

Elizabeth Lapp
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721 Meadow Drive
Honey Brook, PA 19344



A person with Choice Books, Tom Newsom, was servicing a rack in Miami when he suddenly noticed the once famous (infamous) O. J. Simpson. He now looked overweight, old and graying. Knee trouble made walking difficult for him. He was complaining to a clerk that “nothing is free.” Tom Newsom quickly got a book from the van and told him, “This is free.” As he gave the astonished Mr. Simpson the book, *Don’t Throw in the Towel*, by Simon Schrock, he told him that he could do one of several things—like neglecting it or destroying it, but he strongly recommends reading it.

Despite the negative reputation of this person, he is one for whom Christ died. He is a potential candidate for repentance and eternal life. Newsom is quoted as follows: “You never know who God is going to put in our path and what opportunities we have every day to encourage those around us through a smile, a conversation or a good book.”



Speaking of Choice Books,

reader response indicates that good books can lead to conversion. One respondent reports that her mother, past 80, has accepted the Savior because of Choice Books that she read.

Choice Books has a goal of marketing 4.25 million books in 2004. As of March 31, the total was 1.78 million. This is about 200,000 more than the same time in 2003.



Wisconsin has about 12,000 Amish, the fourth largest Amish population after Ohio with 54,000; Pennsylvania with 50,000; and Indiana with 36,000. There are 42 settlements in Wisconsin, second only to PA, with 48. More are anticipated.

Urban sprawl, high land prices and tourism causes some PA Amish to want to move. Wisconsin has become a major attraction. Land prices have risen more than 50% to around \$1800 per acre. Curtiss Freymiller, a real estate agent, says he could have buyers for more that 50 farms, if he could find the farms. This information is taken from *The Chicago Tribune*, 3-29-04.



It occurs to me that rummage sales, land fills, storage barns and other facilities have a common

thread: surplus stuff. Pastor Clarence Rempel from First Mennonite Church in Newton, Kansas, has a thought-provoking article in *The Mennonite*, 4-20-04, entitled, "The Power of Enough." He reports that in the 1950's, the average house was 900 square feet. In the 1070's this had grown to 1400 square feet, usually including a double garage. Now the average size is 2300 sq. ft., often including a triple garage. The reason for this trend seems obvious. Generally speaking, we are getting more and more stuff.

The article also reports that the number of licensed cars now in this country now exceeds the number of licensed drivers.

Abundance of stuff does not translate into contentment. Lynn Miller is quoted as saying that the best selling medication in this country is an anti-anxiety pharmaceutical. Pastor Rempel appeals to us to reject this consumer mentality. Rather than to use up things, Christians should see themselves as caretakers of God's things, as citizens of God's kingdom. This is an area of non-conformity to the prevailing culture that perhaps would deserve more attention than it gets. Consistency and

integrity equal credibility. He says "'Enough' is an educated mindset; it is an adjusted attitude; it is an acquired behavior."

This article reminds us that "enough" can be experienced as we look to God who stands willing to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:19)



The above thoughts remind me that stewardship is a very basic principle of the Christian life. It applies to any level of income and resources. Persons with exceptional ability to generate income and have a corresponding sense of stewardship can be a tremendous asset to the kingdom of Christ.



I called Richard Flahaven from Selective Service just before we left for the April, 2004, Ministers' Meetings in SC. He mentioned that he had recently been especially busy responding to rumors of an impending draft. He said that the American public does not want a draft, nor does the military establishment. Volunteers are perceived to be better soldiers than draftees. However, it is apparent that the rumor is dynamic and is still very active. This includes

the possible registration and drafting of women, which Mr. Flahaven considers politically unthinkable.

Conner Freff Cochran quotes figures to prove that the U.S. is militarily over-extended and that nearly half of the volunteers do not intend to re-enlist. The system that would make the activation of a draft relatively simple and quick has been kept in place. There are 56 state headquarters, 442 area offices, and 1980 local boards. Mr. Cochran mentions that a new draft would be called Registered Integrated Processing System, (RIPS, for short.)

Robert Rhodes, writing for *Mennonite Weekly Review*, (in May 3 and 10 issues), gives a thoughtful review of the big picture. On May 14, an Information Lobby Day for Conscience Sake was planned in Washington. Several groups, including MCC, who oppose conscription, are participating in this effort to convey constituency concerns to lawmakers.

Not so much because of the uncertainty of the future, but because of what may surely be known among us, we would do well to keep the following in mind:

—Our God wisely does not

reveal our future at a glance. He does give strength and grace one day at a time.

—Our young people are entitled to learn by training and example the way of Christ in human relationships. What better time for parents and ministers to be sure that basic principles and practical applications of these fundamental truths are emphasized.

—Might this be a good time to take a fresh look at school curriculum to see if our choice is consistent with Christian non-resistance?

• • • • •

The following notes are taken from a document by David Whetstone and Titus Peachey, which I received after the above had been written: Most observers believe that it is highly unlikely that the administration would try to implement a draft during an election year.

There are contradictory messages from the Pentagon and administration officials. On one hand, they have consistently stated that the volunteer army is working and will continue to provide adequate support for the foreseeable future.

On the other hand, the President, the Secretary of Defense and

other members of Congress have promised to provide whatever is needed for the military exercise in Iraq. If, at some future point, more troops were needed, a call for a draft would seem only logical.

Freedom of speech seems to provide a fertile field for contradictory reports. A case in

point is that our local *Hutchinson News* reports that the re-enlistment rate in the military is very high.

It is not a disgrace to confess that the future is unclear. But it is safe and wise to trust our future to an all-knowing God.

-DLM



ANNOUNCEMENT

Teacher Apprenticeship Program

With a vision to provide needed teacher training, Pilgrim Christian Grade School of Hutchinson, Kansas, has designed a one-year Teacher Apprenticeship Program. First implemented in 2001, it is a serious work-study program structured to give a basic foundation to potential teachers.

Throughout the year the apprentice observes, assists, and co-teaches in various classrooms, depending on their preferences, the school's needs, and the school's available experienced teachers. The apprentice is also

given significant amounts of time during the school day to read specific books and to fulfill the required writing projects.

Generally this is a VS position for the complete school year, approximately August 15 to May 15, but other arrangements may also be considered.

For anyone seriously interested in teaching, this opportunity provides valuable training and important hands-on experience. For more information or to apply for this program, contact school administrator, J. Marvin Nisly at (620)665-0324.



Ministers' Meetings Messages—2004

Abbeville, SC

3. Prayer and Fasting

Floyd Stoltzfus, Narvon, PA

We shall give attention to, What is fasting? When to fast, and **WHY FAST?**

Is fasting necessary? Is it biblical? Yes, but it is not a necessarily a gauge of spirituality. We see that in Isaiah 58, where people were fasting wrongly. They had wrong motives in fasting. If we are not interested in fasting, it may indicate lukewarmness, according to Revelation 3:14-22. The Laodicean church reminds us of the church of this generation.

What do I get out of fasting? That's the wrong question, isn't it? That's too self-centered. Rather the question should be, What does God want to teach me through fasting?

We are given several kinds of fasting in Matthew 6:16-18. First, we have the **sad** fast, that means to impress God. Another kind is the **fad** fast, to be seen of men. The best kind is the **glad** fast, which goes about life as usual. Let it be an **Abba** fast.

PRAYER

Prayer is based on a father-son relationship. Years ago a boy stood on the banks of the mighty Mississippi River. A large vessel steamed up the river. He waved to it to stop for him, but the people reprimanded him for sending such a signal. To the people's amazement, the ship slowed, drew up to shore, and put down the gangplank. As the boy clambered up onto the ship, he turned and said, "You see, the captain is my father." That's how it is for you and me in confident prayer.

Let us quiet our hearts before Him as the Scripture is read. Jesus' own words in Matthew 6:5-18 contain the model prayer He gave to us.

In Old Testament times, God-fearing Jews revered the name of Jehovah. We use the term, Abba, Father, (Mark 14:36). "Father" means Nourisher, Protector, Upholder. "Abba, Father," is a more personal title. Slaves were forbidden to address their master by this title. When we use it we are not cheapening it, if we have a relationship that

fits for a son, who knows he is loved by his father and who loves him in return.

We must be holy to get through to God. We may preach, lead songs, teach Sunday School class, and do other things that we associate with Christian faith without being holy. But we cannot walk with God, if we do not hallow His name.

Praying Hyde would sometimes lie on the ground for five minutes or longer before he would say a word to God. He sought perfect communion and harmony with God. It's not that God needs our prayers. He is fully sufficient, but we need prayer. Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance; it is laying hold of His willingness. Prayer is the highest activity of the human soul. It is the acid test of the believer's spiritual condition.

FASTING

To abstain from food. It also applies to abstaining from things that weaken our resolve and desire to please God, such as unworthy music.

Fasting is a bother, an inconvenience. It may include a denial of social life. While there are times when it is inadvisable to fast, most of us could do more of this than we do.

Fasting as we speak of it is not

simply abstaining from food, but is coupled with worship, adoration and prayer. We don't do this to impress others. Those who pray to be seen and heard, do not please God.

We need a quiet time and place for prayer. It is "in secret" and "in thy closet." "Shut the door" signifies a quiet heart. Thus we seek a quiet place, a quiet time and a quiet heart. Oh, the joy that awaits us when we thus draw near to and commune with God!

We are not to be repetitious in prayer. Expressions like "lead, guide and direct" us are words that simply repeat the same idea. To keep repeating different names of God, may be reassuring to us, but are not more necessary than when we speak to each other. We naturally find it less than meaningful to keep repeating the other's name as we speak. Is God honored when we do that for Him? Would it be good to write out our public prayers at times?

Jesus deals with the four aspects of prayer in Matthew 6:5-13. He speaks of The Repulsive Prayer (5); The Rewarded Prayer (6); The Repetitious Prayer (7-8); and the Reverent or Restructured Prayer (9-13). The Lord's Prayer takes us through adoration,

submission, petition and praise.

The reasons for fasting are many. Any situation that is not being resolved can rightly be made a matter of prayer and fasting. Whether it's the difficulties others are in, or a besetting sin of our own, victory is assured when we get serious enough about it to go to God in fasting and prayer.

Pride and too full a stomach go hand in hand. Feasting is a poor substitute for fasting. When we do not embrace God's concerns, we choose feasting over fasting. Fasting sharpens our spiritual senses. It increases our spiritual alertness. It helps us discern the signs of the times. Fasting increases our joy in worship. It brings God's answers to us, as in Acts 13:2,3. Their need for workers was met as they fasted and prayed.

Leonard Ravenhill said, "We have too many dead men in the pulpits, giving out too many dead sermons to too many dead people. Oh, the horror of it! There's a strange thing that I've seen under the sun. Even in the Bible-believing churches, it is preaching without unction. What is unction? I hardly know, but I know what it is not. At least, I know when it is not upon my own soul.

"Preaching without unction kills instead of giving life. The unctionless preacher is a savor of death unto death. The Word does not live, unless the unction is upon the preacher. Preacher, with all thy getting, get unction! Preaching is a serious business. A sermon born in the head, reaches the head. A sermon born in the heart, reaches the heart. God's spiritual preacher will produce spiritually minded people. Unction is not a gentle dove beating her wings against the bars outside the preacher's soul. Rather, she must be pursued and won. Unction cannot be learned, only earned by prayer.

"Brethren, if we will do God's work in God's way at God's time with God's power, we shall have God's blessing. When God opens the windows of heaven to bless us, the devil will open the doors of hell to blast us. God's smile means the devil's frown. Mere preachers may help anybody and hurt nobody, but prophets will stir everybody."

4. Church Planting

Jim Yoder, Clarkson, KY

Someone said, "Abraham lived in tents, but he made his

altars out of stone.” That tells us something about his priorities.

I saw a church sign with this, “When a church spends more time reflecting upon her memories than on her vision, she needs revival.” When we spend more time thinking of the good times in our past, and start resting on our laurels, while we neglect our vision, we need revival.

In 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, we find foundation for this message. One day I stepped into a man’s office who had a bee colony busy behind plate glass. The activity of the bees could be seen in safety. We noticed bees coming into the hive which had strange antics for no apparent reason. My friend explained that they were getting across to other bees where they found sweet stuff. So it is a privilege to tell others the sweet story of Jesus, but it is also a solemn responsibility.

A man trained as a Catholic priest in the 1500’s, found personal faith in Christ and said: “True evangelical faith cannot lie dormant. It clothes the naked. It feeds the hungry. It comforts the sorrowful. It shelters the destitute. It serves those that harm it. It binds that which is wounded. It has become all things to all men.” (Menno Simons)

Sometime Christians, in time of discouragement, wonder why God doesn’t just sweep them up into heaven, like He did Elijah. Matthew Henry gives several reasons why God leaves Christians right here: God saves and leaves us here to further ripen us for heaven. God saves and keeps us here, because the world cannot spare the Christian.

I believe it was Watchman Nee who said, “The church is Christ’s successor.” Every person we meet on the street or in the store is bound for one of two destinations. God has placed us here to be a divine blockade to them. Separation, by itself, does not make a Christian a light. Activity, on its own, will not make the church attractive.

As convinced as I am of church planting, that is not the first obligation of the church. A. W. Tozer wrote: “The task of the church is two-fold. It is to spread Christianity throughout the world and to make sure that the Christianity that she spreads is the right kind.

“Theoretically, the seed, being the Word of God, should produce the same kind of fruit regardless of the spiritual condition of those who scatter it, but it does not work that way. The identical message

preached to heathen by men of differing degrees of godliness, will produce different kinds of converts and will result in a quality of Christianity varying according to the purity and the power of those who preach it.

“Christianity will always produce itself after its kind. A worldly minded, unspiritual church, when she crosses the ocean to give her witness to peoples of other tongues and other cultures, is sure to bring forth on other shores, a Christianity much like her own. Not the naked Word only, but the character of the witness determines the quality of the convert. The church can do no more than transplant herself. What she is one land, she will be in another. A crab apple does not become a Golden Delicious by being carried from one country to another.

“God has written His law deep into all life. Everything will bring forth after its kind. The popular notion that the first obligation of the church is to spread the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth is false. Her first obligation is to be spiritually worthy to spread it. Our Lord said, ‘Go ye,’ but He also said ‘Tarry ye’ and the tarrying had to come before the going. Had the disciples gone

forth as missionaries before the Day of Pentecost, it would have been an overwhelming spiritual disaster, for they would have done no more than to make converts after their likeness.”

An ancient legend says that as Jesus stood on the Mt. of Olives, where he gave the disciples the Great Commission, they looked at each other and asked Him, “Master, do you have any other plan?”

And Jesus said, “No, I have no other.” While that’s only a legend, it lines up with our assignment. The church is Christ’s successor, a divine settlement in enemy territory. Thus it is feared and hated by Satan. The church is in Satan’s way. He would have us destroyed and cast into hell. The church of Jesus Christ lifts up the light. It says, “There is another way.” It’s a narrow way, but it’s a blessed way. She tells the sinner about a yoke, but it’s a comforting yoke. It’s not like the bondage Satan gives.

Satan tries to frighten us out into the world, pointing out that we’re a minority. We’re like the army captain who realized their dire straits. He said, “Men, we’re surrounded by the enemy; don’t let one of them escape!” When we realize the danger we’re in, we

may try to provide our safety by adding many safeguards, till we finally become tied up by rules.

Another tactic of Satan we should be prepared for is to draw us back into the world. In that we start marching to the world's drummer. We start using the world for comparison for what we could be and ought to be. Either way would be a triumph for him. Either way would render us largely ineffective. The church glorifies God, not by trying to get out of the world nor by being absorbed into the world, but by radiating the pure Gospel light of Jesus Christ.

We are a blessed people. We have forgiveness of sins, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we have Bibles on every dresser, the best people in the world are our friends and after all this, we have a living hope of heaven.

In public school I learned in social studies that for a democracy to flourish, people must realize that every privilege brings with it a parallel responsibility and obligation. We can endorse that as Christians, because it seems almost scriptural. Jesus said, "To whom much is given, much is required." Probably not one of us here can remember the first time we heard the name, Jesus

Christ. We have so much going for us. It brings with it a parallel obligation.

Here's a quotation from a Christian Light Publication: "If Christians are indeed the salt of the earth, and if by their saltiness society is preserved, the implications are astounding. That means the corruption of a society comes from the deterioration of Christianity within that society." We tend to blame the humanists, or the evolutionists. The quote continues, "How are Christians who are not politically involved, to influence social and political trends? When the church is effectively salty, that is *pure* and *active* and *distributed*, the state will be able to define evil correctly. It will simply enforce the moral laws established in society by the church's godly influence. But if the church through lack of savor allows society to decay, the state's laws will reflect this deterioration."

Daniel was taken to Babylon, but he was not absorbed there. He remained a stranger in Babylon. His heart was not in Babylon, but in Jerusalem. He examined the cultural practices with the enlightenment he had. He said a mannerly, "No" to Nebuchadnezzar's diet for him.

He said “No” to Belshazzar’s party. (They had to go after him.) He said “No” to the command to quit praying. The church of Jesus Christ today has that same responsibility to call into question the cultural practices of our day. Let’s ask: Does it glorify God? Does it typify Christ? Does it satisfy the Holy Spirit? Does it edify my brother? Does it purify my life and prepare me for heaven? Babylon probably never really understood Daniel, but I notice that in times of crisis, they went to him for counsel.

I believe we are living in an age when people are trying to make the Gospel so palatable that there’s room for everybody. That’s too much room! The church that takes a clear stand may not be appreciated, but, at least, they’ll be respected by “Babylon.” As time begins winding down, and people begin seeing “the handwriting on the wall,” they’re getting tired of confusion and aimless philosophical discussion and speaking in generalities. When I need direction, I look to someone who knows which direction he wants to go.

Church planting is one of the easiest things to talk about; it’s enjoyable to discuss, but it’s also

one of the easiest things to put on the shelf, while we pull out a blueprint for an addition to be built on the side of the church. The idea seems to prevail, “You don’t plan a church planting when things are going right. You must not disturb things.”

I think it’s good for leaders to make it clear that at a certain point of increase, the matter of church planting will be looked into. As new people come in, it would be good to ask, “Will you be willing to be actively involved?” Church planting should have the same priority in Canada and the United States as it has in our mission programs in Central America and Kenya.

What is the ideal size for a congregation? There are some advantages in a smaller flock in that there is more opportunity to exercise the gifts in the brotherhood. If you’re absent, it leaves a glaring hole. Greater accountability is possible.

Where shall we go? I like the idea to go far enough from the mother church so it’s not confusing to the community. This allows the outreach church to establish its own identity. I like the idea of having an outreach church adopt a community and taking responsibility for

that place. They begin prison services, nursing home services, tract distribution, inviting people in, and placing in the local newspaper, *Reaching Out*, which is a marvelous tool.

We don't need to go with the attitude, "We're going to show these people how to farm, or how to make the milk flow, or even how to build pallets." Our businesses and our homes should reflect a "pilgrim and stranger" outlook.

It is a blessing to have a united ministerial team pray, consider their situation, consult with the laity, formulate a sensible plan and become willing to be actively involved in moving out themselves. We have resorted to choosing by lot who is to go. If someone needed to be exempted from it, they were to stand in a brothers' meeting and explain why they should be exempt. There were some exceptions permitted. Was everybody for it? No. But they were willing to go along with it. They saw value in it. It is hard work to move ahead in church planting. It's not easy or even pleasant. It brings separation for us and our children who have friends leaving. But I believe it's a kinder and more spiritual way than some ways I've seen.

I think we'd be embarrassed if we were asked to raise our hands here today to show how many of our churches have been started because of schism. Daniel Kauffman said, "A divided church is most often sparked by a divided ministerial team. The church can go through turbulent times if the ministerial team presents a united front." We have people with differing backgrounds, but I say to the glory of God, we have been able to present a united front. I can think of a time when, if a minister would have given heed to some unhappy people, we could have had another church in our "back yard."

In behalf of the plural ministry, I think it's a scriptural pattern. It gives balance because of the variety of gifts. It gives continuity because of the different ages, so that when young energetic men come on the team, they work with men of experience.

Before anyone contemplates leading out in a split, consider one of these three options: Rather than being part of a split, quietly relocate or quietly resign or repent. [Great disgrace is brought upon the church by splintering.]



The Need for Bibles

Praise God! The Bible has been and continues to be the world's best book seller. The following article reflects the open door and opportunity to send out the light of the Gospel through distribution of the Holy Scriptures. Master's International Ministries is an organization directed by a mission board from Amish Mennonite churches in Canada and the United States. Their mailing address is: RR 1, Milverton, Ontario, NOK IMO Phone: (519)656-2330.

Here is a statement of purpose from their newsletter: "Our objective is to establish Biblical Anabaptist Churches in the Commonwealth of Independent States. We provide Bibles, personnel, literature, and humanitarian aid. MIM's literature program is a fast-growing project. The need for Bibles and sound teaching is great. We have barely scratched the surface in this vast area. Supporting the literature program is a wonderful opportunity for each of one of us to further God's Kingdom." -FS

Mission Miracles

Omar Wagler

The early morning sun shines in through the window, its rays reaching us as we sit in the home of our new friends. It warms us even as the fellowship of our dear friends warms our hearts. Having met only yesterday, we have been welcomed in for the night and fed by these poor people in a small village in the Carpathian Mountains.

Victor and his wife are a dedicated Christian couple with Bible-based convictions which they are passing on to their twelve children. Already there are evidences in the older children's lives that they will not depart from the ways of this teaching. The oldest son, at 21 years of age, is a deacon in the village church which his father pastors. Together father and son reach out to ungodly neighbors, telling them of God and urging them to salvation before it is forever too late.

As we fellowship together, we question each other about our lives. Early on in our conversation, we gather that Victor and his

wife were not raised in Christian homes. Reaching adulthood, they carefully planned their lives. They met, married and started a home. It seemed Victor could have every reason to say, as we read in Luke 14, “I can’t come to the supper. Don’t bother me now. I have married a wife. I have fields and commitments...” Instead, when Victor received the invitation to the supper, he came and freely received. Victor’s response to that invitation affected his life, his family’s lives, and will affect many eternal destinies.

How did Victor come to meet Jesus? Surely it was in some earth-shaking way. A powerful sermon, maybe, or some missionary passing through? Did he meet up with some mighty warrior of God? No, it was not like that. To our earthly vision, it would appear that it just happened.

It happened when Ukraine was still a part of the Soviet Union, still under the communist regime. To meet financial obligations, he took upon himself when he got married to become a bus driver. Times were hard, but Victor was young and full of hope for the future. He knew what he wanted out of life, and God was not part of the plan. And then... somehow, Victor found a Bible.

He does not remember just how it happened, only that it was so. As he began reading, his hunger and thirst for God’s Word grew. Slowly he began to see Jesus as his Friend and then as his personal Savior.

This miracle happened simply because someone placed a Bible in his hands. By the reading of that Bible lives have been changed and his family now has a living hope for eternity—all because someone gave one Bible.

The miracle has made a full circle. Victor now wants to pass on the Bible miracle to others. In this village, people are closed to many types of literature because of false propaganda which has circulated in the past, but Bibles are seldom refused. Victor begs for Bibles to meet the great need in his village. As we have seen for ourselves, one Bible can give the gift of eternal life to countless souls. Will you join us in this mission miracle?

A Letter from Kiev

Hello! My name is Katya and I am 14 years old. I’ve repented and confessed my sins and am active in evangelization. We go to an orphanage and to various villages and tell others about our Lord Jesus Christ.

I would like a small Bible with

a zipper. I also need children's Bibles and regular Bibles. My mother and I have such financial difficulties that we often have

nothing to eat and so there is no way we could buy such a Bible.

May God Bless you.

Katya



Good News in Australia

Eli Kauffman

Montezuma, GA

Over the Easter weekend in Australia, Bro. Jason Kauffman from near Brisbane, along with Bro. Simon Yoder from Sydney, and a few visitors from the States had special meetings for the believers there. Following are a few comments from two of the sisters who are presently taking instruction for baptism. -EK

Veronica Barrett writes:

“It has been a time of wonder and learning. A time of learning new things, and of being given new perspectives on things we already knew. What a blessing to worship with so many people over those three days! What a blessing to have six men leading in devotion and worship! What a blessing to be singing praises to our Lord so heartily that we were heard out on the beach!

“I feel very tired, yet very spiritually uplifted...it was just overawing. I cannot do justice to the lightness of my soul which this has brought about. I cannot

believe it was only a little over two years ago I was convicted to wear more modest clothing, and only 20 months since I first put on my veiling. God has brought me closer to Him, and I am so thankful He saw fit to rescue me from myself.”

Karen Noe writes:

“This past weekend we were truly blessed with God’s Word. Six men fed us spiritually. I feel it would be safe to say Beachmere has never before been blessed with the likes.

“My heart goes out to those people who have not been as blessed with regular worship as we have had here in Beachmere. We have many Protestant and Catholic churches, yet we have one Anabaptist minister for our vast continent.

“Will SOS signals to the U.S. bring more men with a heart to share God’s wonderful promises to our sandy shores?”



A Message in Modesty

Mrs. William Overholt

Marshallville, GA

[The following article acknowledges the fact that we naturally get our signals and goals somewhere. The wisdom from above suggests that undertaking change prayerfully and keeping faith with brothers and sisters in Christ contains more sanctified common sense than resisting or disregarding church standards ever has.

-PLM]

Dear sisters, have you ever considered the message we give to others by the way we dress?

I've been observing a trend in our circles for quite some time. For centuries, the amply gathered, long-skirted, caped dress has proved a suitable application of New Testament Scriptures such as 1 Timothy 2:9 and 1 Peter 3:3,4. Even though the cape usually still appears, the gathers have been gradually disappearing, resulting in a more form-fitting, revealing bodice and skirt. The skirts have recently grown longer though, at times reaching almost to the floor.

I realize that some fellow

believers feel the cape dress is no longer a modest dress and that more modest clothing can be made or purchased. But how did we get to this point? Will the path we are on take us to a more sanctified walk of life and conduct? I think you will search in vain in a J C Penney catalog for a simple, modest dress that exceeds in modesty the cape dress as it was historically prescribed and worn. For consumer appeal, most catalog offerings will reflect some measure of immodesty and showy fashion.

According to Mennonite historian, J. C. Wenger, as early as 1847 the accepted "plain" clothing forms were abandoned in the General Conference Mennonite church. A more tolerant, lenient attitude of the church leaders of that day resulted in a loss of separation from the world in this and many other practical areas of church life. Do we in our Beachy Amish circles feel we are exempt from such calamities?

Sisters, let's examine our closets--our own and those of our

daughters. What is the message we're giving to others in the way we dress? Who's setting the standard we most eagerly follow? I believe it's time we get

back to the basics and encourage and support one another in the area of modesty.



Confession

*Excerpted from Lynnhalen Gleanings**

Jacob J. Hershberger (1908–1965)

The way back to God, the way to forgiveness, and the way to freedom from sin is by confession. Thus when the lost son confessed... "I have sinned" before his father, he struck a responsive chord in his father's heart and was restored to sonship and the family. Keep in mind this parable was given by Christ to show the way back to God.

But how few people are willing to openly and readily confess their sin! Adam blamed his sin upon Eve; Eve blamed it upon the serpent...and by far the greater portion of mankind today is likeminded...blaming others for the sin of their own lives. In fact, it is a very unpopular thing

today to attempt to point out sin, unless one limits himself to generalities.

During Jesus' ministry, He found that as long as his ministry consisted of healing folks from their sicknesses and in supplying them bread and fishes, He was very popular. But when He began to point out sin, people became offended and many turned against Him. A few were noble enough to confess their sin: Peter, the woman caught in the act of adultery, Mary Magdalene and others.

No, people do not like to confess that they have sinned.

** (Edited by William McGrath, 1991, Christian Printing Mission, pp. 57,58.)*



They Called Him Master

*Jason Beachy
Free Union, VA*

“Master,”
Once said a rich young man,
“Tell me the way in which I can
Inherit everlasting life.”
But when he heard the Master’s
plan,
His heart was filled with sorrow’s
strife.

“Master,”
Said a haughty Pharisee,
“Rebuke these men who follow
Thee.”
Then Jesus turned to him and said,
“If these refrain from praising me
The rocks will then cry out
instead.”

“Master,”
Judas the betrayer said,
Before the soldiers whom he led,
And in that single word betrayed

The Christ who then for sinners
shed
His blood, as He the sin debt paid.

“Master,”
Peter with his crew replied,
“For the entire night we’ve tried,
To catch some fish, though ‘twas
in vain,
Yet at Thy word we’ll drop our
pride
And take our nets and try again.”

“Master,”
Though today it may be heard,
When voiced aloud is just a word,
Unless backed by love’s actions
true
Toward the One on whom
conferred—
The One who died for me and you.



helpers at home

Mother/Daughter-in-Love Relations

Mary June Glick

Ruth said to Naomi,
“Intreat me not to leave
thee, or to return from
following after thee; for whither

thou goest I will go; and where
thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy
people shall be my people and
thy God my God” (Ruth 1:16).

While a beautiful wedding text comes from this verse, it is really Ruth's commitment to her mother-in-law. We hear many negative comments and unkind jokes about in-laws, but this story of Ruth and Naomi shows the beauty of what God desires in our relationships. This account takes place after many years of joy and sorrow had come to these two women's lives.

A woman becomes a daughter-in-law through the marriage covenant. This is different from most friendships, which are established upon mutual interests, goals, likes and dislikes. This relationship is born because of mutual love for a person, namely, a husband or a son. The saying, "Once a daughter, always a daughter, but you lose your son when he takes a wife" need not and *should* not be true. I'm so grateful that I have gained daughters through marriage to our sons.

Since I have experience both as a daughter-in-law and a mother-in-law, let me share some words of advice.

First to the mother-in-law:

1. *Accept* and *love* your son's wife; that is the best gift you can give to your son.

2. *Release* your son. You are

still his mother, but allow him to put his wife first in his life. Maintain a relationship with him that is not threatening to his wife.

3. *Don't compete* with her family for holidays, special occasions, grandchildren or anything else. Work out a plan that is good for both families. If your daughter-in-law is living far from her family, be sympathetic to her homesickness. Don't take it personally and show her that you care and understand.

4. *Learn to know your daughter-in-law*, noting her likes and dislikes. Take an interest in her. Celebrate her birthday. Give her notes of appreciation. Accept the differences in her upbringing. She doesn't have to do things just like you do them.

5. *Love her children, your grandchildren*. Respect her methods of child training. Let her know how you think she's doing a good job.

Now for the daughter-in-law:

1. *Accept* your mother-in-law as your husband's mother. She is the person that helped to shape him into the husband you have come to love. Your love and acceptance of her will strengthen your bond with your husband.

2. *Divide* your time with both

families as fairly as possible when planning holidays and special celebrations. Allow your husband to enjoy his family; he probably loves them as much as you do yours.

3. *Ask* your mother-in-law for her recipes, her advice on child training or whatever. She, too, likes to feel needed. Remember her on her special days, such as birthday, mother's day. Learn to know and understand her. She can be a special friend.

4. *Give* her the gift of your children, her grandchildren. Let her love them and even spoil them a little. She has time and experience to offer them.

5. *Don't complain* about your husband or belittle him to your mother-in-law. Let her know how you feel she has done a good job in raising a godly son. Develop a positive relationship with her and you will become a DAUGHTER OF LOVE.



junior messages

It Didn't Just Happen

Name Withheld

[We grant anonymity for this account because of the nature of it.]

Fear not ye therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows" (Matt. 10:31).

It was a beautiful morning in the South. A mother and her children were spending the forenoon occupied with their school goals. Mother had added an extra challenge to their morning work by doing Math drills as a timed activity. She told the children that they planned to go to town

later in the day. There would be a prize of bubble gum for those who did well in the Math drill.

This mother and her children were away from home, because their life at home was too troubled to stay there. She had decided to take the children elsewhere for a time. On this particular day, God did something special for them, reminding them that He faithfully cared for them. After this, He seemed just as real to the children where they were away from home as He did at home.

The Math drill proved a success. Mother was pleased with the children's work. In the afternoon, they went to town—first to the grocery store, as she had promised. After purchasing groceries, they walked over to a large bubble gum machine. It played a tune as the ball rolled through tubes, spirals, and holes on its way to the opening on the outside. The mother began to rummage through her purse for the quarters to give each of the children, while the children talked excitedly about the machine.

Before the mother had found enough quarters, a lady from an office close by, came to the door. She saw that they planned to use the machine.

“Do you need some quarters?” she asked.

The lady explained that during the past week, the bubble gum machine had needed service. When the service man had finished servicing the machine, four quarters fell out. “Give these to the next children who come to buy bubble gum” he said, giving

them to her.

“So,” the lady said, “these are for you!”

The troubled mother expressed her thanks as her mind began to put the details of this happening together:

—The service man came the week before.

—After the machine was serviced, it expelled four quarters.

—The service man generously offered them to the next children, not knowing who they would be.

—A week later, the mother brought her four children.

—God knew that this would happen.

With thankfulness, she and the children left the store. The experience renewed their faith that their loving Heavenly Father takes an interest in the little details of each of our lives.

May this encourage other children and parents to trust God with all life's worries and cares. He is faithful!



Men with clenched fists cannot shake hands.



The Prodigal Daughter of Today

Lori Ketcham

Ina, IL

A certain man had two daughters. One day the younger daughter came to her father and said, "I am tired of all the restrictions you and Mother and the church put on me! I want to live my own life and have some fun while I am still young. Give to me now the wages I deserve for working in your office for so long."

Earnestly the father pled with his daughter but she would not listen. So with tears, he gave her the wages she thought she had coming to her. With high hopes, she left, boarding a plane for Los Angeles.

Soon she had many friends who quickly taught her the fun of popular entertainment, of careless living and spending. For some weeks, she was thrilled with her new freedom, but before very long, to her amazement, she discovered that her money was gone. Strangely, her friends started disappearing, too. During the day, all alone, she walked the streets, usually hungry and forsaken. At night, it was hard to

stay warm.

After several days of searching for a job, she was hired by a rich lady to clean and cook for several dollars a day. It was not sufficient to meet her needs. At long last, her thoughts turned toward home. When she finally came to the end of herself, she fell on her knees and repented of her evil ways and asked God to forgive her. Then, with new determination, she packed her meager possessions and hitchhiked home.

As she neared home, she walked the last few miles. Her father, seeing her, ran with outstretched arms to welcome her home. With tears of remorse, she repented. Her father forgave her and invited their friends over for a celebration to welcome the prodigal home.

Later that evening, the older daughter returned home from a street meeting and questioned why all the visitors had come. Her father told her of her sister's return. Then his firstborn grew angry and said, "All these years I have obeyed you and Mother.

I followed the church standards and even handed out tracts and yet, you never had a celebration for me.”

The father’s heart was saddened because his older daughter’s heart was not rejoicing.

Are you like one of these daughters? Are you rebelling

against God and authority? Are you trusting in your works to save you? The Father stands ready to welcome you, if you come in true contriteness of heart, not resisting Him or trusting in your own goodness.



WORKER NEEDS

AT HILLCREST HOME

We are seeking dedicated young people to fill these urgent staffing needs. Young person, if you are serious about your walk with God, are committed to your home congregation, and desire to “present your body as a living sacrifice, which is your reasonable service” (Rom. 12:1), please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Nurse Aides - Many **immediate** and **future** openings

Orderlies - **Immediate** and **future** openings.

Kitchen workers (Ladies or men) - **Immediate** opening

Janitors - **Immediate** openings

Floaters - **future** openings

Maintenance assistant - **Immediate** opening

Hillcrest Home continues to recommend terms of 15-18 months but presently minimum terms are no longer specified. As in the past, staff members must serve at least 15 months to participate in the expenses-paid mission trip.

Please contact: **Jason Miller** or **Ken Kauffman** at 870-741-5001 (any time)

E-mail: goyetherefore@characterlink.net

Hillcrest Home · 1111 Maplewood Rd. · Harrison, AR 72601

THOUGHT GEMS

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing in the right place, but to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.



Folks used to go without things to have money. Now they seem to go without money to have things.



Two marks of a Christian are giving and forgiving.



People who say what they think would not be so bad if they thought.



Too many people confuse free speech with loose talk.



A friend will see you through after others see you are through.



Those who fear the future are likely to fumble the present.



Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.



Don't worry so much about what lies ahead. Go as far as you can see and when you get there, you can see farther.

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