



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

Galatians 6:14

MAY 2006

Meditation	
<i>Waiting</i> .....	1
Editorial	
<i>Mothers</i> .....	2
Reader Response.....	4
America's Golden Calf .....	6
The Bottom Line	
<i>The Congregational Meeting</i> .....	10
God's Exclamation Marks.....	11
Marriages.....	12
Cradle Roll.....	12
Obituaries .....	14
Observations .....	14
All Things Are Not Expedient .....	17
Announcement .....	18
Mission Awareness	
<i>Calvary Bible School—2006</i> .....	19
Technology—A Mixed Blessing .....	22
The Light Within .....	24
Helpers at Home	
<i>Mother</i> .....	25
Women of God .....	27
Junior Messages	
<i>Be Patient</i> .....	28
Choose Wisely .....	29
Youth Messages	
<i>Guarding the Heart in Cross-gender Relationships</i> .....	32
Thought Gems .....	back cover

MAY 2006

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

Enos D. Stutzman, Secretary

Ralph Miller

Glenn Yoder

David L. Miller

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

markbeachy@characterlink.net

330-852-2982

## EDITOR

Paul L. Miller

7809 S. Herren Rd.

Partridge, KS 67566

Ph/Fax 620-567-2286

paullmiller@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

Aaron Lapp

## MISSIONS EDITOR

Floyd Stoltzfus

186 Skyline Dr.

New Holland, PA 17557

## YOUTH MESSAGES EDITOR

Ernest Eby

4812 Hwy. 5

Mountain View, AR 72560

eeby@aristotle.net

## 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, Sugar Creek, 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 Sugar Creek, Ohio. Postmaster: Send address changes to Calvary Publications, Inc., 11095 Pleasant Hill Rd. NW, Dundee, OH 44624.

## Waiting\*

Amy Strite · Sparta, WI

*“Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen  
thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD” (Psalm 27:14).*

Waiting...It's so hard, Lord.  
I want to know what the future holds,  
I want to know it now.

Waiting...  
It's not easy.  
But, Lord, I know that You are in control  
You have my life in your hands  
You have it all worked out.

Waiting...  
It can be so hard.  
But, Lord, You are right beside me  
You are helping me grow through this.

Waiting...  
I'm beginning to see  
That all of life requires waiting.

Teach me, Lord, to wait patiently on You.

*[Jesus said], “In your patience possess ye your souls” (Luke 21:19).*

*“But let endurance and steadfastness and patience have full play and  
do a thorough work, so that you may be [people] perfectly and fully  
developed (with no defects), lacking in nothing” (James 1:4 Amplified).*

[\*Adapted by the editor from free verse by Amy Strite.]



## Mothers

**G**od could not be everywhere, so He made mothers.” The theology of that ancient Jewish proverb is not quite right. The thought, nevertheless, warms our hearts. We get insight from such quaint and pithy sayings. Here are several more:

*“Mother love is dangerous when it becomes smother love.”*

*“One reason for unhappy marriages is that men cannot fool their wives like they could their mothers.”*

*“Merely bearing a child does not make a woman a mother in the best sense of the word.”*

*“Mother is the most likely one, when there are only two pieces of pie left for three people, to say, ‘I’m too full for pie.’”*

*“No nation has better citizens than the mother who teaches her children to pray.”*

*“Rejecting things because they are old-fashioned would rule out the sun and moon—and a mother’s love.”*

*“Some people can trace their ancestry back 300 years but can’t tell you where their children were last night.”*

**Mother** is one of the most precious concepts in any language. Note the following gems of wisdom from

the past. Let us think of them as a garland of lilacs to be placed around Mama’s neck:

*“My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother”* —George Washington

*“No man is poor who has had a godly mother.”* —Abraham Lincoln

*“I think it must somewhere be written that the virtues of mothers shall be visited on their children, as well as the sins of their fathers.”* —Charles Dickens

*“Who is best taught? He who has first learned from his mother.”* —The Talmud

*“Mother is the name for God in the lips and hearts of little children.”* —William Makepeace Thackeray (*Vanity Fair*, Vol. II, ch. 12)

*“A mother’s love is like God’s love; He loves us not because we are lovable, but because we are His children [by creation].”* —Earl Riney: *Church Management*

*“An ounce of mother is worth a ton of priest.”* —Spanish proverb

*“Even He that died upon the cross for us, in the last hour, in the unutterable agony of death, was mindful of His mother, as if to teach us that this holy love should be our last worldly*

thought, the last point of earth from which the soul should take it flight for heaven.”

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow  
“They say that man is mighty,  
He governs land and sea,  
He wields a mighty scepter  
O’er lesser powers than he.  
But a mighty power and stronger  
Man from his throne has hurled:  
For the hand that rocks the cradle  
Is the hand that rules the world.”

—William Wallace

Motherhood is a holy calling. A godly mother should have her offspring’s respect and gratitude. When our aging mothers need our care, let us eagerly provide for their needs, as we have opportunity.

Let us teach both our sons and daughters that Christian femininity is God-given and precious. Let us respect and encourage Christian masculinity in our sons which recognizes that Mama can do her best when Daddy loves and honors her as Queen of the Castle.

My mother, Clara (Nisly) Miller, died of cancer in 1960 when she was young—only 58 years old. “Mom” was a saintly woman who developed godly character even while she was


very busy. In spite of the work of rearing 12 children in the Great Depression, she always seemed wise and patient enough to lend an eager ear to her children’s questions and observations. Precious memories of her practical piety will inspire me to the end of my life.

God bless all our Christian mothers!

• • • • •

Recently two unsigned submissions came to me by mail. While we honor requests for anonymity, we have a policy against using unsigned material.

As your editor, I want to be more punctual in acknowledgment of material sent in for publication, especially if I do not see immediate need for it. As it is, I have sometimes gotten something and held it for a while. With plenty of material on hand, I did not use it right away. Then later I discovered a place for it and published it, after the person submitting it might have almost given up hope of ever seeing it in print. For this I apologize.

We appreciate your prayers for *Calvary Messenger*. This work is a joy. It provides both solemn responsibility and satisfying privilege. —PLM 

*A good leader...*

takes a little more than his share of the blame,  
and a little less than his share of the credit.

### Re: Observations

Am I missing something? In Observations, March, 2006, page 19, unbelievers are quoted as saying that truth is not absolute but relative. How can truth be relative? If it is relative, it might not be truth. If they tell me that truth is relative, I do not have to believe them since truth is relative. Humanists have no foundation for their argument since believing what they say may communicate that they are speaking the truth. That should upset them since agreeing with them upsets their very argument. If you wish to agree with them that truth is relative you will have to disagree. This then would agree with their theology. The humanists would have us believe that the earth evolved over millions of years. What a relief that we do not have to agree with them since what they say is relative.

By the way, scientific research has found that the moon moves away from the earth at an approximate distance of one inch per year. This is no problem for a Creationist, since the distance the moon moved away from the earth could be between 500-700 feet since the earth was created approximately 6,000 years ago. But if you believe in millions of years this is a problem. In figuring an inch per year over a period of millions of years

the moon would have had to touch the earth at some point in time! I am glad for a sovereign God who created an absolute earth, and gave us an absolute faith. He is Lord.

*Alvin Mast,*

*Christian Literature Department*

*Christian Aid Ministries*

• • • • •

### Re: Theophostic Counselling

I decided to share a little of my life here. Hopefully, people won't run away when they see me after this. I read the piece in the April issue about theophostic counseling (CM, April, 2006, page 5) with interest, and decided to I'd just share some of my own experience, in case it could help someone.

Last fall, I finally became so tired of some issues in my life that I decided a logical step might be to go for help. So I did—and my life has been incredibly different since then.

There were strongholds in my life and past that I didn't even know were there, for instance, the stronghold of anger and bitterness. I had no idea of all the anger that was hidden deep inside me. I knew I had a bad temper and that at times I became extremely angry, but I just thought it was something to be worked with and repented of and that I should try to do better and yet, I'd fail and work on...and on

and on. God didn't want to leave me there! He wanted to give me freedom!

Since I got rid of past anger/bitterness/pain, that stronghold of the enemy has been out of my life, and he no longer has that ground or right to harass me. I no longer struggle with that terrible anger. That temptation does not have that pull and power in my life. I'm talking from several months of experience of being free, even though these months have held very real opportunities to become angry and bitter. My family and friends have told me that I don't get angry like I used to. So it must be more than my imagination!

That's just one example. There are other complexes, carnal desires, temptations, pulls toward evil, and so on, that were broken in my life when I took care of past issues. I'm talking about past pain and sins—my own sins and those of others against me. We hurt for our own sin and that of others, also. That's life in this fallen world. But we do not need to live that way. I went for help, thinking I would get fixed. But, although many things were taken care of, God also gave me tools. Since then, I've been hurt again and needed to go through all that forgiving and repenting and letting God heal again. But I have freedom—freedom to really live!

I have temptations. I'm not immune

to them. I also sense that God wants to free me in some other ways. Life is a journey and I'm excited to be on it! God is incredibly, incredibly good—full of mercy and love and power and wisdom. I'm so grateful!

It strikes me now that maybe I've been sort of vague about all this. I talk of taking care of issues. I don't know if I can explain it all here. One thing I do know is that when we seek God with all our heart and tell Him that no matter what, we are committed to freedom, He will not leave us to struggle every day against strongholds the devil has in our lives. The Holy Spirit guides us into *all* truth.

Also some people have told me that it makes them uncomfortable when counselors tell them to go ahead and feel the pain of whatever they remember or have gone through. In my experience whenever I refused to feel that pain, I was not healed from it. I had to walk into it *with God*. Then He healed me from it.

So there, I told you about it. This has been my experience and I'm living evidence that it works. Blessings on all. Thank you for providing a place where there is freedom of speech and people can express their opinions on such things.

Thank you sincerely,

Rachel Kuepfer, Partridge, KS



# America's Golden Calf

Steve Taylor · Somerset, PA

**M**oses went up into Mount Sinai to meet with God for forty days and to receive the two tables of testimony from God.

Meanwhile, the Israelites down below did an astounding thing. Having just promised to obey God, the people grew impatient with Moses for his delay in coming back down off the mountain. (Exodus 32:1)

They demanded Aaron to make an idol to worship. Aaron complied and soon presented the people with a golden calf, complete with an altar and feast day for reveling. When God reported to Moses that the people were corrupting themselves with idolatry, Moses and Joshua quickly descended the mountain to restore order.

When Moses confronted them, the children of Israel employed human reasoning that is prevalent even today. Their efforts to justify themselves may have sounded something like this: “We weren’t really worshipping that calf. No, we just wanted something to look at while you were away. It helped us to remember God. It gave us something to celebrate about, to have fun and pass the time. We didn’t mean to do evil. And besides, Aaron gave us permission.”

Now to someone who knows lit-

tle about the holiness and jealousy of God, those excuses might have sounded reasonable enough. But to God, this was a terrible breach of trust, a downright betrayal to go a whoring after some homemade god. This wasn’t innocent fun. This was serious. These people were God’s chosen people, set apart to be holy unto God, a light to the world, completely devoted to the Most High God, without reservation and second to none. What were they thinking to provoke God like that?

After God’s wrath fell upon them for this great sin, God again made it very clear to them that they are to worship no other god, and that He is a jealous God and will not share their devotion with any other god.

That calf was robbing God of something that was rightfully His—the hearts of His people. Can you sense the holy jealousy that was aroused in God’s heart as He watched His beloved people enthusiastically cavorting with another god?

In this country, worshiping graven images and golden calves isn’t something we are confronted with, nor do we even observe others worshipping idols in pagan shrines. But, sad to say, idolatry is still something we are tempted with today. The devil



has always promoted idolatry and so it should come as no surprise that he still promotes it today; yes, even in our own country. In our time, of course, we are much too wise to fall for the old-fashioned idolatry of Old Testament times; we would never even consider such foolishness as to bow down before a stone, brass, or even a golden object. Or would we?

In the past one hundred years, a new idol has emerged from the dust. This idol has grown to such immense proportions that it now occupies prime real estate in nearly every city and town in America. Billions of dollars are sacrificed to it every year. The enormous amount of money spent serving this idol is seen as but a small sacrifice in exchange for the benefits it has to offer. Worst of all, professing Christians have bowed to this idol in staggering numbers. Many churches are so steeped in this idolatry that only a martyr would dare raise any objection against it. What idol am I referring to? I am referring to...

### **Professional Sports**

Who will sound the trumpet on this menace to the church? It's not one of those passing fads believers mistakenly dabbled in, but then recognized the danger and discarded it. This activity has become one of the biggest money-making industries in the country, with no abating; and now has a firm foothold, both among pro-

fessing Christians and unbelievers.

Let's examine sports for a moment and notice some things about it. The first thing that stands out about sports is the rules. You can't play a game without rules. Sports would quickly lose their appeal if the rules were not enforced or if there were no rules at all. The reason is obvious. Rules and standards are imperative to make the game work. A team has no use for the player who plays by his own set of rules. Each player is expected to play by the rules for the good of the team. Here's a question that comes to me: Why is this principle so easily understood in sports, but so sharply criticized in church?

The second thing to notice is that sports have universal interest and unite people. One reason sports are able to do that is because it makes no moral demands on a person. That means it doesn't tell us how to live; it accepts us just the way we are. But people and societies that are united by an interest and devotion to sports are depriving themselves of something vital. They are substituting discussion of eternal consequence with temporal issues. Not that talk must always be serious, but the sports enthusiast betrays what he loves most by what he talks about most. Why are so many people enthusiastic about a ball game and are willing to discuss it at length with a total stranger, but the things

of God are an embarrassment? So instead of seeking God, and discovering what He requires of us, they squander away their lives discussing the merits of different players and teams, and so on. It is disgraceful that Christians are so united with a lost world when it comes to its sports, but are unwilling to share those things which are above (Colossians 3:1).

A third thing to notice comes as a question. What is it about sports that make it so popular among unregenerate people? At the top of the list must be the suspense it offers, wondering who is going to win. Second must be the euphoria or psychological high it gives when “my” team wins. It has a vicarious effect on the spectator; when his team wins, he feels exuberant. The huge popularity of professional sports is undeniable, but since when do Christians support something because it is popular? In fact, Scripture warns us not to “follow a multitude to do evil” (Exodus 23:2).

Excellence in sports is not just a goal but a requirement. There is no room for mere good intentions or honest effort. The reward goes to “the best.” But when it comes to our walk with God, the urgency for excellence is strangely missing in spite of what the apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 3:14 about pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. When was the last

time you heard someone confide with you that Paul’s goal was their goal, too? If anything, it would probably raise some eyebrows. And then in verses 17-19, Paul says to follow his example in contrast to those who are “enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.”

While it is true that sports isn’t the only idol that threatens to supplant the church today, this one has managed to worm its way into many churches with little resistance and found a safe haven where it has been able to launch its destructive work. Without exception, it will cool the hearts of earnest Christians and leave them with a divided loyalty at best. God is no more content with a divided loyalty than a husband would be if he discovered that his wife is on very friendly terms with a neighbor man. We would call that adultery. The same sin against God should be called idolatry or spiritual adultery.

As Christians, let us consider a few things:

1. Can I sincerely sit on those stadium bleachers or wherever, and shout and root along with someone else over some game, yet know full well that most of them, including the players, will eventually spend eternity in hell? Perhaps it would be more appropriate to weep and mourn for

their lost souls.

2. Can I honestly say that God means more to me than sports? If so, let's ask some soul-searching questions: Do I spend more time reading my Bible than the sports page? Do I spend more time on my knees in intercessory prayer than I do watching and supporting my favorite team? Have I memorized more Scripture verses than players' names and batting averages? Do I look forward to church services more than to a game? Am I as glad when the preacher goes over-time as when a ball game does? Can I honor the Lord's Day by not giving sports a thought, much less a viewing?

3. Can it be right to support an activity that pays each of its members millions of dollars every year just for entertainment, while many pastors in poor foreign countries must walk many miles to spread the Good News, because they can't even afford a bicycle?

4. Are these millionaire athletes presenting a godly role model for my children, in light of the example Jesus gave us?

5. Does it trouble me that the biggest sponsors of professional sports are the tobacco and liquor industries?

Several years ago, a movie honored two Olympic athletes who refused to race on their respective Sabbath days. In the 1920's, they had become heroes

because they would not compromise their faith for the sake of the sport. Today, so-called Christians are as likely to be in the stadium or in front of the TV as they are to be in church on Sundays. Their faith apparently makes little difference to them anymore.

Jesus lamented that the church at Ephesus had left her first love. (Revelation 2:4) Surely if we would return to our first love and give God back His rightful place in our hearts and lives, sports would lose their attraction. That we even try to fit sports into our lives only gives indication that God doesn't have all of our heart.

Can we see the adulterous love affair that Christians have with sports and how it has robbed God of that special place in our hearts, which should belong to Him only? When God becomes number one in our lives again, perhaps He will return and give the church the New Testament power and revival which so many people are now crying for. Can we muster the courage to tear down this golden calf which we have helped to erect, lest Christ come and remove our candlestick and give it to a people more worthy?

[From *Fellowship Contributor*, March, 2006. Used by permission.]



## The Congregational Meeting

Aaron Lapp · Kinzers, PA

Today people “do” their hair; they “do” their laundry; they “do” their windows; they “do” their garden; and they even “do” church.

How church is “done” becomes very important. Rivalry surrounding religious issues draws out the strongest of inner impulses. Witness what is happening in Iraq and Israel, for examples.

Church life has the potential of providing the strongest graces for living and for dying. Interestingly, it also seems to be the cause for some of life’s greatest dissatisfactions. People with such diverse feelings sit side by side to worship every Sunday.

Some people go to church quite like spectators at a sports event. They watch the proceedings, take sides, and in their hearts either *cheer* or *boo* as they see it. Scarcely does it ever occur to them that worship and handling of God’s Word is intended to put them in touch with God. It is little more than a performance to be judged on the basis of emotional appeal.

Others go to church much like traders go to market. They “buy and sell and get gain,” looking for social

and emotional profit. An unwanted “Thus saith the Lord” statement, well, they just don’t “buy it.” For such listeners, profiting is difficult. Complaining is natural.

But, fortunately, many also come with honest and sincere hearts. They are hungry. They sit up to the table and consider the “meal” the best of the week. For them, the Lord’s Day is better than work day, play day or pay day. Being in God’s house is the best part of the whole week.

Some Christians fail to take their Christian lives seriously enough to live for God seven days a week. Did you ever hear of Sunday Christians? They are cozy with Satan’s rebellion against God. They are already in Satan’s camp; but he gives them time off to go to church. They go as spectators or marketers, but don’t get involved or participate much. Their motto: Try to enjoy what you can and be free to complain about what is not to your liking.

The Sunday morning church service should be a time to *remember*, to *renew*, and to *rally*. Try it yourself. Make an effort to give, not only receive. Do you know why Old Mother Hubbard had no bone in her cup-

board? She had put none in. Church life is that way, too. Nothing put in, nothing to take out.

Sunday morning services are a time to remember, to renew, and to rally.

1. We stir our senses to remember:
  - God’s mercies
  - our salvation in Christ
  - the Holy Spirit, our comfort
2. We sense our need for renewal:
  - out of complacency

- into a fresh experience of God’s love
  - up to a new level of dedication
3. We support our church’s rally:
    - with joy and expectancy
    - from a supply of gratitude
    - by intending to be helpers

*The Bottom Line* is that congregational life is not measured by duration, but by donation. What truly matters in life is not what one tries to get, but what one is willing to give.



## God’s Exclamation Marks

Rosie Bontrager · Chilton, TX

For Mother’s Day one year, I received a beautiful hibiscus plant. It seemed to suffer some stress after coming to our house. It had lost many of its leaves and had hardly any blooms.

After several weeks it regained its “composure” and looked much better. The day we left on a trip it had a glorious red flower. Since hibiscus flowers last only one day, I was especially blest that the Lord let it open that day and I could enjoy it before we left.

We arrived back home on a Monday morning. The plant had another lovely flower for me to enjoy on that busy day. Did that just happen?

Several years ago, two different families in our church wanted to

adopt a son. Within a short time of each other, both of them got their wish. Not only that, but both families had chosen the name Christopher! Who but God could have coordinated that?

I like to call such special coincidences God’s exclamation marks. At times they may have a special spiritual significance. At other times, there may not be any special meaning that we can see. However, it’s like God is saying, “Look, I’m still at work. I’m still thinking of you. You are still on My heart.”

Look for the exclamation marks in your life and respond with the Psalmist: “How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God!”



## marriages

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

### **Kensinger-Yoder**

Bro. Caleb Daniel, son of Daniel and Louise (Kaufman) Kensinger, Mechanicstown, OH, and Sis. Jessica Ruth, daughter of Floyd and Marlene (Miller) Yoder, Newcomerstown, OH, at Maranatha Fellowship Church for Salem Amish Mennonite Church on Oct. 15, 2005, by Roman B. Mullet.

## cradle roll

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

**Good**, Merle and Dianne (Martin), Harrison, AR, third child, first son, Ryan Merle, March 2, 2006.

**Huston**, John and Edith (Miller), Cottage Grove, TN, sixth child, second son, Wayne Eugene, March 10, 2006.

**Kauffman**, Michael and Joanna (Troyer), New Holland, PA, third child, second son, Landon Riley, March 21, 2006.

**Knepp**, Jay and Joyce, Russellville, KY, sixth child, fourth son, Tristan Wyatt, Nov. 28, 2005.

**Kurtz**, Joseph, Jr., and Sylvia (Peachey), Mannsville, NY, ninth child, fifth dau., Joanna Sylvia, Feb. 1, 2006.

### **Jantzi-Ropp**

Bro. Kenneth, son of Emmanuel and Laura Jantzi, Newton, ON, and Sis. Andrea, daughter of Stephen and Rosemary Ropp, Brunner, ON, at Cedar Grove for Fellowship Haven, March 18, 2006, by Laverne Ropp.

### **Miller-Miller**

Bro. Josias, son of Noah and Edna (Miller) Miller, Baltic, OH, and Sis. Sharon, daughter of Eli and Carol (Kaufman) Miller, Newcomerstown, OH, at Maranatha Fellowship Church for Salem Amish Mennonite Church on Oct. 1, 2005, by Roman B. Mullet.

**Lapp**, Calvin Jay and Barbie (King), Leola, PA, seventh child, third dau., Karisa Ann, Feb. 23, 2006.

**Miller**, Marion and Loretta (Miller), Middlebury, IN, second child, first son, Chandler Martin, March 23, 2006.

**Miller**, Melvin and Connie (Miller), Shipshewana, IN, fourth child, third son, Jedrick Tristan, March 12, 2006.

**Miller**, Robert and Regina (Yoder), Sugarcreek, OH, sixth child, second dau., Angela Jean, Nov. 1, 2005.

**Miller**, Tom and Carole (Byler), Leesburg, OH, third child, second dau., Sonya Elizabeth, March 10, 2006.

**Nissley**, Elam and Nina (Yoder), Paris, TN, third child and son, Vincent Dwight, Feb. 10, 2006.

**Oatney**, Jared and Yolanda (Yoder), Partridge, KS, first child and son, Dale Eldridge, April 7, 2006.

**Peachey**, Louie, Jr., and Olive (Yoder), Woodville, NY, eighth child, fourth dau., Rosanna Jewel, Jan. 1, 2006.

**Peachey**, Matthew and Daria (Yoder), Lewistown, PA, second child, first son, Joshua Earl, March 11, 2006.

**Schrock**, Stephen and Marilyn (Hochstetler), Isabella Bank, Belize, tenth child, fourth son, Philip Estevan, Feb. 20, 2006.

**Shirk**, Orion and Lynnelle (Horst), Ephrata, PA, first child and dau., Antoinette Estelle, Feb. 14, 2006.

**Smucker**, Mark and Regina (Gingerich), Stanardsville, VA, second child and dau., Danika Dawn, March 24, 2006.

**Spicher**, Marlin and Mary Ann (Esh), Belleville, PA, fourth child, third son, (one son deceased), Jeffery Lavon, Feb. 27, 2006.

**Stoltzfus**, Calvin and Jo Ann (Mullet), Lewisburg, PA, third child, first dau., Karena Joy, March 6, 2006.

**Stoltzfus**, James and Mary Ellen (Stoltz-

fus), Morgantown, PA, third child, first dau., Kendra Renae, Dec. 13, 2005.

**Stutzman**, Danny and Monica (Schrock), Dade City, FL, fifth child, first son, Jonathan Bryce, March 4, 2006.

**Stutzman**, Dave and Regina (Byler), Sarasota, FL, second child, first son, Alex Jadon, March 26, 2006.

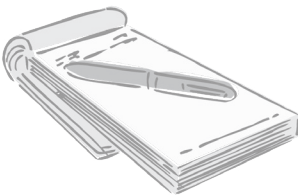
**Webb**, Michael and Miriam (Brumbaugh), Woodburn, IN, third child, second son, Clayton Michael, Feb. 9, 2006.

**Yoder**, Gary and Maria (Schlabach), Sarasota, FL, first child and son, Garrett Lee, March 19, 2006.

**Yoder**, James and Anna (Hostetler), Middleburg, PA, second child, first dau., Faith Elaine, March 7, 2006.

**Yoder**, Victor and Marlene (Summy), Belvidere, TN, fifth child, fourth son, Denver Lamar, March 3, 2006.

A man's JUDGMENT is no better  
than his INFORMATION.



## obituaries

**Yoder**, Bertha, 85, Belleville, PA, died at Ohesson Manor, Lewistown, PA, Feb. 28, 2006. She was born at Belleville, PA, Nov. 22, 1920, daughter of the late John M. and Barbara (Hostetler) Yoder.

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

Memorial services were held March 2 at Valley View with Ezra Peachey and David S. King serving. Burial was in the Locust Grove Cemetery with Eli B. King, Jr. in charge.

## observations

**D**anish cartoons depicting Mohammed as a violent person touched off a widespread reaction of violence throughout the international Muslim community. It has been aptly observed that the work of Mohammed is based on being honored and the work of Christ is based on being insulted. Christ suffered the reproach and rejection of the masses. In so doing He ultimately purchased the price of our redemption. The way of Christ includes non-retaliation and overcoming evil with good.

• • • • •

Oil giant Exxon Mobil's revenue for the year 2005 is reported at \$371 billion. That's more than a billion dollars a day. High crude oil and gasoline

prices contributed to this outlandish bottom line.

Our government has sometimes found it necessary to regulate against unfair monopolies. Free enterprise is considered essential to a healthy economy, but unbridled greed has the opposite effect.

• • • • •

When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in December, 1941, it touched off strong anti-Japanese sentiment in the United States. The government ordered all Japanese to be evacuated from California. Many were assigned to concentration camps, not because they had done anything wrong, but simply because they were Japanese.

Paul W. Brubaker, writing for *The BRF Witness*, reports the following incident from that era. Robert Tanaka, a Japanese Buddhist, and Tom Westfield, a Christian, were neighboring farmers and close friends. But Robert was ordered to leave California. When Tom offered to buy his farm for \$5, he was angry with Tom until Tom told him that whenever he would be able to return he would sell it back to him for the same price.

Four years later, Robert received his farm back in better condition than when he left. Shortly thereafter, Robert and his entire family became devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

• • • • •

The following three items are



gleaned from *Our Faith*, P.O. Box 400, Harrisonburg, VA. 22803. Used by permission. The first one is taken from, John Esau's article, entitled, "What Communion Means to Me."

– Communion is an act of commitment and recommitment.

– Communion is an affirmation of the centrality of Jesus Christ in our faith. "This do in remembrance of Me."

– Communion is about bonding with others who show the faith.

– Communion is an appeal for and acknowledgment of grace in our lives.

– Communion is an act of witness. "For as oft as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."



Stanley Green is executive director of Mennonite Mission network. He was formerly from South Africa. He reports the following: The scene is a courtroom at the end of *apartheid*. (*Apartheid* was a period in which white people of the region mistreated Blacks with heartless cruelty.)

A former chief of police was being tried for atrocities he had committed. An elderly black woman listened to the proceedings. This man had taken her son and shot him. Later he returned and took her husband. Later still, she was taken to a river bank to see her husband stretched on a pyre alive for burning. The last words she heard her husband say was, "Father, forgive them

for they know not what they do."

The former policeman was found guilty. Before sentencing, the elderly widow was asked if she had anything to say. She offered the following:

– She wanted to be taken to the site of her husband's burning to scoop up some ashes and give them a fitting burial.

– She requested that the guilty man be sentenced to come to her house in the ghetto twice a month and "Let me pour out the love on him I would have given my son."

– She further requested that someone would lead her by the arm to the offender so she could put her arms around him to tell him that it is because of Jesus that she forgives him.

As she started toward the offender, he fainted. The audience in the courtroom began singing, "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound."

May this touching incident remind us that Christian non-resistance is far more than non-participation in the military. It is a way of life over which Anabaptists have no monopoly.



The following story was told to Myron Augsburg by a student in 2002, when he taught at Union Biblical Seminary in Prine, India:

One night this person had a dream or vision in which he heard Jesus say, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you

rest.” He was a Muslim who had never heard these words and had never read a Bible.

When he told his father the next morning, he was told to just forget it and put it out of his mind.

Some time later his vehicle stopped in front of a church and he went in to use the telephone. He met the pastor and reported to him his experience. When the pastor pointed out these exact words from Matthew 11, he was dumbstruck.

He became a believer and was baptized, but did not immediately tell his father. But his father noticed a change. He asked why he no longer ran with the old crowd. The son confessed that he had become a Christian and had received baptism. He was promptly ordered out of the house with nothing but the clothes he was wearing.

In 2002, he was a senior who, with his American wife, planned to do mission work among the Muslims after graduation.

• • • • •

In 1984, Ron Sider spoke at the Mennonite World Conference in Strasbourg, France. He challenged Christians to be willing to risk their lives for peace just as military personnel do in war. This led to the formation of Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) in 1986. CPT is committed to nonviolence and respect for human rights. Their mission includes peaceful

protest against unjust and illegal holding of detainees. This is reportedly a widespread problem in Iraq.

On November 26, 2005, CPT members, Tom Fox, 54; Norman Kember, 74; James Loney, 41; and Harmmeet Singh Sooden, 32; were kidnapped in Iraq by a group who call themselves Swords of Righteousness. They held the hostages to demand the release of all Iraqi prisoners.

A significant number of Palestinian, Arab and Muslim groups called for the release of these non-violent hostages. In the Christian community, many vigils were held and prayers were offered for their safety. The captors set a deadline of December 8, later extended to December 10 for their demands to be met. They said the hostages would all be killed if their demands were not met. On March 9, the body of Tom Fox was found in western Baghdad. He had been shot in the head and chest.

After receiving a tip about the hostages’ whereabouts, British and U.S. military special forces found the three surviving hostages unattended in a house in Baghdad. They were rescued without any shots being fired. Tom Fox was from the United States. Two of the others were Canadians and the fourth a Briton. (*Mennonite Weekly Review*, April 3, ’06) —DLM



# All Things Are Not Expedient

Name withheld

*A minister writes a letter to a young man soon to be married, offering him advice for the future. —PLM*

Dear brother,

I wanted to mention something else to you when we talked about your upcoming wedding the other evening, but it slipped my mind.

Young people, especially girls, who have no prospects for marriage (some have never been asked for a date), may have real struggles with their calling to singleness. Most crave companionship as much as anyone else. They could enjoy the cuddly relationship that married couples can enjoy, if...but they have no prospects of it being theirs to enjoy. It can raise questions in their minds, like: *Why am I deprived of marriage? What's wrong with me, anyhow? What have I done to bring this on?*

Why should I be bringing this up to a couple getting married? For this reason: Some recently-married, young married couples—and some not so recent or so young—get a bit “mushy.” They flaunt their privileges publicly with hugging, smooching, and other behavior suggestive of their freedom. These things should be going on at home—but not in public.

It seems to me that 1 Corinthians

8:9 applies to this situation. “**But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours [to enjoy cuddly physical contact] become a stumbling block [cause for compromising godly conviction, seeking the same liberties you enjoy, but perhaps at the cost of lowered ideals and spirituality in their longings for a companion] to them that are weak [in their struggles of accepting God’s will in singleness].**”

I’ve had to listen to sad stories about struggles singles had in these matters. Very few want to complain about their lot in life. Most bravely want to live above such struggles. Some are victorious; others simply put up a brave front. Few will say that seeing the “smoochy” behavior of married couples causes struggles for them, but some have acknowledged that. More commonly, singles experience disgust at the lack of restraint in such a display.

I see nothing wrong with holding hands for certain times and occasions and in an appropriate manner. It seems to me that too much physical familiarity displays self-centeredness and a lack of consideration for others more than actually meaningful communication.

Let me assure you that I take pleasure in knowing that married couples enjoy those privileges. But my respect for them is higher if I see them being discreet about it in public.

Perhaps an object lesson will help explain what I mean. A missionary family moved to a foreign field. Along with their baggage were several large boxes with food items which kind church folks sent along to ease culture shock. While unpacking in their new home, a dozen national children and youth stood watching. Their eyes and mouths opened wide as they watched the unpacking of things which in their experience were items available only for the privileged and the wealthy. The missionary saw what

was happening and simply took the rest of the boxes into another room to be unpacked later.

So it is with some of the blessings of marriage. They can cause problem longings for the unattached. I think chaste, restrained, discreet behavior by married couples can be extremely helpful in this.

May God bless you as you move on to the reality of becoming another family unit in the body of Christ. May He also bless you with wisdom, discretion and consideration for those outside your little haven of love.

A brother in Christ,  
Your minister and your friend



## *Announcement...*

Would you like to send *Calvary Messenger* to someone who's not getting it?

**Give gift subscriptions at half price!**

**Renew your own subscription at half price!**

For just \$3.75 each, you can give a one-year subscription (12 issues) of *Calvary Messenger* to one or any number of friends. When you do this you are entitled to extend your own subscription for one year at \$3.75. While this offer does not benefit your subscription price if you are in a congregation with Every Home Plan, you can still give as many one-year gift subscriptions at half price as you wish.

## Calvary Bible School—2006

*Floyd Stoltzfus*

The twelve weeks have passed swiftly by! The buildings are vacant. The hallways and various designated rooms leave quietness with a hollow ring. The students, faculty and staff (except Marilyn and myself) have all left.

Calvary Bible School is more than adequate buildings, well-furnished rooms, ample facilities, automatic bells, and tight schedules. We are deeply indebted to many who have generously contributed to make these things possible. CBS is also more than pressing assignments, powerful preaching, and accurate teaching, although these also are very important.

Calvary Bible School is eternal souls with a deep hunger to know God. It is a place where trust is earned, where serious counseling is scheduled, and where spiritual growth occurs. Tears are shed, weighty, sinful baggage is unloaded, and testimonies of victory and joy come through. Within the walls of the main building you may often hear beautiful, four-part harmonious singing that often moves one to awe-inspiring worship of our Heavenly Father.

This year 125 students stayed for three weeks; 64 for six weeks; 18 for nine weeks and five for 12 weeks, which totaled 212. We had 89 students

in First Term; 106 in Second Term; and 66 in Third Term.

This work is not without the stress of spiritual maintenance, wearisome toil, loss of sleep, and fervent prayer. But, all in all, we have been blessed richly by our Great Shepherd. This is God's work. We trust the Gospel seed that was sown will bring forth eternal fruit. We often ponder our motto in the chapel, "Unto the praise of His glory."

The following article was an assignment in Third Term for Personal Salvation and Evangelism class taught by Clair Kauffman. The students were assigned to write a Gospel tract. The writer requests anonymity.

### **What Happens When You Break a Dish?**

*By a student at CBS, 2006*

I was horror-stricken! I was trying to hold it so carefully, and somehow... it just slipped out of my hands. Now Mom's antique platter that she had bought at Grandma's sale lay in splinters at my feet. I went to a chair, put my head on the table and cried. It was her favorite! What would she say? I could not glue it back together. I could get her a new plate, but it would not be the one from Grandma that meant so much to her. In spite of any way I could think of to make everything OK

again, nothing worked.

Did you know there's something all of us have done that leaves us with that same hopeless no-way-out feeling? God gave us a law. To be accepted by God, He said we must keep His commandments (Exodus 19:5). God is holy and perfect and requires complete obedience. Because He is holy and perfect, anything less than that must leave Him.

Have you ever broken His commands? Have you ever lied to someone? Have you ever stolen something? Have you ever committed adultery? Have you ever killed someone? God says that if we lust or hate, we have already broken His commands against adultery or murder. (Matthew 5:28; 1 John 3:15)

That is only four of the laws God has given us, and every person I've ever met has violated at least one of them. The Bible says, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:32). Not a single human being has ever been able to keep every one of God's laws.

If someone breaks a law, God requires the death penalty. The shedding of innocent blood is the only way to make peace with Him. When Israel was leaving Egypt, God gave them instructions to kill a lamb without defect. They were to kill the lamb and take its blood and apply it to the doorposts of their houses. If any household failed to follow every step of the command, the oldest son would

die. Only if they carefully did exactly as God said, could they escape the death of their son.

We must keep ALL the law in order to be accepted with God. In James 2:10, it says, "Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." This says even if we break only one rule, it is just like we broke every single one of them.

There is nothing for us to do. We stand guilty and condemned before God. "For the wages of sin is DEATH" (Romans 6:23a). Our penalty is death, and there is absolutely no way out. We can try to "glue it back together." We can do a whole bunch of good things—maybe even sell a boat and give the money to a missionary—or help the victims of a hurricane. None of these will make God happy with us. Not a single way that we can come up with will deliver us from the penalty of death hanging over our heads. We are doomed!

You know what? God is holy and perfect, but He is also love. God made a plan of deliverance for us. Listen to this, "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). God loves us so much, and He does not want us to be separated from Him.

Jesus came to earth as a man and died FOR US! He was the spotless Lamb whose blood was shed so that we do not have to die. Jesus' sinless body and shed blood became the

perfect sacrifice for us! Our penalty of death is paid for!

The death of Jesus bridged the gap between us and God. It is the ONLY way He will accept us. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father but by Me" (John 14:6). God accepted Jesus' blood as payment so that now we need not be separated from Him.

And think of this...God offers this way of deliverance to you to escape your death penalty. He says, "...if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9).

"Confess" means that we agree with God, that we have sinned and are guilty and condemned. We admit that we cannot think of any way to reach God and make things right with Him.

No matter how hard we try, no amount of good works will balance out the weight of even just one sin. That is trusting ourselves and trying to make our own way out. Nothing we can come up with will bridge the gap between us and God. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy he saved us..." (Titus 3:5). This verse makes it clear that we cannot trust in what we do, but simply accept God's mercy. We must believe that Jesus' death really does pay our own personal penalty and trust the way of deliverance that God provided. When Jesus died, He

did not stay dead. After three days of being in the grave, God raised Him up from the dead! He is still living in heaven today. His resurrection shows us He has power even over death!

Before Jesus left this earth and returned to heaven, He promised His disciples that He would send a Comforter to be with them. He sent the Holy Spirit to live in the heart of every believer and to give them power to live lives that are acceptable to God. Here are some of Jesus' words of encouragement given to His disciples and to all believers, "In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

He has also given us the promise of eternal life. 1 John 5:13 says, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life." We can look forward to the end of our lives, when we die physically and go to live forever and ever in heaven.

Here is God's offer, "Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). How about it? Are you tired of trying to do good things and trusting in your own way to bridge the gap? Please come to God on His terms and trust in Jesus' blood to remove your guilt and shame!



# Technology—A Mixed Blessing

Betty Yoder · Guys Mills, PA/Hutchinson, KS

*[An experienced teacher of primary students takes a clear-eyed look at basic character issues that affect development in children. —PLM]*

Homemade toys and creative play combined with hard work and family meals around the table bring wistful thoughts of life in rural America 100 hundred years ago. In that era, the discipline of daily farm chores communicated the importance of each one's contribution to the family unit while experiencing the essence of reality. After completing their tasks, children joyfully seized the rare moments of leisure, and dashed to a secret hideout or nearby stream, entertaining themselves with creative play. Boredom was a stranger to these hardy children.

The world today blinks in amazement, unable to comprehend the robust play of happy children in the absence of modern conveniences or expensive toys. Many children of the 21<sup>st</sup> century suffer from a sense of isolation, with too much leisure time and too little rigorous work. They passively yield their hearts and minds to the empty thrills of advanced technology. They live lethargically, waiting for the next thrill. The comforts, entertainment, and opportunities that

technology offers consume the inner life of individuals who pursue them solely for their promised pleasures.

Television, computers, and videos provide a multitude of educational programs for all ages. Academic knowledge gained outside of the context of human interaction, however, can greatly weaken its usefulness. Young children regularly interacting with their parents observe first hand the necessity of “reading, ‘riting, and ‘rithmetic” in everyday life. Girls watching their mothers follow a recipe to bake cookies and boys helping their fathers measure boards to build something are given a context in which to integrate academic facts.

Undoubtedly, the amusement that technology offers serves as a convenient and entertaining babysitter for busy mothers; nevertheless, it potentially starves children of one of their greatest needs: family relationships. Interaction with machines never satisfies that hunger. Children who do not experience the close presence of loving adults in their childhood generally struggle to develop appropriate social skills and rarely seek their parents' input in later years.

Even though technology grants easy access to world news, it also opens the door to a host of evil



influences. Most people agree that children need to be protected from the filth on television and the internet. Many parents sincerely attempt to curtail the negative influence of television, yet its very presence in the home weakens the parents' stand against the evils of vile language and immoral behavior.

Excessive fascination with movies also builds a false view of reality. In those scenarios, the author controls the events. He skillfully manipulates the outcome to fit his plot. This breeds unrealistic expectations for life, for in real life neither children nor adults can control the consequences of their choices. In reality, few ever become a superman or heroine or gloriously fulfill great dreams. Addiction to the glitter of an unreal world, as portrayed by many movies promotes fantasizing as an escape from the dreariness of life.

Moreover, common sense teaches us that frequently watching scenes of violence promotes hostile behavior. Children at a very young age begin to imitate what they see. Their young minds cannot sort out bad examples nor analyze what they should or should not imitate. Unscreened television watching assaults their impressionable minds and hardens their consciences. Adults who expose defenseless children to violence in their home bear the guilt of their choices.

Furthermore, addiction to easy pleasure hinders intellectual development. Effortless entertainment provided by the flip of a switch or the push of a button tends to make people impatient and demanding. Studies verify that large amounts of time spent watching television or playing mechanical games robs the brain of its ability to focus on one subject for an extended period of time. As it cuts the attention span, the possibility of Attention Deficit Disorder greatly increases.


Not only does this time-consuming addiction interfere with the ability to concentrate, it causes people to neglect expanding their minds by reading good books. Enslavement to easy entertainment kills creativity and vitality. The future of every culture ultimately depends on the character of its people. No nation prospers without much energy directed toward a goal bigger than mere pleasure.

Children and adults who listlessly await the next exciting event resist the discipline of hard work. Manual labor and menial tasks take on the feel of necessary evils that steal time from amusement. In this climate, ingenuity—the result of pressure combined with a driving desire for improvement—has no chance to grow. When responsibility and endurance become distasteful, character dies.

Technology, however, can serve as

a valuable tool. Pursuing goals bigger than one's own self allows technology to function as a servant while protecting hearts and minds from captivity to its pleasures. Today, as in days of old, purposeful living within a community creates a sense of belonging.

Furthermore, it sets the stage for the self-forgetful delight of happy children at creative play.

*[Condensed by the editor from an assignment submitted at Faith Builders' Educational Programs.]* 

## *The Light Within*

*Bonnie Martin · Hicksville, OH*

**I**t was a dreary Tuesday morning as we gathered in the church basement for our monthly Sisters' Sewing. We got out thimbles, threaded our needles, and began stitching on the quilt.

"My, it certainly is hard to see what I'm doing," commented one sister.

"Yes, it does seem rather dark in here," agreed another. A quick glance up assured us that the lights were on, so with a sigh of resignation, we squinted a little harder and kept on quilting.

"It must be dreary weather that makes it so dark in here," a sister observed with a glance through the window at the leaden skies.

"Yes," we all agreed, "if only the sun would shine." But one sister wasn't ready to blame the dreary day for the darkness inside. From her place at the quilt, she took a closer look at the light fixtures in the ceiling. Her careful scrutiny revealed that while these light fixtures were made for three bulbs, most of them had only

one or two bulbs glowing.

Many of the bulbs were burned out and we were blaming the cloudy day!

As I reflected on this incident later, I saw some parallels to my life. Often when I experience the darkness of discouragement in my life, I tend to blame my outward circumstances.

-If only we had more money!

-If only my husband would do this or that!

-If only the baby weren't so fussy!

-If only I had talents like that sister!

-If only the sun would shine!

-If only this or that were different, I could be happy. But since I can't change my circumstances, I may conclude that I am doomed to discouragement and darkness.

But wait! Just as we don't depend on the sun shining in the windows to brighten our homes, we as Christians don't depend on our outward circumstances to bring us joy. Yes, it is nice when the sun shines brightly and all goes well, but it is those dreary days that reveal whether or not we

have the true Light within.

When the baby is sick, the mower is broken, the children track in mud, and the cake flops—can I still smile and be joyful? Or does my husband come home to find a sour, grouchy wife?

As I was studying the Creation account recently, one of the cross references was 2 Corinthians 4:6, which says, “For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” The same God whose spoken Word caused the light to shine at Creation that dispelled the darkness, now shines in my heart. He gives that inner light!

The next thought in that Scripture is, “We have this treasure [the Light] in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.” God keeps that inner light burning. The power is there, just as there was electricity in those light fixtures, but it is up to me to keep the bulbs fresh.

2 Corinthians 4:16 says, “...the inward man is renewed day by day.” The inner light will soon grow dim and burn out if it is not properly maintained. This maintenance takes place as I daily worship the Light of the world and abide in Him.

I find that when my heart is in tune with God, and my thoughts are centered on Him, it is easier to be calm and joyful even in difficult, frustrating circumstances. This must have been the Apostle Paul’s experience as he penned these words: “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed” (2 Corinthians 4:8, 9).

Praise God! Even in these days when all around us things seem to grow darker, we can say with the Psalmist, “The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1)



## helpers at home

### *Mother*

*Mary June Glick*

**M**ay is the month for Mother’s Day. It is that time when we receive beautiful cards and expressions of love

and appreciation from our children. Even though we know we don’t really deserve their praise we are reminded of the verse in Proverbs 31:28, “...her

children rise up and call her blessed.” We also reflect on godly mothers who wait for us in heaven and thank God for the impact they have had on our lives and the lives of our children.

From the minute of birth the newborn baby is reaching out for love and security from the very person that brought him into the world—Mother. Mother is one of the most loved words of any language. It is used in many different forms and situations. I have personally been called “Mom” by our birth and adopted children, by foster children, even by daughters-in-law. I have been called “Grandma” by our grandchildren and at times by other children. Many well-known men such as presidents and evangelists attribute much of their success to their godly mothers.

The world “mother” is first used in the Bible in Genesis 3:20, where God says that Eve is the mother of all living.

A godly mother is a:

1. Praying Mother. 1 Samuel 1:27, 28, says, “For this child I prayed.” We should pray daily for each of our children, asking God to protect them spiritually, physically and emotionally. It is good to pray Scripture for them. Teach your children to pray by asking God for specific needs, such as help for a test, love for another person, or even things like finding a lost pet. Nothing is too small for God. He

delights in answering a child’s prayer.

2. Joyful Mother. Psalm 113:9, “... and to be a joyful mother of children.” A joyful spirit is contagious. It tells the child if we really enjoy being his or her mother. Learn to relax and not be frustrated if things aren’t perfect, whether it’s your house, the children or your husband. Thank God for the many good things He has given you. Enjoy His blessings together as a family.

3. Teaching Mother. 2 Timothy 1:5 speaks of “the unfeigned faith that is in you, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois and in thy mother Eunice.” We teach by example and by word. We need to teach Bible stories and Bible principles through good reading material. We teach children about life, about nature, and about right and wrong.

4. Surrendered Mother. Luke 1:38 quotes Mary saying, “Behold the handmaid of the Lord, be it unto me according to thy word.” A mother finds her place in God’s role for her life as she commits herself fully to God to work in and through her. Only then can she be the blessing to her husband and children God desires her to be.

May you find much joy this Mother’s Day as you rejoice in the good things God has given you.



# Women of God

Alice Tice · Grantsville, MD

Queen Esther was willing to lay her life on the line in order to save her people. Anna, the prophetess, “served God with fastings and prayers night and day” (Luke 2:36). Phoebe was [probably] a deaconess of whom Paul spoke highly. (Romans 16:1, 2) Sarai submitted to her husband, Abram, by being willing to go with him even though he wasn’t sure where God was leading them. (1 Peter 5:5, 6) Thus positive examples abound from women of the Bible.

Unfortunately, negative examples are also present in the biblical record: Eve instigated the first disobedience and the Fall of Man. Sarai persuaded Abram to take Hagar to bear them an heir, when it seemed that God had forgotten His promise. Bathsheba took a bath too publicly, tempting David. Solomon’s wives exerted a pull away from his worship of the true God. Each of these women’s influence had far-reaching effects for evil rather than good.

Is it a fact then, that women are largely responsible for the downfall of men? While they can neither be blamed nor credited entirely, I believe women bear considerable responsibility for men’s thoughts and actions.

We women influence men in other ways besides how we dress, but let us think about dress and our influence in this area, even though we may be somewhat unaware of it.

One mother said that she feels her sons are not even safe at church. By that she meant that what those sons could look upon causes them to struggle for pure thoughts. Shouldn’t church be a safe place for men?

Dress materials and styles often reveal the feminine figure. The aforementioned mother visited a church where she observed attire that seemed safe to her. She commented that those women looked modest and neat.

Are there not basically two styles of dress for women? Those that *reveal* and those that *conceal*. Revealing styles include low necklines and form-fitting dresses. With some patterns, the dress seems to hang on the body, revealing the feminine figure. Perhaps that is the purpose for its design. Though it covers adequately, it fails to conceal bodily form. A dress that conceals well allows the eye to be drawn to the face and the eyes. A woman feels respected and safe with a man who looks her in the eye when he speaks to her.

Ladies, do we really want to advertise our figures? Do we want responsibility for a battle for purity in the minds of good men?

“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or costly array; But which becometh

women professing godliness with good works” (1 Timothy 2:9).

“But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price” (1 Peter 3:4).



## junior messages

### *Be Patient*

*Brian Hershberger, age 12 · LaGrange, IN*

**J**erry, come get Diamond for the children,” called Father as he asked his son to bring the family’s driving horse out of the barn.

“Be right there,” yelled Jerry. While Jerry put the bit in Diamond’s mouth, she nervously bit Jerry’s finger.

“Neigh!” the frightened horse backed up, tightening her rope.

“Hold it, Diamond!” screamed Jerry. “I’m glad Father didn’t hear me scream,” he muttered to himself.

The next day Jerry needed to get the horses ready for the field. The work horse, Johnny, stepped on his toe. “Stop it! You dumb old thing!” Jerry yelled.

This time Father heard him. “Watch your language. When will you learn to be patient?”

Two days later as Jerry was getting the planter ready, Johnny gave him a kick. “Ow!” Jerry grabbed a big stick, yelling. “I’m fed up with this!” He hit the horse till the stick broke in two.

“Jerry, what happened to Johnny today?” Father asked. Jerry had to admit that his anger got out of control. “Do you know why that doesn’t work?” Father looked at Jerry sadly.

“I guess because patience means I am in control,” Jerry acknowledged.

“You got it!” smiled Father.



*Kindness has influenced more people than has eloquence.*

# Choose Wisely

LaVerne Miller · Partridge, KS

*From a message given at commencement exercises of 18 graduates at Pilgrim Christian Schools, on May 6, 2005.*

A warm welcome to each of you who has come to join in this special time of recognition and celebration! My invitation was personalized to attend “Commencement Exercises.” What is meant by that? Is this some form of exercise in which we commence to do something? Before we get all tangled up in word meanings, let me encourage you graduates just to relax and enjoy. It’s your evening!

First, tonight, let’s celebrate your accomplishments. Each of you has worked hard to earn your diploma. There were times when you labored long and hard to get that essay or speech just right. Sometimes it might have been a frustration with a difficult algebra problem. There were probably even times of discouragement. Sure, there were probably times when you goofed off a bit but there were also times of fun and excitement. Tonight those times are a memory and we have come together this evening to celebrate your achievements.

Second, let’s be grateful. Remember those who have helped you achieve

personal growth and your goal of graduating. Remember those who have encouraged and inspired you. Bless them with your gratitude tonight and always. Remember your teachers, your parents, your friends and siblings, administrators and board members, and your loyal supporters. They may have irritated you at times, but they also inspired you and gave of themselves unselfishly; they have given financial resources in order to provide you with good learning opportunities.

Let’s always choose wisely. Am I giving too much advice? Fred Smith, in his book, *How to Get Good Advice*, said “The trouble with good advice is that it usually interferes with your plans.” He also said, “We could all save ourselves a lot of words if we’d only remember that people rarely take advice unless they have to pay for it.”

I would like for you to consider making **three** important choices. Eleanor Roosevelt once said, “One’s philosophy is not best expressed in words. It is expressed in the choices one makes. In the long run, we shape our lives and we shape ourselves. The process never ends until we die. And the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility.”

Please consider carefully to make these three choices:

1. Your Leader
2. To forgive
3. To serve

1. Choose your Leader wisely. Decide to follow the Lord Jesus without reserve. You will never regret it. You may remember the story of William Borden. One hundred years ago, in 1904, he graduated from high school a millionaire. His parents gave him a trip around the world as a graduation gift.

Traveling through Asia, the Middle East, and Europe gave Borden a burden for the world's hurting people. Writing home, he said, "I'm going to give my life to prepare for the mission field. When he made this decision, he wrote in the back of his Bible two words: **No Reserves.**

Turning down high paying job offers after graduation from Yale University, he entered two more words in his Bible: **No Retreats.**

Completing studies at Princeton Seminary, he sailed for China to work with Muslims, stopping first at Egypt for some preparation. While there, he was stricken with cerebral meningitis and died within a month. A waste, you say? Not in God's plan. In William Borden's Bible underneath the words, **No Reserves** and **No Retreats**, he had written the words, **No Regrets.**

Choose your Leader. Follow the Lord Jesus without reserve, or retreat. You will never regret it!

2. Choose the way of forgiveness. Life will have its disappointments. People will sometimes let you down. We're all human, so it's bound to happen. Difficult circumstances will occur that seem unfair. You will choose how to respond. You can choose to let life's difficulties turn you into an angry, bitter person or, by the grace of God, you can choose to forgive those who wrong you.

Choosing to forgive can help you to discover the joy of deeply satisfying relationships. You will become more creative, too. Out of the bitter lemon you are served you can choose to make thirst-quenching lemonade.

Forgiveness is the basis of all meaningful human relationships. Forgiveness is a two-way street. **You** can be the one to mess up. There may be no way to undo what you did or retract what you said. You must choose either to ignore your mistake or to admit it. The sooner you learn gracefully to say, "I was wrong. Please forgive me," the better off you will be. And people will want to be with you. Choose the way of forgiveness. It makes all the difference.

3. Choose to serve. We mentioned choosing our Leader. Let's choose to follow in our **Leader's steps** by choos-



ing to serve. Mark 10:45 (NKJV) says, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but **to serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

The ten disciples were really upset and irritated with James and John because they were asking for a special place of honor in glory. Jesus needed to remind them that even He Himself came to serve. The first and most important thing we need is a **willingness** to serve. “But unto every one of us is grace given according to the measure of the gift of Christ.” Each of you has been given a gift to use for Kingdom work. Don’t squander it. Develop your gifts. Commit yourself to using the gifts God has given you. Commit yourself to lifelong learning and a life of service.

Don’t procrastinate. It is said, “The road named ‘Some Day’ leads to a town called, ‘Nowhere.’” It is also said that, “The road to hell is paved with good intentions.” Plan now to make a difference with your life.

I’m inspired by the life of a young man who wanted to become a good surgeon. In the spring of 1883, two young men graduated from medical school. The two differed from one another in both appearance and ambition.

Ben was short and stocky. Will was tall and thin.

Ben dreamed of practicing medicine on the East Coast. Will wanted to work in a rural community.

Ben begged his friend to go to New York where they could both make a fortune. Will wasn’t interested. Ben called him foolish for wanting to practice medicine in the Midwest, but Will said, “I want first of all to be a great surgeon...the very best, if I have the ability.” Years later the wealthy and powerful came from around the world to be treated by Will at his clinic—the Mayo Clinic.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV), says, “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

I propose that making three choices will greatly impact your future:

Choose your Leader carefully.

Choose to forgive liberally.

Choose to serve unselfishly.

The Lord Jesus has plans for you.

He wants to be your leader.

He will show you the way of forgiveness.

He will teach you how to serve.

Please choose wisely. Your future depends on it.

*Suggested for publication by Lorne and Grace Kuepfer, Hutchinson, KS*



## Dear Youth,

Last summer I received a question wondering how single men and women are to excellently relate to each other. After discussing this question with quite a number of people, I decided to compile their thoughts into one article. In an article of this size, not everything can be said that would be helpful, and there is not enough space to explain what all is meant by what is said. Lots could be written, for example, about unhealthy same-gender friendships

and unhealthy relationships between siblings.

You may have some questions after reading this article. If so, I would recommend that you sit down with your parents or some other adult and discuss the concepts in question.

**As you read, be aware that “single” as used in this section refers to any unmarried person 16 years old or older.**

A big “thank you” to the several dozen people who shared the valuable thoughts in this article. —EE

### *This Month's* QUESTION

*(From a reader in  
Central America)*

**“What are some scriptural principles and directives that will help us single men and women excellently relate to each other, and how can we know if the way we are relating is emotionally or spiritually damaging?”**

## *Guarding the Heart in Cross-gender Relationships*

**W**hen answering a question like this, it is good to go to our common authority, the Bible, and seek to know the heart of God. If we are committed to carefully studying the Bible, to following its principles, and to living intimately with the Almighty, we are much better able to evaluate subjects such as this.

From the Scriptures, it seems obvious that God intends that there be emotional and spiritual bonding between family members and between fellow believers of the same gender. Emotional bonding takes place as people relate to each other with love and acceptance. Healthy emotional bonding takes place as people relate unselfishly with proper love boundar-

ies. Whenever any group of persons is not intentional about improving their level of relationships and bonding with each other, it can be expected that there will be emotional voids and a corresponding reaping. Adults who fail to bond deeply with their spouses and children, raise families who are prone to emotional violations when they relate to the opposite gender. Youth who are not accustomed to relating deeply and bonding with other people carry emotional voids that make them vulnerable to emotional violations with the opposite gender. Sometimes these emotional voids are discovered before marriage; sometimes they are not discovered until afterwards. In either case, the results are usually disastrous.

People with an “abstinence will fix anything” mentality would recommend that people abstain from cross-gender relationships so that they are not hurt emotionally. [I understand the writer to speak of abstinence as that of avoiding emotional closeness to avoid problems.—PLM] This approach may keep certain types of violations from occurring, but it does not deal with root issues or to the many other problems that result from such a mentality. Whenever Christians look for easy routes of abstinence rather than submitting themselves to the disciplines of moderation and the pursuit of excellence, “Christianity” is

given a cold, ugly image. Abstinence for a time can help us look at our lives objectively, but abstinence alone will not change our hearts.

Emotional violations between men and women take place when people innocently or intentionally seek love and acceptance by taking or giving at a deeper level than God designed for that particular social setting. Emotional violations occur when a person is motivated by lust, fear, or a lack of knowledge about love. If we discover that the result of our relationships is emotional hurt, emotional entanglements, and feeling “used,” we can know that an intimacy barrier (emotional boundary) was crossed.

In healthy relationships, each person is valued as a unique, beautiful creation of God. However, in our fallen world, much of His beauty is hidden. When human beings begin to see God’s beauty in each other and in their own redemption, their goals and desires in relationships begin to change.

When we cooperate with God’s desire to make us less self-centered, and when we allow Him to work on getting rid of lust, fear, and ignorance in our hearts, we will begin to see His love, His beauty, and His completeness. As we begin to experience this fullness from God, we will want to relate to others as He relates to us. The qualities we see in Him, we will

want to see developed in other people.

God values our hearts, and can give us discernment in guarding our hearts. He can help us grow “spiritual antennas” that will tell us when we have crossed wholesome emotional boundaries.

Here are a few principles to provide practical guidance:

**Don’t defraud.**

Defrauding is taking something from someone else that does not belong to you. It also includes giving something to someone that does not rightfully belong to him or her.

Many men and women have huge voids in their hearts that come from a lack of spiritual and emotional development and from wrong responses to pain and pleasure. These huge voids are begging to be filled by another person.

A man defrauds a woman when he draws affirmation, affection, and heart responses from her without committing to love that woman in marriage. He likes it; it feels good; and it is easier to get this kind of response from a woman than to get it from other men. When a man does this, he does serious damage to his “emotional virginity.” He will find it difficult to develop a “single eye” for the Lord if he remains unmarried or a “single eye” for his wife if he chooses marriage. The women who defraud may feel loved initially, but eventually

discover that they were being “used” by the man for his own self-centered interests. They are left with broken hearts, fearing that they might never be treasured and protected.

Ladies defraud men by drawing out affection, approval and care without being committed to them. This leaves men confused about their manliness and their ability to be strong, responsible leaders. Women are damaged when they give their hearts to men who are not committed to protect them for life.

Usually men do not sense the danger of emotional violations as quickly as women do. Women are generally much more sensitive to feelings of attachment than men are. After women have been violated emotionally, their intuition tells them that connecting deeply with a man did serious damage to their “emotional virginity.” However, if women have seldom been touched emotionally or if they have been injured in the past, the new “touching” will feel healing to them. The healing may also feel “spiritual,” particularly if the touch was performed under the banner of “Christian soul care” or a “close youth group.”

Initially, unhealthy cross-gender interactions feel like a win/win situation, but the winning is only on the surface. Underneath, huge damage occurs in their hearts because God intended for

such feelings to be cultivated within families, with guardians, or in healthy friendships with the same gender.

**“It is good for a man not to touch a woman.”**

It is somewhat hard to understand the full meaning of what Paul was saying by this statement, but the context seems to indicate that this statement could also apply to “inappropriate emotional touching.” Touching a woman’s emotions inappropriately violates her emotional virginity. When a man other than the woman’s dad or brothers touches a woman’s deep emotions, a “family-attachment” forms with that man and she connects him to the core of her being. The man has entered a sacred place of her heart, a place reserved for “family men.” Even men from church do not touch that level of intimacy without emotional violation.

Women open themselves to violation when they do not guard their emotions but rather enjoy a man’s “emotional touching.” Single ladies should wait to respond to a man’s attention, until he clearly states his intentions to pursue courtship.

Courtship is a time for singles to communicate their desire to become increasingly committed to each other. With that as their goal, a certain amount of “emotional touching” within boundaries is necessary and healthy.

Singles who are involved in “brother/sister” level friendships, generally “sell out” their souls for a cheap price. Their lives are like a garden, in which strangers are allowed to trample down delicate growth and help themselves to any fruit they find attractive, before passing on to the next person’s garden.

Just as fornication or “beauty modeling” cheapens physical beauty and intimacy, so inappropriate “emotional touching” by persons of opposite gender cheapens emotional beauty and intimacy.

God intends for the deepest part of our heart to be like an attractive garden in which only a special few are allowed to walk inside and enjoy its fruit and its beauty.

### **Live Vibrantly in Social Fellowship**

Living vibrantly in social love includes being committed to avoid interactions that cross the emotional boundaries that God designed to nurture within marriage. *Learning to acknowledge desire while waiting for its satisfaction is the secret of moderation.* As singles we are to love each other fervently as Peter commands. However, the level of love’s fervency must correspond with the boundaries that God designed as a protection for our hearts. Vibrant singles focus on building relationships with family, guardians, or friends of the same gender.

Physical, social, and spiritual in-

teraction with the opposite gender often creates emotional bonds of some depth. Growth in self control, spiritual sensitivity, and emotional sensitivity is the way that singles can develop as God intended, without getting hurt emotionally. When commitment to God and His principles is cultivated, emotional boundaries will not be so easily crossed.

Young people should be committed to form “love boundaries” in their cross-gender interactions. This can hardly happen unless the families from which they have come, have first relationships that nurture love and emotional vitality. Families that fail in this emotional development will produce youth who seek for the equivalent relationships at Bible schools, counseling centers, V.S. units, and youth groups. These mixed social groups feel like family, but are hotbeds for emotional violations. It feels good to have brother-sister friendships where there is care and concern for each other, but Paul did not use ink carelessly when he wrote that “older women need to care for the younger women.”

Much good can come when young people socialize with each other and encourage each other spiritually. If the purpose for their getting together is for some “higher kingdom purpose” or for some “outward” social purpose, “loose love” and “emotional

drawing” from each other is not as likely to happen.

Young people need to be trained and taught by older, wiser adults about how to interact with each other without “drawing” from each other. Even in healthy activities that are purely social, emotional feelings will likely be stirred, but if youth are committed to “guarding and giving,” their hearts will not be as empty and hungry.

Another thing to remember: “The smaller the group, the more potential for emotional violations.” In the small group, there is greater tendency to defraud each other and to share information that should be kept to family or same-gender friendships.

“Strong” men and women find their significance and security in God, not in people. They nurture habits that help them flee temptations and resist Satan’s traps. Consequently, through exercise of their spiritual muscles, they are better able to relate to each other without suffering emotional violations.

“Weak” men and women procrastinate in seeking the Lord. They tend to neglect drinking in His love and applying His principles. Perhaps at this point some of you are wondering if all is well in your heart and soul. If so, I would encourage you to remain open to God and to godly counsel. There is hope for persons who discover that

they have related too cheaply. People may experience a certain amount of reaping for their decisions, but God is a Redeemer, and He promises to bring beauty into the lives of those who seek His forgiveness and healing.

### **Live the Kingdom Culture**

Is there a focus that young people can rally around, that will bring different results, than what is evident in the lives of those who follow “current relational trends”?

What I offer here may seem unrelated to the above discussion, but to me it is extremely basic.

A commitment to living out the “Kingdom culture” is fertile soil in which healthy relationships grow.

The Kingdom culture is the culture that is described in the Sermon on the Mount.

Are you committed to seeking God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?

Are you committed to pursuing excellence in relationships even if it means giving up your preferences and the social pressures of your peers?

Are you committed to serving your

relatives, your church family, and your neighbors until they are won by your love?

There really are no new ways to God. Prayer, fasting, Bible reading, meditating with God, engrafting the Scriptures into our consciousness, opening our lives to our brothers and sisters, and serving one another, these comprise the path to becoming mighty in spirit.

As we commit ourselves fully to the Kingdom culture, subconsciously our relationships will mature in ways that God designed.

This solution may, at first, seem quite simplistic, but it is a real focus that all of us can put our energies into.

If all of us work together on this, perhaps in a decade or so, our church communities will become seedbeds where healthy relationships are cultivated and nurtured.

May God’s blessing attend you as you seek to love those around you, and as you seek to guard your heart with all diligence.

## *Next Month's* **QUESTION**

**Many youth are discouraged with the negatives that they see in their homes and church communities. If youth want to be used by God to influence other people to reflect the character of God, what kind of heart must they develop?**



# THOUGHT GEMS

We may “choose our choices,” but we cannot  
choose the consequences of our choices.

• • • • •

Beware of love that hasn't learned to give.

• • • • •

Too many Americans believe in life, liberty  
and the *purchase* of happiness.

• • • • •

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

• • • • •

Swell ideas don't seem to come from swelled heads.

• • • • •

Imagination can make you think you're having a good  
time when, in fact, you're only spending money.

• • • • •

Appearances can be deceiving.

The dollar bill looks the same as it did 25 years ago.

• • • • •

It's almost as difficult to live *within* an income today  
as it was to live *without* one in the Great Depression.

• • • • •

A new era of peace will begin when somebody invents a way  
to get all the axes on the grindstone at the same time.

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

Periodicals