



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

Galatians 6:14

**SEPTEMBER 2006**

Meditation

*The Bible* ..... 1

Editorial

*Repetition* ..... 2

Reader Response..... 4

The Bottom Line

*In Death or In Life* ..... 6

These Three Things..... 9

Looking Through an Old *Gospel Herald*..... 11

Marriages..... 15

Cradle Roll..... 15

Ordination..... 16

Obituaries..... 17

Observations..... 18

Ministers' Meeting Messages—2006..... 20

Are You Narrow Minded? ..... 26

Mission Awareness

*Where Would You Go if You Would Die* ..... 28

Helpers at Home

*Men and Women are “Wired” Different* ..... 31

Junior Messages

*The Healer Came* ..... 33

Youth Messages

*Answers to This Month's Question* ..... 35

Thought Gems ..... back cover

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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## *The Bible*

*Wilma Wengerd · Paris, TN*

I have an unchanging book,  
Inspired by God, written by saints of old.  
To help me on my heavenward journey,  
My treasure not to be sold.

Its contents are very powerful,  
Sharper than any two-edged sword.  
Piercing through my deepest being.  
Opening me before the Lord.

At times the way is long and rugged,  
Then to my Bible I will fly.  
To gain again my courage,  
And keep climbing till I die!

Then may I hear some day,  
Those welcome words in my ears,  
“Well done, my child. Come home!”  
Gone forever: trials, struggles and tears!



*A Bible that's falling apart likely  
belongs to someone who isn't.*

## *Repetition*

### **Repetition in Education**

**A** good teacher must be willing to say the same things over and over. That's how it's been done for a long, long time. An Old Testament teacher and prophet said, "Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine?... For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:..." (From Isaiah 28:9 and 10)

I'm no sure what this tells us about effective teaching methods, but I understand that the teacher who thinks he can say it once and that that will be enough, simply does not get the job done. I note that the people in Isaiah's time who thus approached education were, however, vulnerable to slavery. Note Isaiah's further comment in verse 13, "That they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared and taken." Thus it seems that mastery of surface facts without mastery of underlying principles does not set free the spirit of the student. Jesus said it so well, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

The student benefits from speaking the facts he would master. Meaningful repetition helps establish facts in his mind. So, while there's value in repetition, as meaning is added to repetition, more understanding and retention will result. Note elsewhere in this issue the pitiful methods of education Leona Yoder describes in her observations in the article "These Three Things."

### **Repetition in Prayer**

Christ invites us to sincere petition. He says in essence: Mean what you pray. He warns us against meaningless repetition. He said, "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them..." (Matthew 6:7,8a).

Prayer mantras are common among unevangelized peoples of the world. A mantra, according to the dictionary, is "a mystical formula of invocation or incantation (as in Hinduism)." Mantras are also used to invoke satanic possession of a person's life.

Christians are to "Pray without ceasing," (1 Thessalonians 5:23), but

the godly practice of earnest entreaty is “a country mile” from repetitious mantra. Such prayers may be uttered time and again. We honor the Lord more when we do not always give them in the same words.

Jesus warned against thinking we would “be heard for our much speaking.” He warned against long prayers which are given with the thought that God gives greater consideration to repeated statements and petitions. God is honored when we trust Him enough that we don’t wheedle and whine as we bring our petitions to Him, as though He didn’t want to bother with us and our needs. Someone has said it well: “Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance, but accepting His eagerness to help.”

### **Repetition in Singing**

What about singing? We might ask, “Did not David, the sweet singer of Israel, repeat his praises to God?” Yes, he did, at times, and those praises seemed to come from the depths of his being. I do not, however, hear David singing the same thing over and over without adding new reason for repeating a refrain he finds expressive. (See Psalm 107.)

There is essential difference in a song of praise that keeps bringing us new thoughts and a song that mostly just repeats the same phrase over and over. The one works at bringing along

our worshipful understanding and the other seems to carry along our disengaged minds with a “well-oiled mantra.”

Perhaps when the melody becomes more prominent than the lyrics we invite deterioration of worship. That’s when we choose music mostly because of how it sounds, rather than how it nurtures our spirits to respond in sincere worship of the true God.

When I hear a song that attempts to exalt the Lord Jesus with mantra-like repetition, I think of Jesus’ warnings against vain repetition. Such wordiness makes worship seem mechanical and self-centered—and powerless.

Much wedding music is sentimental and without God-honoring substance. When I go to a wedding, I want to hear songs of commitment to love, to permanence, and to bear and forbear instead of songs about “how sweet it is to be in love!”

Jesus told the Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well that true worshippers must worship God in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24) Sometimes I wonder if the early church faced the weakening of deep and honest worship like we do today. When I note how the Apostle Paul admonished the Corinthians, I conclude that their challenges were probably similar to ours. I assume that the Apostles em-

phasized keeping “spirit and truth” in their worship because Paul wrote to the Corinthians: “What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also” (1 Corinthians 14:15).

Give me concertos and oratorios that glorify Jehovah. Give me hymns that exalt the wisdom and work of God. Give me Gospel songs that pledge life and loyalty to Jesus, the

Captain of our salvation. Give me psalms that lift my soul in gratitude and praise to God.

I must go beyond the sentimental and the semi-obedient that likes to say and to sing, “I’m so happy because things are going my way! I’m feeling real good—so I must be right with God!” Such self-adoring sentiments are pitiful! I must, and by God’s grace, I will worship **Him** sincerely—in spirit and in truth!

—PLM 

## reader response

### **Re: Multiple Chemical Sensitivity:**

The recent observation on chemical sensitivity (July, 2006, p. 17) was well-stated and well-taken, for evidently some of us have surpassed our metabolic threshold of tolerance. Any man-made synthetic molecular compound does not compare in complexity to a God-made natural chemical product. For a common example, cotton and silk have a softer feel than polyester and nylon. Even organic food under a microscope has a more precise and positive identity than other food.

Smell, as a physical sense, epitomizes this contrast. Many in science agree that it is the most complex of the basic five senses. (Humor, the

sixth.) My favorite analogy is the children’s toy of ‘pegs and holes’: a square or triangular or round peg needing a complementary hole. Our body is like this, yet the pegs are like flakes of snow requiring matching holes.

The essential oils of fragrant plants are recognized by science as the most anti-viral agents known to man. However, cheap chemical fragrance in personal and home-care products is increasingly suspect of systemic injury to all of us, especially children.

Spiritually, it reminds me of blemished lambs brought to the Lord’s altar or worse, the fire of Molech. What awful things we do to detract from the quality of life God desires



for us in the land of the living!

Surely, the purity and kindness of God in Christ Jesus would prompt us to avoid offensive fragrances. Consult a local health store or direct seller for material and advice on making up some authentic homemade scents, or buy it ready-made. Note that the alcohol used as preservative in all but the most expensive essential oil products is not such a negative factor with the real plant fragrances. But insult is added to injury with the imitation chemical ones.

To sum up, relative sobriety, temperance and holiness are the point here toward actual holiness in accountability toward one another. Practically, cleanliness with some counteracting product is assumed.

However, as Isaiah mentioned, even quality perfume can be used inordinately.

**Spanking:**

If I may quickly comment on one other recent observation (July, 2006, p. 18) about spanking: I've noticed in my own Bible study and meditation that nowhere does God suggest or command utilizing the bare hand. Because we Adamic humans must take pains to remain objective, we must let God be true.

Concerning discipline/training away from home, this indicates lack of loving consistency inside the home.

His peace and joy to you.

*Michael Tovar, McVeytown, PA*



An atheist is a fellow



who shakes his

fist at the God

he says doesn't exist.

## *In Death or In Life*

*Aaron Lapp · Kinzers, PA*

According to the book of Acts, the life the apostles lived is a powerful testimony of the early years of Holy Spirit guidance. Testimonies turned into sermons. Men were sent as missionaries. Individuals were guided to another solitary person who became saved. Women ministered to traveling evangelists. Church ladies were proficient with fabrics and alms deeds. Miracles happened in the name of Jesus. Church expansion seemed to be everywhere, in Jerusalem, in Judea, and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth.

One comes to the very end of this exciting book of missionary stories and it seems to stop abruptly. The New Testament shows how these great men of God lived, but almost nothing about how they died. Consider Paul in Acts. There is much interesting detail about this man of fire, of compassion and courage. Everything seems to be there except a photograph of this important man. Well, of course, in our day we would need to know at least the names of his parents and grandparents.

The book of Acts closes with mentioning Paul's journey to Rome as a prisoner, being there in house arrest for two years, and "preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him." (Acts 28:31)

History indicates that all twelve apostles (plus Paul) died a martyr's death, except Judas and John. Biographies usually describe how a person's life ended. At least, it would record when he was born, when he died, and possibly even the details of his death.

The Old Testament records the death of many notable people. But the New Testament is different. Primary leaders are remembered for their particular contribution in life. The Old Testament has a lot of death in it, whereas the New Testament highlights life.

Life is more important than death. Its duration is more significant than its ending. Being is more salutary than ceasing to be. Life is precious and should always be valued highly. Giving while we are living is our



Creator's design. Real and vibrant living is not characterized by getting. The life of worth is not in having. The significance of living is in giving.

God's Word seems to tell more about how saints lived than how they died. But that same inspired Word of God meticulously records the immediate events leading up to the death of Christ, our loving Savior. His death has many specific and important details.

Contrasted to the New Testament record of not generally noting the death of the early church leaders (Deacon Stephen and Apostle James are exceptions), Jesus Christ's death was of very particular and significant importance. Jesus was sent to die for the sins of the world—past, present and future.

Documentation with affirmative detail is essential in understanding Christ's death. Because the Bible says, "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead, otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth" (Hebrews 9:16,17). The Amplified New Testament adds that the death of the testator "must be established." The Bible very clearly does that.

A person's last will and testament is put in place while the person is

alive. But its provisions, requests, and distribution of assets can only be carried out after the death of the person is established. A death certificate is issued as a legal document for the executors of the estate to proceed with the will of the deceased.

The verses quoted from Hebrews 9 make a strong case for the need of documenting Jesus' death to ratify His will and testament. The documentation is a very lengthy one, even the entire Old Testament, for all of it augurs toward the coming of the Messiah, the Christ of God, the Savior of the world. No portion of the Old Testament can be discounted or nullified without doing irreparable harm to the design of the whole plan of God.

The whole New Testament likewise is essential for the same reasons. The further documentation of Jesus' birth, life, ministry, teaching, and preaching are all immeasurably important to the whole thrust of His Saviorhood. But when it comes to Jesus' death and resurrection, we are favored with meticulous detail. The death of the testator is being duly established. The facts and duplication of detail are not given to be boring and ploddingly repetitious. The death of the testator is being established!

The epistles likewise are also very important for documenting Jesus'

death and resurrection. They record the teaching and preaching of the cross and the empty tomb. If the whole or even part of the record of Jesus were false, the critics would've wasted no time in trashing the whole plan of salvation. The epistles are glorious treatises on how the disciples of Jesus Christ should live. Thus living, dying becomes a glorious victory into the heavenly realm. "For whether we live, we live into the Lord: and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living" (Romans 14:8, 9).


God knew the critics would be relentless in their attacks on the very facts central to Jesus' sacrificial death, let alone the myriad details which are significant to redemption's plan, accomplished once for all. The so-called Jesus Seminar a few years ago and the currently blasphemous Da Vinci Code provide several examples.

There is no re-enactment by God, no repeat of what Christ has done in bringing salvation to the world, no Plan B, Plan C, or Plan D. In fact, there is no need to refer to Plan A. It is most accurately called the plan of God. "Plan A" would suggest there could be other viable plans.

The Gospels comprise almost one-

half of the New Testament. One third of the Gospel narrative describes the last week of Jesus' life on earth. All of it is very important, because the death of the testator is being established. The Bible is "of force," the term used in Hebrews 9. Both Old and New Testaments are validated, authoritatively administered by God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28).

The birth of Jesus is the last birth mentioned in the Bible. The death of Christ is of paramount importance to the salvation of a lost world. The four Gospels do not bear needless duplication. God's testimony clarifies that in the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word shall be established. The burden of the Holy Ghost's inspiration of Scripture is that the death of the testator should be established.

**The Bottom Line is that life is stronger than death.** This is evidenced by Jesus Christ, whom God raised from the dead. The death of Christ puts "in force" God's final will and testament. The resurrection of Christ makes salvation for mankind a supernatural force stronger than death, to everyone that believes the two mighty testaments of God! 

# These Three Things

Leona Yoder · Sugarcreek, OH

I got an e-mail from a friend who has a way of asking good questions. One question he asked that I'll share with you is, "What is the best thing that has happened in your life since you have been in and out of \_\_\_\_\_?" (foreign country)

I'll answer it here so you can "hear" it, too. The answer is really rather simple, and I think it may surprise you. The best thing I believe that's happened to me is a vastly deepened appreciation for basic things like a godly heritage, a satisfactory education, and many opportunities.

I can't quite find the words to say just how priceless these things are. We, or at least I, had taken those mostly for granted. Every now and then I'd think about it, but soon I'd forget again. God forbid that I should ever do that again. Stop and think with me for a minute. Take those three things out of your own life and what do you have left?

## A Godly Heritage

Take, for instance, a godly heritage. What if you had been born into a home where your parents at best may have told you a little bit about

God, or even taken you to church a few times, but their lives were full of corruption—for example, lying and stealing whenever it seemed necessary or convenient, even cheating on their partners, all with a deadened conscience, because only if you get caught is stealing or lying wrong. So you have no opportunity in the home you grow up in for God-things; not only that, there are very, very few role models around for you to follow.

Naturally, people who grow up in such situations don't even trust each other. Corruption is rampant. Pastors are among the worst and are known to say, "Do as I say, not as I do." So, bad home life where God is not taught is the norm, and not only that, your parents beat you, not because they love you, but because you made them angry or embarrassed. When I say beating it is according to the common definition of beating: striking anywhere, kicking, shoving, yelling, slapping around. I've seen it with my own eyes. And that's not the exception to the rule, that's basically all these people have seen. So, lacking a godly heritage, where do you start to find an example of living a better way?

## **A Good Education**

Another problem is schools. At best, the average person here has a menial education, if that. So, lacking all those things in the home that they do, where shall they start to learn something more or something better? Their English is so bad that they, for the most part, can't understand our English well at all, whether spoken or written. Even if they could, books just aren't available. They don't have opportunities to go to a library, on a bookmobile, and many don't even have books in school. Most children work from what the teacher writes on the blackboard to do their lessons. How much do you think you could learn that way? And then it's recitation, recitation, recitation—instead of solving problems and learning to think for themselves.

## **Work Opportunities**

They don't have the opportunity, first of all, to learn about God, secondly to get a good education, and thirdly when they are finally ready to make a life of their own, they have very, very few job opportunities—maybe none. And how do you learn to manage what little money you have if no one can tell you how, there's no example to follow, and you have almost no resources?

Let me tell you, your heritage helped give you the ability to make

wise choices. The education you've received has helped you make a living, function sensibly and excel if you desire to do so with whatever you put your heart to. The job you have is a big opportunity, your ability to earn a living is an opportunity, and the teaching you've had about managing your resources is also an opportunity you've been given that these people just don't have. Books, education, traveling, resources, jobs, learning about God and learning how to make wise choices—these are opportunities I've taken for granted far too often!

They've destroyed themselves in a senseless civil war, and would most likely continue to do so if the United Nations wouldn't be there to bring things under control. "Why?" you may ask. My personal opinion is that it's ignorance. If they had knowledge and understanding and along with that, wisdom, I don't believe things in this country would be anywhere near where they are today. But, I'm not saying that would avoid all wars everywhere.

I related the potluck incident last week where some of these people acted like pigs (or worse) and sometimes I find myself wanting to shake them and ask them, "Haven't you been taught anything?" The truth of the matter is: they probably haven't,

at least not in the things that are noble. But then, I have to stop and I think of what opportunities they've been given, if indeed it can be called that, and I put myself in their shoes. Would I fare any better, had I been given what they've been given? Prob-

ably not.

Finally, my brethren, rejoice! For thus endeth my lengthy epistle, at least for now. Americans and others in privileged and developed countries, thank God for what hath been given thee!



# Looking Through an Old Gospel Herald

By the editor

I am fortunate to have a copy of the Thursday, January 8, 1914, issue of *Gospel Herald*. It was beginning its 51<sup>st</sup> year, with Daniel Kauffman as editor. I will highlight several items of interest:

—It was launched as *Herald of Truth* in 1864 by John F. Funk. In 1905, its name was changed to *Gospel Witness*. Apparently, in 1908 the name was again changed to *Gospel Herald*.

—The subscriptions for their weekly magazine in 1914 had not quite reached the 10,000-mark. With \$1, paid in advance, readers got *Gospel Herald* for one year. Addresses in those days simply listed the subscriber's name, a city address or a rural route number, plus the city and state. (No box number or zip or postal code)

• • • • •

—In that issue in 1914, they published a letter by the founding editor, John F. Funk, which follows: [Notice that he writes about himself in third person. —PLM]

“The December days of 1863, fifty years ago, were busy days of the writer, in his home in Chicago, Illinois. He was doing what he could to help the cause of Christ and the Mennonite Church in promulgating the teachings and doctrines of the Mennonite Church paper, and during these December days of 1863, aside from the duties of the business in which he was engaged, every moment was industriously devoted to collecting and preparing articles for the new paper to be launched into being, and on the first day of January, 1864, that proverbially cold New Year's day, the first number of the “Herald of Truth” had been printed

and was ready to be sent to the friends of the undertaking, though there was not a single name on the subscription book, and not a dollar in the treasury. [Whew, talk about starting on a shoestring! But those were Civil War days.]

“But the Lord blessed the work and from it came good results. Under the management of the founder of the first Church paper of our branch of the Mennonite people, the work was maintained and prospered until the year 1908, when the periodicals of the Mennonite Publishing Co., were sold to Mennonite Publication board, and the work is continued at Scottdale, Pa., under the firm name of the “Mennonite Publishing House,” and now, after fifty years, on this New Year’s day of 1914, the first editor of the first English Mennonite paper, is permitted in these lines, to send a brotherly New Year’s greeting to all the readers of our Church papers.

“May the loving kindness and the tender mercies of our heavenly Father rest and abide on all who love and serve the Lord in sincerity and truth.”

John F. Funk, Elkhart, In.



—A. L. [Aaron Loucks] commented on the above letter from his comrade, John F. Funk, as follows:

“The above letter from one who has

borne the burden and heat of the day, will be read with great interest. Those of us who are of the younger generation can hardly realize the enormity of the undertaking our brother writes about and what it meant fifty years ago. It is with a deep sense of gratitude toward our heavenly Father that we enter upon this fifty-first year of the publication of our Church paper. When we remember that the beginning of publication work was not attended with the organized forces of the Church as it now is, we realize all the more the greatness of the early efforts in this work.

“Only a few of our district conferences were organized before this time and the Church was in a transition stage. The English language was coming into use. The spirit of progress was taking hold of some of our brethren. Active Sunday school work and evangelistic efforts followed closely in the wake of the establishing of the Church paper.

“How much we owe to these early efforts in setting in motion the forces that are now active, and organizing them into working bodies, only eternity can reveal. This much is certain, that through the Church paper there is an avenue for communication and teaching that has meant much for the present prosperity and enlargement of the Church.

“May our prayers to God and our consecrated efforts in His service be used in carrying forward the work He has left us to accomplish is our earnest wish and desire.

“The sentiments expressed by our brother have the right ring. If those sentiments are accepted, lived, and exemplified they will have a powerful influence for good among our people.”

• • • • •

**In the work of Christian writing, much has changed since 1864 (and even 1914):**

—People now have more free time.

—People now have more things to read.

—People now have more places to go.

—The work of publishing is now easier because of improved technology.

**But some things remain the same.** The work of publishing *Calvary Messenger*:

...is a labor God desires to use to advance His kingdom.

...requires the Lord’s blessing.

...is confronted with Satan’s efforts at resisting and destroying God’s work.

...finds it challenging to minister to a scattered constituency.

...faces competing, watered-down

material beckoning the reader’s time and dollar.

...finds our subscription list for this monthly periodical just under 5,000.

...has this editor definitely needing God’s wisdom and direction!

\* \* \* \*

—In that issue (Jan. 8, 1914) is a two-page statement (equivalent to at least four pages in *Calvary Messenger*) on concerns they were facing relative to dress. It is signed by eight leaders of that era, including the late, well-known Daniel Kauffman. Here are some of their comments:

—The object of their statement was “not to enforce discipline, but rather to set up a standard to which the conferences may look and make their disciplines more uniform.”

—They further “took it for granted that all the conferences were ready to take the matter up and adopt such measures as they see best in time to bring the entire membership in their respective fields to the full standard of the Gospel.”

—They observed that “the competent authorities in bringing the membership into order of the Gospel are the district conferences themselves.”

—They wrote that it was “the aim of the committee to state the case in a way that would appeal to the convic-



tions and loyalty of the people rather than to cause any one to feel that” this was “an effort to compel rebellious subjects to obey the law.”

The heart of their statement included the following, with supporting Scriptures:

“The Bible teaches that:

1. The original purpose of clothing was to provide for the covering and protection (not ornamentation and display) of the body.

2. Conformity to the world is forbidden.

3. Bodily ornamentation in the form of jewelry, costly array and immodest apparel is forbidden.

4. Modest apparel is commanded.

5. The Church is vested with authority in all matters of doctrine and discipline.”

“The above teaching may be summarized as follows:

1. Clothing shall be modest, simple, serviceable, [and] economical.

2. In the purchase and wearing of clothing all extravagance and immodesty and vain display are to be avoided.

3. Christians are not to follow the fashions of the world...”



I commend the motivation and the work of these valiant men of a century ago. We as Amish Mennonites have not had conference structures like the Mennonites have. Perhaps we have gloried too much in congregational autonomy. After all, simply being critical of others (whether to the right or the left) will not equip us to carry the torch of God’s truth, nor is unconcern about the world-ward pressures we face to our credit.

Let us sincerely try to pass along a heritage of faith that is scriptural, unapologetic and full of joy. Otherwise, I believe the Lord will “come and remove the candlestick out of his place, except [we] repent” (Revelation 2:5). Only those who are faithful help advance the cause of Christ. We may participate in the Lord’s building program, but **we must do it His way!** I believe our cry as a denomination is and ought to be, “Lord, You are faithful. Make us faithful and use us to further your purposes and Your Kingdom!”



The Lord gives us our faces,  
but we must provide the expressions.

## marriages

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

### Beachy-Lapp

Bro. Jason, Burgettstown, PA, son of James and Cheryl Beachy, Free Union, VA, and Sis. Cynthia, daughter of Aaron and Marian Lapp, Kinzers, PA, on June 3, 2006, at Weavertown A.M. Church, Bird-in-Hand, PA, by Raymond King.

### Stoltzfus-Stoltzfus

Bro. Abner Ray, Honey Brook, PA, son of the late Ben J. and Annie Stoltzfus, and Sis. Marlene Sue, daughter of J. Omar and Nancy Stoltzfus, Advance, MO, at Spring Garden Amish Mennonite Church, Kinzers, PA, on June 3, 2006, by Melvin Troyer.

## cradle roll

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

**Bontrager**, Jonas and Deloris (Eicher), Spencerville, IN, fifth child, third son, Travis Eric, June 4, 2006.

**Byers**, Steven and Janelle (Glick), Sioux Lookout, ON, first child and dau., Kirsten Elizabeth, June 6, 2006.

### Swartzentruber-Beachy

Bro. Wendell Lavon, son of Donnie and Bertha Swartzentruber, Montezuma, GA, and Sis. Mary Vonita, daughter of Paul and Wilma Beachy, Bastrop, TX, at First Assembly of God, for Grace Mennonite Fellowship, Bastrop, TX, on June 2, 2006, by Donnie Swartzentruber.

### Yoder-Weaver

Bro. Douglas Paul, son of Ervin and Wilma Yoder, Plain City, OH, and Sis. Rita Renee, daughter of Lewis and Karen Weaver, Mechanicsburg, OH, at United Bethel Mennonite Church for Haven Fellowship, Plain City, OH, on July 8, 2006, by Lonnie Beachy.

### Yoder-Yoder

Bro. Jesse, son of Jim and Rose Yoder, Clarkson, KY, and Sis. Teresa, daughter of Paul and Mary Yoder, Belvidere, TN, at Winchester First Baptist Church for Belvidere Mennonite Church on July 21, 2006, by Jim Yoder.

**Eicher**, Jonas and Eileen (Miller), Harlan, IN, fourth and fifth children, third and fourth daughters, twins, Denise Roxann and Diana Ruth, May 24, 2006.

**Fehr**, John and Elva (Miller), Rural Retreat, VA, third child, first dau., Kayla Diane, July 7, 2006.

**Graber**, Laban and Regina (Miller), Bloomfield, MO, fifth child, fourth dau., Melody Kay, May 7, 2006.

**Hostetler**, Titus and Linda (Miller), Linneus, MO, seventh child, second dau., Keri Rachelle, June 15, 2006.

**Kline**, Matthew and Lois (Kline), Sugar-creek, OH, first child and dau., Makayla Janae, June 6, 2006.

**Kratzer**, Kenric and Becky (Stoltzfus), Walnut Creek, OH, second child and son, Sedric Logan, July 11, 2006.

**Kuhns**, Vernon and Christina (Ging-erich), Lovington, IL, first child and dau., Ramona Lynne, June 28, 2006.

**Lapp**, Curtis and Ella (Wagler), Kinzers, PA, first child and son, Johann Drew, July 23, 2006.

**Lapp**, John Lewis and Katie Mae (Stoltzfus), Millhall, PA, fourth child and son, Christopher Darius, June 6, 2006.

**Miller**, Everet and Monica (Myers), Milford, IN, fifth child, second dau., Jessica Lynn, July 7, 2006.

**Miller**, Nathan and Marietta (Schrock), Bloomfield, IN, first child and son, Brendon Levi, July 14, 2006.

**Morrison**, Jim and Magdalena (Thayer), Battle Ground, WA, first child and dau., Mary Alice, May 15, 2006.

**Slabaugh**, Dennis and Anna Fern (Mast), Bourbon, IN, ninth child, sixth son, Travis Lynn, July 15, 2006.

**Smoker**, Jadon and Regina (Beachy), Gap, PA, second child and son, Braden Roger, July 5, 2006.

**Stoltzfus**, Steve and Kate (King), Mill-mont, PA, fifth child, fourth son, Chris-topher Ryan, June 26, 2006.

**Troyer**, Eddie and Jemima (Beachy), Linneus, MO, third child, second dau., Lynette Grace, June 6, 2006.

**Yoder**, Marlin and Anna Renee (Raber), Cedar Creek, TX, first child and dau., Kianna Lucy, June 20, 2006.

**Yoder**, Randall and Serena (Sommers), Mifflinburg, PA, second child, first son, Moses Ethan, June 10, 2006.

**Yoder**, Tim and Lois (Yoder), Lewisburg, PA, fourth child, third son, Jeremiah Timothy, July 13, 2006.

**Yutzy**, Matthew and Freda (Weaver), Linneus, MO, first child and dau., Mi-kayla Brooke, June 6, 2006.

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## ordination

*May the grace of God be upon our brother as he ministers faithfully. Let us pray for him.*

**Bro. Dean Miller**, 34, was ordained to the office of deacon on April 30, 2006, at Cornerstone Mennonite Church, Har-rison, AR. Preordination messages were given by Jeff Jarmon.

The charge was given by David Fisher, assisted by Elmer Gingerich and Truman Yoder. Paul Yoder was also in the lot.

## obituaries

**Graber.** Eli, 85, of Bloomfield, IN, died July 4, 2006, in Bloomington Hospital. He was born Sept. 30, 1920, the son of Samuel and Mary (Graber) Graber. He was a member and minister of Believers' Fellowship A.M. Church in Bloomfield, IN.

On Jan. 27, 1942, he married Mary Graber, who survives. Also surviving are eight children: Magdalena (David) Graber, LaRussell, MO; Alta (Henry) Knepp, Loogootee, IN; Sarah Mae (Levi) Miller, Bloomfield, IN; Herbert (Odie Billington) Graber, Odon, IN; Cletus (Dorothy Lengacher) Graber, Bangor, CA; Roman (Mary Ann Glick) Graber, Bloomfield, IN; Omer (Dinah Graber) Graber, Montgomery, IN; Vivian (Samuel) Martin, Waynesboro, PA.

He leaves 50 grandchildren; 84 great grandchildren; two sisters: Barbara Graber, Montgomery, IN; and Mary Knepp, Washington, IN.

He was preceded in death by two grandsons, four brothers and three sisters.

Funeral services were held July 7, with Titus Graber, Mose Miller, Eli Yoder and Emanuel Miller serving.

**Smoker,** Mary Elizabeth, of Lititz, PA, 92, died of a lingering illness at Landis Homes June 20, 2006. She was born Nov. 14, 1913, at Monterey, PA, daughter of the late Joshua and Hannah (Beiler) Smoker. She was a member of Weaver-town A.M. Church.

She is survived by two sisters: Edna

Ruth Miller, Tavares, FL, and Thelma Grace Smith, Umatilla, FL; a brother, Raymond Smoker, Chipley, FL; a sister-in-law, Helen Smoker, Lititz, PA; and 13 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by three brothers: Marcus George, John Melvin and David Marcus Smoker.

Funeral services were conducted June 24 at Weavertown Church with John U. Lapp, Aaron Lapp and Norman Kauffman serving. Interment was in the Weavertown Cemetery.

**Yoder,** Nona (Weirich), 80, died July 10, 2006. She was born June 26, 1926, daughter of the late Daniel E. and Elizabeth (Kaufman) Weirich in Rural LaGrange County, IN. She was a devoted member of Woodlawn A.M. Church.

On Dec. 25, 1947, she was married to Clyde Yoder, son of Perry M. and Anna Yoder. He died June 7, 1967, in a farm tractor accident.

To this union were born five children, three of whom survive: Daniel (still-born), Rose Ella (Mrs. Philip Wagler, Partridge, KS); Marlene Kay (Mrs. Abe Spicher), Middlebury, IN; Sarah Mae (Mrs. Philip Overholt), Etna Green, IN; and Gerald Allen (Marian Stoltzfus), Keewatin, ON.

She was preceded in death by her husband; by a stillborn son and a daughter, Rose Ella Wagler.

Funeral services were held July 13 at Woodlawn with Steve Miller, Elmer Miller, and Clarence Bontrager serving. Burial was in the church cemetery.

**P**resident Bush recently vetoed the first bill since he took office. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was president from 1933 to 1945, exercised the presidential veto 635 times. The bill that Mr. Bush vetoed would have provided federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. The bill had majority bi-partisan support by the national law makers. But the president stood firm, saying: “It is wrong to kill humans for body parts at any stage of development.”

There is credible research that indicates that adult stem cell numbers can be significantly increased by the use of certain botanical products. There seems to be wide-spread agreement that the function of stem cells is favorable to good health in general. Some people report significant improvement in specific chronic health problems by using such products.

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Mennonites from the Netherlands are in the early stages of planning an International Menno Simons Center. They state that their “central interest is to make this a place of faith enrichment for the global community, especially for those churches related to the movement in which Menno played such a prominent role.”

Menno was earnestly pursued by his persecutors, but the Lord allowed him to continue his life of ministry. He was one of the few well-known Anabaptist reformers who escaped a martyr’s death. There are those who feel that had it not been for his influence, especially his very extensive writing, the Anabaptist movement might have died out.

I find it interesting that Dutch Mennonites are manifesting this interest. History indicates that these people’s forebears were some of the first to abandon biblical identity after the Reformation. It appears that Dutch religious identity was lost through material prosperity and civic and political prominence. One wonders if the above project represents an interest in revival of earlier values.

The Menno Simons Center is to be located near Witmarsum, where Menno was at one time a Catholic priest.

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I find our editor’s reference to a *Gospel Herald* of 1914 to be very interesting. It seems to remind us again that some things are much like they were 92 years ago. It is clear that sacred history is recorded for our learning (1 Corinthians 10:6-11). It is the part of wisdom to remember that a willingness to learn from the past can spare us from repeating the

mistakes of others. However, it seems apparent that we should be doing much better than we are at avoiding the mistakes of others. Not only do we have memories of a lifetime but much has been written about the history of the church.

But even if there were none of this, could we not agree that the grace and willingness to follow New Testament guidelines would assure a satisfactory level of church life? Let us review some of these guidelines from the Scriptures: Consider 1 Peter 5; Acts 20:25-38; as well as the pastoral epistles of Timothy and Titus.

—Ministers are to take heed unto themselves first and also to the doctrine and the flock.

—They have been given oversight over the flock. It is a fine line to exercise responsible oversight without lording it over that which belongs to God, not to man.

—It is God's flock, purchased with the precious blood of Christ.

—For leaders to remember this is a helpful safeguard against becoming lords over God's heritage.

—To err on the side of leniency can lead to individualism, independence, permissiveness and loss of Christian identity.

—The enemy is busy trying to frustrate God's purposes for the church. He works from without and

from within.

—Responsible oversight includes a willingness to deal with unsound doctrine and/or inappropriate behavior.


The "free church" movement was a radical departure from Roman Catholicism and from mainline Reformation. People are still free to regroup and start yet another church. We are not, however, free to avoid the consequences of such choices.

When division occurs, it is at best a testimony to our humanity—quite possibly also our carnality. We need our brothers' input, for none of us is immune to the possibility of misguided sincerity. Disagreement that leads to division is always regrettable and for Christians to harbor a spirit of unforgiveness or bitterness is tragic.

An experienced, non-local bishop has observed that a division can sometimes be a peaceable gesture and development. It can be an improvement over controversy and unresolved disagreement. He also cautions against leadership methods that are needlessly harsh and overbearing.

Finally, let us acknowledge church problems are not solved by analysis, unless that analysis is accompanied by honest self-searching and willingness to change. Because we are

human, we all need to guard against self-will and rebellion. Nor are we immune to being distracted from that which is eternal by that which is temporal.

Because we have been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, we can be more than conquerors through Him that loved us. We have not been sentenced to failure. —DLM 

## *Ministers' Meeting Messages—2006*

*This is a condensation of a message given at the annual Ministers' Meetings, April 4-6, 2006, at Sugarcreek, Ohio. The set of eight cassette tapes with 11 messages is available from SON Recordings, 10100 Piper Lane, Bristow, VA 20136, for \$40; or a set of 11 CD's for \$45, postpaid.*

### **4. The Minister and His Physical Health**

—Laverne Miller, M.D., Hicksville, OH

**W**hen I was asked to take this assignment, after reflection I thought I knew what direction I should take. Then a special need arose in our family which I found very stressful. The doctor is always expected to be the strong one, but I found myself stretched, as I quite often do. At such times, I go on my face before the Lord, and ask Him, "What can I do?"

Medical work is tremendously rewarding work, but I don't know all the answers. To pastors who enjoy preaching and personal work, I chal-

lenge you to do it well. In the work God has given me, I think I have opportunities to witness on a personal level to as many people, if not more, than you do.

There are the problems in your home: the responsibilities, the illnesses, the stresses, and the children that sense the strain and stress that you're under. Thus it was that when I faced a sudden family need, I knew I had planned this assignment to go in the direction it should. In that time of special need God seemed to say, "This is what it means to depend on me when you don't have the answers."

When I stood there at 1:30 in the morning, after having delivered a seven-ounce baby, the nurses were crying, the parents were crying, I found myself tested. Just several hours later, I had the joy of delivering an eight-pound squalling boy to the parents who had suffered the death of their first one.

Then there are the problems at



home that go with fatherhood. I believe you find it the same way. The stress of life is real. Where would God have us go? I may not be able to help you very much, but let me say that your physical health is definitely linked to your ability to manage yourself spiritually and mentally. I have also had significant health challenges, which I will not describe here.

Luke 12:22 and 23 came to me as I meditated on this assignment: "Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what you shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment." These are physical things, but Christ said His Kingdom is more important than those. I appreciate very much your prayers today.

John Wesley, in the mid-1700's, commenting on his good health, wrote in his journal: "Chiefly, it is by the power of God and the prayers of God's children." Wesley also said, "Could it have something to do with my constant exercise and change of air? Could it have something to do with my never having lost a night's sleep, sick or well, at land or at sea, since I was born?" The other thing John Wesley could do was that he seemed to be able to sleep on command when tired. He would sit back

and take a 10-minute "power nap" because he thought it important. "I got up at 4 o'clock each morning for the past 60 years," he noted. He "preached a [practice] sermon" every morning at 5 o'clock. This made him ready instantly to preach. He spoke every day. He said that he had little pain or anxious care in his life, because he had learned to give himself to the Lord.

In a lighter vein, I read about a man who brushed his teeth twice a day, had a medical examination twice a year, ate low-carb/low-fat every day, he gave up his tonsils, his adenoids, his gall bladder, he got eight hours of sleep every night, he slept with the windows open for fresh air, he carried an umbrella in case it rained, he didn't smoke drink or chew or run around with people who did, he drove the speed limit, he jogged and did weight-training five days a week, and was set to live 100 years. He is survived by 18 specialists, three surgeons, four health institutes, six gyms and numerous health foods and vitamins.

Daily devotion and service to God is very important. Don't worry, but exercise and eat right! Jeremiah 9:23,24: "Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory

in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.” Do we understand and know God? Is that not the greatest privilege we have?

We still don’t know all about the human body—far from it! But we are privileged and able to know the One who made it.

In Romans 5:3-5, we are given to understand that life is not always “easy street.” “And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed: because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”

What does stress affect? It increases the risk of heart attacks and depression. Hostility and poor emotional support, and lack of control over issues in life increase our heart risks. Underlying that lack of control is the increased incidence of ulcers. Then the immune system throws our hormones out of balance. Diabetes is more difficult to control. Blood pressure elevates. Adrenaline (commonly called the stress hormone, or “the flight or fight hormone”) gets

pumped into our system, makes the heart beat fast, and the mouth get dry. As you just heard, too little challenge is boring. The optimal amount of stress keeps us motivated and makes life exciting, and yet too much of it causes frustration, agitation, depression and bewilderment at not knowing where to turn.

Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Sometimes you must say that to yourself over and over. Sometimes you must fall on your face and weep before God when things get rough. I can testify to that.

The “locked-rear-wheel” syndrome can be used to show how loss of control and stress are related. It makes a lot of smoke but it does very little good. Do we have faith that God will work it all out? That’s the key.

Balance is something everyone needs, not just professionals, such as doctors and ministers. We may sometimes look enviously at those who have less responsibility than we do, and say to ourselves, “They must have it easy!” But they need to find their balance, too. If we are not that example, how shall they find balance? We must do it by being transparent, not making it look like it’s all been solved already, but by being able to speak compassionately to their needs.

We need rest—eight hours of good rest. When we wake up, we should feel rested. If not, there may be something physically wrong. I told Ron Border that it seems funny that the speakers who speak in this “drowsy hour” right after lunch both have sleep apnea. That is a disease that can “wipe you out,” if you’re not careful. Both your brain and your body need proper rest. Christ asked His followers to come apart and rest awhile. If Christ needed it, in his perfect, “un-sin-contaminated” body, you and I need it, too.

Our attitude is shown in how we react to things that happen to us and that really is our responsibility. It’s not my wife’s fault, it’s not the other church member’s fault, and in your case, the other minister’s fault. It’s your own attitude in how you will receive it.

1 Timothy 4:8, says, “For bodily exercise profiteth little, but godliness is profitable to all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance.” I think Paul may be talking more about diet fads and sundry other things that people put themselves through rather than about jogging or other physical exercise. Look into that theory for yourself and let me know what you think.

My theory of the downfall of modern civilization is that we have too many remote controls. We want air conditioning. When you drive through your local towns on summer evenings, do you commonly see children out playing on the lawn? Do you see a game of volleyball? No, many times all you see is a certain blue hue in the windows as you pass by. The air conditioner is running and everyone is inside watching some entertainment. Then we wonder why our country is getting fatter. Our bodies are temples of the Holy Ghost and all that God has made is good. He made us to stay active. He made us to work and exercise.

Let me speak facetiously about exercise. Too often the only exercise we get is jumping to conclusions, running down friends, sidestepping responsibility, and pushing our luck.

Most things get better with physical exercise. I dare you to think about that carefully. It reduces your blood pressure. It reduces your cholesterol. It increases your HDL (good cholesterol). Exercise reduces stress. One brother told me in his morning walk/run, he makes his decisions for the day. That’s good. Exercise keeps one’s body in trim. A fit overweight person is much better off than a thin sedentary one. Exercise enhances

your production of insulin, which is important to non-diabetics as well as to diabetics.

We believe that being overweight is the harbinger of all those nasty things that happen to your arteries. Exercise keeps your body healthy and fit. Moderate weight loss (often 10 pounds off lowers your blood pressure 10 points) has great benefits. We have a society that is bent on diets. Many of us have gone up and down, down and up many times. Repeated weight loss results in loss of muscle and increase of fat cells. So we need to find something that's reasonable and live with it.

Furthermore, I'd say to you, "Talk to your doctor." Because we are unique, each of us do better when consulting one-to-one. Never start a strenuous exercise program without consulting with your physician. We may think, If there's no pain, there's no gain. I would alter that to say, "You should probably have some pain in your muscles when you exercise, or you're not doing enough." Many treadmills, which were bought with lofty goals, are now gathering dust.

Start walking a little distance and increase it a bit every week. Walk with someone else. Listen to tapes. Sing. Meditate. Solve your problems. Exercise so you feel good, not exhausted. You will not get there overnight. You

did not get into couch-potato condition overnight, either.

The admonition in Leviticus 7 was there long before the American Heart Association discovered the link between fat and clogged arteries. The Lord said to Moses that they should eat no manner of fat, of oxen, of sheep, of goats. You can't lose weight by thinking about it, but you have to start by thinking about it.

Diet depends on self-monitoring and self-control. Perhaps one of the bigger problems has been that we eat too much. Another problem is that many people with vested interests would like to have us buy their products. Even the scientists can't seem to get it straight. Some time ago, a nutritionist wrote an editorial that I clipped. He wrote about The Nutrition Wars. Which will it be? Ultra low fat or high protein/high fat? The rules are simple. In the 1970's, we were told that 35% of our calories should come from fat. But the ultra-low-fat people say that's too much. The American Heart Association, The National Institute of Health with the national cholesterol education program, our very favorite United States Department of Agriculture who had a center for nutrition policy and promotion and the American consumer disagreed. Which would win out?

Back in the 1970's the Pritikin diet

prescribed extreme fat restriction, which disallowed almost all meat-type items. The Food and Nutrition Board believed in healthy diets. The McGovern Committee believed in high-carb/low fat diets. There wasn't much proof of most of these theories. It just seemed to make more sense.

In the 1980's, the name of the game was definitely low fat. "Cut out the fat and you'll do better." Then Robert Atkins began preaching that by eating more meat, you can lose weight. But the National Academy of Science clobbered him by the sheer weight of support on diet and health.

The American consumer was not satisfied not to be in the judge's seat. They continued getting super-sized portions at McDonald's and elsewhere. By 2000, the Atkins idea looked better. Some scientific studies "proved" that people were better off. What happened? Then it was theorized that all those carbohydrates aren't good for you either as more and more people find that they don't fit into stadium, bus, or plane seats.

Does it not bring us back to the comments in 1 Timothy 4:8 about bodily exercise? The myth is that you can change something by the way you eat. There is very little proof of that. I fear that most of these studies have been done by companies pushing their own agenda. Uncle Sam wants

you to stop smoking, wear your seat belt, eat your vegetables, stay out of the sun, lose weight, and on and on. Oh, and you must eat less red meat. Pharmaceuticals like it. If we make obesity a disease, that makes diet drugs insurance-reimbursable.

Did you see that they took the pop machines out of our schools? We will miss them, but as long as they don't make us take physical education, we won't get so thirsty.

Cancer deaths in those under 85 years old have remained stable in recent years. Heart-related deaths have continued to decline in those under 85. Heart attacks and strokes are still well above the other causes of death after 85, while cancer deaths are down low in that age group. Does it have something to do with the way we eat? I don't know, but I think it has more to do with our way of living, our desire for luxury.

You would have a hard time persuading me that any antioxidant in a pill has benefited anybody. All the good studies come from food-related surveys. People who eat foods high in Vitamin E have fewer strokes and heart attacks. If you put Vitamin E into a capsule and give it to them, they tend to have more.

The theories about free radicals have been changing. We may have been doing harm by trying to elimi-

nate free radicals, which may be needed to activate our immune system to “kick in and knock off” the cancer cells. So we’ve been doing harm by some of the measures we’ve taken.

Weight loss: Is it plausible? Here are some **common advertising myths**:

1. Our weight-loss product can cause a weight loss of two or more pounds a week.

2. Our product causes substantial weight loss, no matter what you eat.

3. Our product causes permanent weight loss, even when the consumer stops using our product.

4. Our product blocks the absorption of fat or calories to enable consumers to lose substantial weight

5. Our product enables the consumer to lose more than three pounds

per week for more than four weeks.

6. Our product causes weight loss for all users.

7. Our product causes substantial weight loss by wearing it on the body or rubbing it into the skin.

Let’s be open and honest with each other. When it comes to taking care of ourselves physically, always the most important thing is making sure that our spiritual and mental lives are straight. When we have problems, we must know where to take them. My own experience time and again, is that we need each other. Those of you who are successful in your pastoral work know what it means to go to someone else and confess your needs to them. May you be the ones who continue to lead out in this very important area of congregational life.



## *Are You Narrow Minded?*

*Kevin Zook · McVeytown, PA*

**S**ir,” she blurted out, “you and your church are very narrow minded!”

“Is that so?” I asked, “What makes you say that?”

“I can tell by the way you and your women dress that you are Mennonites, and Mennonites have some very peculiar beliefs. For instance,”

she continued, “you believe that women must wear a literal head covering to make it to heaven. You also believe that Christians cannot vote or hold public office. That is just absurd, and it shows that you are narrow-minded. You think that just because I don’t do things the way you do them that I am in the wrong. You

Mennonites need to accept people just as they are and not try to change their ways. Everyone who believes in Jesus is saved. A Mennonite man once told me that I can't get to heaven unless I live exactly as the Bible says. That's ridiculous! No one can do that! The Bible is a good book and contains a lot of wisdom, but you can't expect people to live by it!"

"Wait a minute," I interjected. "Give me a chance to answer these accusations you're charging me with. First of all, let's talk about the Bible."

Jesus talked about being "narrow-minded." In fact, he even gave it as a prerequisite to entering eternal life. Listen to the words He spoke in Matthew 7:13,14, "**Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**"

The gate that many professing Christians are entering today is very broad. The way in which they are walking is very broad as well, and they say it will lead them to heaven.

Which Is the Right Way?

The lady is an example of one with a broad view of Christianity. So many aspiring Christians have scorned the narrow way, and they are promoting

their own broadness, or "open-mindedness." They teach that the Bible contains suggestions for daily living, but that God is loving and He accepts all who will only believe in Jesus. Friends, my Bible is very clear that the way is by all means a narrow way, and that few follow in its way. Jesus has also said that, "Many will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not...? Jesus answers, "I never knew you. Depart from me, ye that work iniquity."


Does Jesus have true believers in the Mennonite faith? Absolutely!

Are there true believers who never heard of the Mennonites? Absolutely!

Are there true Christians who do not hold to some of the practices of the conservative church? Absolutely!

Are there true believers who knowingly refuse to accept parts of the Bible (specifically, the New Testament) as true doctrine? I don't think so.

May the Christian church today be "narrow-minded" in that she is minded to keep traveling the narrow way. No, we do not advocate a narrow field of vision, rather a vision of keeping within the narrow field of God's approval. Remember, the broad way will certainly lead straight to destruction, but the narrow way will lead straight to everlasting life!

[From *The Mid-Atlantic Informer*, July, 2006. Used by permission.] 



## Where Would You Go if You Would Die?

Floyd Stoltzfus

*The people in this true account wish to give God glory. Several of these characters' names are fictitious. Praise God for His providential care, love, and grace in extending mercy to many of us in times when we could have been snatched away into eternity without Christ!*

*Missionaries soon learn that most of their training does not come at orientation, prior to living on the field. It takes place through difficult, trying situations while on the field. —FS*

Heather, the missionary wife of Philip, was visiting a native home of long acquaintance in the village where she and her husband served. Philip was canvassing a remote section of the community. They were both inviting people to the evangelistic services which were scheduled the following week at the mission church. Heather asked the native mother of ten children, “Miss B, where would you go if you would die?”

Miss B admitted, “I would go to hell.” Heather pleadingly encouraged Miss B to repent of her sins and receive the Lord Jesus into her heart.

She gave Miss B a special invitation to the meetings. Miss B promised, “I will come.”

The next week one evening, while Miss B and several of her daughters were walking to church, a large fer-de-lance snake slithered across the sandy road and, in an instant, injected very poisonous venom in Miss B’s foot. A vehicle was approaching in the distance allowing enough light to get a good view of the enemy. One of the girls screamed, “Momma, get out of the way or the snake will bite you again!” Miss B did jump away and the snake slipped away into the swamp.

Quick action was a must! Philip was using the mission Land Rover to haul people from another village to the meetings. John, the missionary from Pine Ridge had just arrived with a load of people for the evening service. Heather ran and told him, “John, this is an emergency! Miss B was bitten by a poisonous snake! Could you please take her to the hospital?”

“Why, yes, I will take her,” replied John. Heather rode along to show

the way. When they arrived at their house, Miss B was in severe pain and there was swelling from the bite. They sped off through the jungle-like trail onto the main road. At least four more people rode along to give support for the two and one half hour ride to the hospital.

They had a problem. The missionary Toyota pickup was dangerously low on fuel. The closest station was in the city—27 miles away! They stopped at a friend's house to see if he would sell them a little gas. He had only about a half gallon of gas mixed with oil for a two-cycle engine, but John said, "That will work!"

The next obstacle was crossing the river on a ferry. Upon arrival, they discovered that the ferry was on the other side. At that time of the evening the operators of the hand-cranked ferry were slow to respond. The men called to the other side and pleaded with the men to hurry. "A woman is dying from a snake bite!" they shouted.

Finally, after a long time, the ferry reached the ramp where the pickup, along with its passengers, could embark. Well, you can imagine the energy that was expended in taking the ferry back across so the driver could take the sick woman to the hospital. By this time, she was having excruciating pain.

There was still another problem: The starter on this old vehicle was not functioning properly. And the driver did not dare to leave the motor running for fear of running out of gas. So it had to be pushed to get it started. Fortunately, it easily started.

Several miles across the river lived a kind, old gentleman who treated snake bites. Because of the condition of Miss B, they decided to stop at his house. He neatly lanced the bite and put some salve on it and bandaged it. He also made her drink some home-made medicine. He said she needs to have further treatment in the hospital.

At this man's house the road was flat and extremely sandy. To get the old Toyota started was indeed strenuous. The extra passengers aboard earned their passage fare that night as they heaved and grunted the vehicle into action.

They stopped at the next village and found more gas to get them to their destination. It was indeed most welcome to get on macadamized road for the last 16-mile stretch. But alas! More lessons in patience were coming! The old pickup suddenly chugged and sputtered. John vigorously pumped the accelerator, but to the desperate travelers' dismay, the motor stopped!

Miss B was vomiting blood. Heath-

er said later, “I never prayed so hard.” *Lord, save this dear woman’s life. She is not ready to die.* What could they do? No houses were close by. Traffic was almost nil at this hour of the night. But there were lights approaching. They stopped the driver and one of the passengers accompanied Miss B in the vehicle to the hospital.

Finally, John got the old Toyota started again. Upon arriving in the city, he was able to coast the pickup to the first gas station. The gas had just reached. We serve a God who comes to us in our desperation. Even the money in John’s wallet was just enough to the last dollar to pay for the gas.

They proceeded on to the hospital and found Miss B to be weak, but more relaxed and starting to feel better.

At midnight in the mission house, Philip heard someone calling, “Philip, could you please take Mr. Bob to the hospital? He has terrible stomach pain.”

“I’ll be there,” Philip promised. He sped over the rough, sandy terrain and stopped for Mr. Bob. Like usual, the Land Rover was quickly loaded with voluntary supporters.

Meanwhile, on their way back from the hospital, in the old Toyota, the passengers were wondering if they might have to wait on the bank

with the swarms of hungry mosquitoes because the ferry had closed at 10 p.m. But there was a glimmer of hope. Lights were approaching. Heather exclaimed, “What if this is Philip coming and taking someone else to the hospital?”

God’s timing is always right. First, the people in the Land Rover crossed over. Then, the passengers in the Toyota could return without rousing the ferry men.

Upon arriving at the hospital with the sick man and the rest of the passengers, Philip thought about Miss B. He went to ask her if she wanted to become a Christian. She answered, “Yes, I am ready.” There, in that late hour, another soul was born into the Kingdom. Later, Miss B and her husband were baptized and became members of the Mennonite church.

In later years, Miss B suffered from diabetes. She experienced a lot of pain and became blind. But her spirit was strong and she longed to be with her Savior. Today she is in heaven because of her faith in the cleansing power of Jesus’ blood. And Miss B could exercise faith because someone prayed and cared for her soul. Someone took time and had courage to ask her a soul-searching question: “Where would you go if you would die?”



## Men and Women are “Wired” Different

Mary June Glick

**W**e all know that men and women are different. God designed these differences. He created man with physical strength to protect and care for woman. He gave woman intuition and sensitivity that enables her to nurture and care for children.

Men and women also respond differently to information and situations that occur. It would seem that we’re “wired differently.” God intends for us to complement each other, for our good, for the good of our families and communities—and ultimately for His glory.

I think it is helpful to look at these differences between us so that we are better able to communicate and to appreciate and understand each other. God desires to give us joy as we fulfill the work He calls us to do.

### Some Differences Between Men and Women

1. *A man thinks with his head; a woman thinks with her heart.*

Men gravitate to logic and think in an organized and orderly manner. Women look at issues more from feelings and emotions. Women tend to speak and hear from what they

feel, and men from what they think.

2. *A woman takes things more personally than a man does.*

A new husband might comment that the steak is tough, not blaming his wife, just stating a fact. His wife tends to suppose he is comparing her cooking with his mother’s. She might spend the rest of the evening upset, because, “He must not love me anymore.” Her husband might have little idea what is wrong. A woman must learn not to interpret a man’s responses only from her perspective.

3. *Women are interested in the details, the nitty-gritty, while men are interested in the simpler facts.*

My husband has come home from an all-day meeting only to tell me “all about it” in just five minutes. I want to know more details: What did they have for lunch? Who was there? I also tend to bore him with all my “interesting” tidbits after I’ve been gone for a day.

4. *In material things, we women are interested in reaching our goals, while a man looks at how to reach that goal.*

Suppose you would like a new sofa. Your old one was purchased years ago at Goodwill Industries and you really

think you deserve a new one *now*. Your husband needs to look at the expenses and when and where it will fit into the budget. Communication becomes vital.

5. *A woman's home is a part of her personality, while a man's job is a part of his personality.*

Even if a woman works away from her home, she can go home and forget her job; a man takes his job along home. We put our time and enjoyment into fixing up our home and sometimes wonder why this man doesn't even notice. He may wonder why we're not more interested in his job, which, after all, provides for our family's needs.

6. *Women need security and "roots;" men tend to be more nomadic and love adventure.*

A man may find it easier to obey God's call to leave the known and go out in other areas of service. A woman will need to submit to God's call upon her husband's life and join him in seeking God's will for them as a team. I have traveled many miles with my husband because he has obeyed God's call in the service of the Gospel in remote places. I tend to be a "homebody" and find traveling more difficult. He enjoys travel. We've made compromises, but I hate to think what blessings and joys I would have missed had I refused to go with

him. We have also been blessed with friendships from all over the world.


7. *A woman desires friendships; a man is more likely to be independent and self-reliant.*

Women need to share their feelings, problems, and concerns with others. They long to feel loved and accepted, to know that someone cares about them. Men need friends, too, but their friendships are based more on mutual interests and common goals. Just listen to men's conversations after a Sunday dinner. They may discuss Scripture, current events, or their jobs, while women are sharing their hearts.

8. *Men are often more stable, while women tend always to be changing.*

A woman's body is geared to change. Our hormones cause us to deal with physical and emotional upheavals. We deal with mood changes. It doesn't give us excuse to act upon our emotions, but it is good to be aware of what is happening, and to talk to our husbands about it.

I hope this discussion about our differences will enable us to better understand ourselves as well as making us more understanding toward our husbands.

These differences can be accepted as part of what makes life interesting or, if we choose to be self-centered, what makes life perplexing. 

*When the road of life is steep and slippery,  
prayer gives us traction.*



## junior messages

### *The Healer Came*

*Anita Yoder*

Sarai lay on her bed wishing sleep would come to rescue her from her troubled thoughts.

Sarai remembered the good, old days. Life had been easy then. Father had been home and all was well. Oh, the fateful day when Mother and Father went away, only to have her beloved father ushered past the house with the priests crying, "Unclean! Unclean!" Just thinking about those words pierced her heart anew. How it had changed their lives!

The priests took Father to live out-

side the city. He could not return. No longer was he the wise business man. He lived in the colony of lepers.

Sarai tossed and turned. The last time she had seen Father's face the leprosy had spread to his face. Would she need to endure seeing the dreaded disease change his looks?

They worked together to help Mother earn money. Today Sarai had worked in the vineyards for her uncle. At least they had that going for them. He could use their help sometimes. It had been a beautiful day; she couldn't

complain about that. She finally did get it right, after Uncle spent a lot of time with her, showing her exactly where to make the cuts.

*Oh, sleep, why don't you come; I'm weary and my thoughts are just cutting away at my heart like I cut those vines today,* Sarai sighed, feeling the ache in her hands now from cutting and pruning all those vines.

Life went on for Sarai. Nothing changed. Each day was as uneventful as the one before. On restless nights she'd have a hard time not thinking of their situation. At other times, she did her duty to make life easier for all of them.

One night when they had all gathered in the courtyard after a day of work, a loud, persistent knock jolted the courtroom door. Surprised, Sarai's older brother went to answer.

"Hello—OOOOOhhh!" he stepped back startled.

"Aren't you going to let me in?" asked the man at the door.

"Father, Father," was everyone's glad cry. "How can this be? Is it really you? You are back! And your leprosy is gone!" Everyone seemed to talk at once.

They all walked around him. It had to be true. Father was healed!

"It is so wonderful to be healed and be at home at last. Come, let us sit down and I will tell you how it happened," exclaimed Father.

"Ten of us were walking," he began, "and a man met us and healed us right there. At first, we were all so excited we wanted to run and tell everyone. When I looked back, he was still standing there. His gaze held such love for me, I turned back and fell at his feet. I owe so much to him. I wonder if he knew how I had tried every possible remedy and given up, and how hopeless my life had become. I thanked him over and over. Truly this man gave my life back to me!"

• • • • •

Dear Readers,

My name is Samantha Danae Hochstetler. I was born October 14, 1998, to Jay Dee and Rosena. I have two brothers: Connor (9) and Javin (6) and one sister; MaKayla (2). I attend Fairhaven Church and go to Woodlawn School. I am in the second grade. I love to play with my friends, painting, and cake decorating. I would love a twin or penpal.

Samantha Danae Hochstetler

10210 N 1175 W

Millersburg, IN 46543





Don't waste your time  
reflecting on missed opportunities  
or you might miss some more.

## youth messages

### *Dear Youth,*

Every time I sit down to write something for this periodical, I try to think back a few years and reminisce about issues and questions that I faced when I was the age of most of you reading this. I'm not sure if I am always connecting, and so that is why I like it when you send me questions you are "thinking on" or "wrestling with" at the present. If you request it, we will not publish your name with your question.

This month's question centers on what it means to be Christ-like.

Do you have relatives, family or neighbors who like to give you advice and counsel? Are there certain ones who generally impress you the wrong way with their attitude? Have you ever thought something like this? "Your attitude speaks so loudly that I

can't hear what you're saying."

Did you ever discover that some of the people you live with and go to church with, feel the same disgust with your attitude as you have with them and their attitude?

Attitude is a very slippery thing to get hold of. Most of us can see attitudes in others we cannot see in ourselves.

The writers for this month's question share some of the thoughts that came to their minds as they thought about being genuine Christians in everyday life. Perhaps things will come to your mind as you read what they have to say.

I'm looking forward to seeing what answers you will submit for next month's question. —EE

*This Month's*  
**QUESTION**

**What real life situations come to your mind when you reflect on statements like these**

**“Those who live the life of Jesus are not people who always act like Jesus; rather, they are people who tend to respond to life the way Jesus did when He was here on this earth.”**

**“A person can't expect to act like Jesus in the moment, if he has not first committed himself to living the kind of life that Jesus lived.”**

*r e s p o n s e   f r o m   o u r   r e a d e r s . . .*

Everyone knows what it's like: You get frustrated because the people around you simply don't act like you think they should. They should know better, don't they have an ounce of common sense? Or am I the only one who gets impatient and even angry when things don't go my way? Anger starts building up inside of me and after a while, I start feeling guilty. Once again, I didn't respond like Jesus would have. Why doesn't it come more naturally? But then I need to ask some more questions: How can I be like Him when I don't truly know Him? Do I treasure time spent with Him and study long in His Word? Does He mean more to me than anything else in the world? I would like to answer yes to all these questions, but I still need reminders like “getting mad at people” to be

drawn back to Him. He can change us especially when it seems impossible to us!

*Clara Kahl · Waterford, Ireland*

• • • • •

Jesus always did what was best for God's Kingdom, even though it must often have seemed “unfair” and eventually cost Him great pain and a totally undeserved death.

Why, then, do I complain about having to do more than “my share” of pulling weeds (a job I hate) or washing dishes? Even in these everyday situations, I can make a positive choice for God's Kingdom by graciously accepting the decisions made by authority, or I can be a negative influence and a poor witness by whining about the injustice until my workload is reduced.

When I remember that building

God's Kingdom is about things much more important than my personal comfort it can help me do the right thing even when I don't feel like it.

After all, these minor annoyances are nothing compared to what Jesus endured for us. And in eternity, it really won't matter that I had to pick more beans than my sister did. What *will* matter is the way I chose to respond to the assignments I was given.

*Jackie Yoder, Hutchinson, KS*

• • • • •

Christlikeness is authentic only when it encompasses all of life. It must be a lifestyle, a manner of living. Therefore, I cannot hope to suddenly respond like Christ in certain situations unless I am committed to being like Him in all areas of my life. Living like Christ is not a spur-of-the-moment decision that I make when certain situations arise; rather, it is a lifestyle, a commitment to live and respond and act and think like

Christ at all times.

It is easy for me to unwittingly compartmentalize my life and isolate my areas of struggle. But when I do that, I am trying to be like Christ in one area alone, instead of having a commitment and practice of consciously living and responding like Christ in all of life. If I am in the habit of deliberately thinking and acting like Christ, then I will have a frame of reference set for responding properly when temptations arise.

I think especially of my relationships with my family and others. My actions and responses in any given situations will reflect my level of Christ-likeness. If I am not living as Christ lived in all areas of my life, I will be more likely not to respond properly when tensions or aggravations arise. Conversely, it will be much easier to respond in a Christ-like manner if my whole life is a life of discipleship and Christ-likeness.

*Douglas Kauffman, Huntsville, AR*

*Next Month's  
QUESTION*

**For centuries, Christians have discussed the relationship between “being” and “doing.” Does doing what we know to do make us eventually become like Jesus? Does learning to know Jesus make us “seek to do what we know to do”? What do you think?**

*Please submit your answers by September 20.* 

# THOUGHT GEMS

Anger makes your mouth work faster than your mind.

• • • • •

Don't forget that appreciation is always appreciated.

• • • • •

To know what is right and not do it is as bad as doing wrong.

• • • • •

Bigamy is a crime in which two rites makes one wrong.

• • • • •

The more you speak of yourself, the more likely you are to lie.

• • • • •

Live your life so you won't be afraid of having your phone tapped.

• • • • •

You may make a mistake if you judge a man by his opinion of himself.

• • • • •

Be patient with the faults of others—they have to be patient with yours.

• • • • •

Giving it another try is better than giving it an alibi.

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