



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

Galatians 6:14

MAY 2007

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Purpose of Calvary Messenger is:
 To propagate sound Biblical doctrine;
 To stimulate a deeper study of God's Word;
 To anchor and fortify the faith of Christians;
 To point lost and dying souls to Christ the Savior;
 To welcome prodigals back to the fold and family of God;
 And to help defeated Christians find victory in Christ Jesus.

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The Savior's Plea

Delores Schmidt, New Hamburg, ON

“COME MY CHILD; come to Me,
I have come to set you free;
Give to Me your heart and soul;
Let me wash you white as snow.

“COME MY CHILD, come to Me,
I have died to set you free;
Turn and flee this life of sin;
Now a Christ-like life begin.

“COME MY CHILD, come to Me,
Hear the tender, loving plea;
Flee your heavy sins that bind.
Rich, eternal blessings find.

“COME MY CHILD. Come to Me,
From this world you'll be set free;
Lay aside the heavy load;
Journey on the narrow road.

“COME MY CHILD, come to Me,
I have come to set you free;
Let me quench your thirsty soul;
I have come to make you whole.”



Earthly Recognition

We are all made in God's image, yet none of us has special traits or accomplishments that deserve heaven. In fact, we are all as an unclean thing. "There is none righteous, no, not one!" We seem to be alright with that and accept these truths about ourselves.

Why is it then, that when *men* give us little recognition, we feel slighted? Sometimes after we have given 100%, hardly anyone notices. What might be tougher yet is when, after we've done our best, we get criticized. But those whimpers of self-pity fall far below the courageous devotion of martyrs.

Why are we so hungry for recognition? We may be too humanistic (man-centered) to get the big picture.

Let's start at a different place. Let's start with God, instead of with us. Note the plan of salvation issuing from God's heart. Note the price Jesus paid for our redemption. That price tag indicates what God thinks of us. If we start looking at our experiences from God's point of view, we may see something more inspiring than we get from our injured, bloated egos

defending our man-centered feelings that seem to focus on the hope that people note our accomplishments.

It's not what we've done that's noteworthy. It's what God has done and is doing!

Let us thank God for:

—the freedoms in this land.

—the altogether-true, life-giving Word of God in our language.

—the enabling companionship of the Holy Spirit.

—the encouraging gift of Christian brotherhood.

—the blessed promise of Jesus' return.

Let us work with a will, because—

We are in a cause greater than ourselves.

We are privileged above many in this world.

Time is running out!

Millions are perishing without the knowledge of God.

Many doors are yet open to the Gospel.

The "GO!" in the Gospel is fulfilled when we live, work, travel, pray, preach, give, write, speak or otherwise serve "in the name of Christ."

Let us prefer others above our-

selves.

If I deliberately work against your success, my success is tainted; but if I honor you above myself, Christ's likeness is coming through.

Let us not be weary in well doing.

Jesus may return very soon.

Heaven will be more than worth it all.

"The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory" to come!

Whether or not we get earthly recognition is of little consequence. It will certainly be worth it all when we see Jesus! "One glimpse of His dear face, all sorrows will erase. So bravely run the race till we see Christ!"


• • • • •

Correction: I apologize for erroneously reporting the e-mail address of Bro. Elmer Glick at the end of the report last month on the first school board institute. (April, '07, page 7). Here's the corrected address: elmerghome@peoplepc.com.

• • • • •

Acknowledgement: As we go to

press, it is just after we have had the blessed privilege of hosting the 2007 ministers' meetings here in the Hutchinson, KS, community. We as a community want to thank those who came. We praise God for His protection for the many miles traveled. A large portion of the continental United States got unseasonably cold during this week. South Central Kansas even had some snow on the last day (4-5-07) of the meetings.

Three minister couples (Lewis and Alice Tice, Henry and Marie Tice, and Menno and Nona Yoder) from the Meyersdale, PA, community, had the misfortune of hitting a patch of ice on a windswept bridge yesterday morning (4-6-07), as they were passing through Newton, KS, just 45 miles into their journey home. Some minor injuries occurred and Sis. Alice required hospitalization in Wichita. Today she was moved out of ICU. When she is given clearance to leave the hospital, they and Mennos will presumably return home with a replacement vehicle, because Mennos' minivan was totaled. —PLM 



The fellow who always leans on his family tree never seems to get out of the woods.

Re: Observations, (March, 2007)

My wife and I share David L. Miller's concern about having mission and service workers raise their own financial support. When a person gives his time to a work away from home, is it right to expect him to expend time and effort to solicit money when he's home?

—Melvin H. Nisly, Hutchinson, KS

• • • • •

Re: Concern, (August, 2006)

Dear brothers,

There has been discussion in *Calvary Messenger* about the head covering for women and how big it should be. But I think we should also discuss beards and how big they should be.

However, first things first: The really important things about the Christian way of life are inward and have to do with purity, nonresistance, and sharing. It is true that outward signs of these inward matters can help us in trying to follow Jesus.

I think we should look back before even the early Anabaptists, back to the first few generations of Christians. I think the women wore a simple head scarf tied under the chin and the men had big full face beards with mustaches—and quite long. There were no proper razors

then and most of them would probably not have had scissors. Beards would mostly have been cut crudely with a knife.

When I first started to grow a beard at the age of 50, I thought “a beard is a beard,” so you let it all grow. Then after a while I thought I had better cut a hole for my mouth so I could eat more easily. Then I trimmed it somewhat so I would not look too much like I was homeless and sleeping on the street. If a beard gets too long, it can become a nuisance or even a danger at work. But it seems to me, if you are growing a beard, you might as well do it properly and if you have a head covering, why not a simple head scarf?

Still if there was a nonresistant church near me upholding purity and sharing, I could probably overlook it if the women were wearing “coffee filters” on their heads and the men had small goat's beards.

There are about 200 countries in the world and you can get into more of them now than you could even 20 years ago. You are well-organized, resourceful, practical people—much more so than me with my worldly, half-crazy upbringing. You have something solid behind you and a Christian way of life that the Lord

wants to take to every nation. Two families for each of the countries that you are not yet in is not so much when you consider that some countries would not allow you in.

Surely the only valid reason for breaking away from the Old Order Amish was to be able to spread the true born-again, Christian way of life, but still as a separated, nonresistant church. To begin with our salvation is making a personal relationship with Jesus, but a true continuation of salvation is a collective experience. There is no salvation without my brother and sister. The Amish Mennonites have made a start in going to the nations. It seems obvious to me

that this is what God wants of us.

—Graham Bevan
11 Willow Grove
Malvern, Worcestershire,
IRELAND, WR14 2SE

• • • • •

Re: What Motivates our Changes?

I give a hearty second to David L. Miller’s recommendation that “every young person and his/her parents read” Stephen Russell’s article in Feb., 2007, page 7.

Having known Stephen through most of his journey with us these years, I affirm and appreciate the perspective he brings to our attention.

—Simon Schrock, Catlett, VA 

A N N O U N C E M E N T

What is the Spirit saying to the churches today?

An Inter-Anabaptist Convocation, open to all interested persons, is being planned for June 18-20, 2007, at Sharon Mennonite Bible Institute, Harrisonville, PA.

We acknowledge that much of early Anabaptist outlook and vision seems to be missing in Anabaptists living today. This meeting is to provide a time of confession, prayer, fasting, discussion, solitude, instruction and renewed commitment to the original apostolic vision.

This meeting is not an effort to discuss Anabaptist history, per se, or to create a new Anabaptist organization, but is rather an effort to cooperate with the Spirit of God to rekindle a Kingdom spirit and an Anabaptist worldview that is relevant in 2007 and the time remaining until Christ returns.

Starting time is 1 p.m., on June 18, and continue as God leads through June 20. For additional information, call Chester Weaver at 817-866-3692 or SMBI at 717-485-4341.

From Mystery to Reality—Part 7

Aaron Lapp, Kinzers, PA

Faith Yields to Doing What is Right

This is the sixth installment in this seven-step series. Each installment is a commentary on the seven points in seeing how the mystery of God’s plan leads to the reality of Christian living. The seven components are as follows:

1. Imagination yields to curiosity.
2. Curiosity yields to inquiry.
3. Inquiry yields to discovery.
4. Discovery yields to diligence.
5. Diligence yields to faith.
6. Faith yields to doing what is right.
7. Doing what is right yields to reality.

This discourse undertakes to show how *faith yields to doing what is right*. The connecting word “yield” is chosen to denote upward steps as in graduation. Each level yields to a higher level of insight and experience.

The range of personal experience goes from the pre-school child to the seasoned adult. Every stage of life can encounter these seven steps. These various stages are intrinsically placed in us by God, our Creator, and

fulfilled in us by His grace. These do not clash with each other, nor are they put in place to frustrate our person or outlook. They ultimately lead to a life at peace in regard to one’s personhood.

Backsliding from any of these steps will cause incalculable spiritual damage. This possibility was not mentioned until now in this writing, but it is a real threat. Many failures occur in the area of faith. Countless more take place at the point of doing what is right. It is most unfortunate when the individual is moving right along God-ward, and suddenly, BOOM! The decision to do what is right is missed and backsliding follows.

How can anyone come to professed faith in Christ to salvation and yet miss out on doing what is right biblically? It has to do with definition. Faith, according to much current Christianity is largely subjective. As such, one’s faith is largely determined by one’s preferences. Contemporary Christianity has the broadest and most lenient versions of faith, giving it all the latitude desired according to the person’s wish.

In stark contrast, biblical faith is objective rather than subjective. This isn't splitting hairs. It is the Continental Divide of scriptural faith. "Now the end [sum total—Luther's German] of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned [unpainted]: from which some having swerved have turned aside to vain jangling [unprofitable talking]" (1 Timothy 1:5,6). Biblical faith enjoins obedience. It is not merely an option, dependent on individual preference. Paul writes that already in his time some swerved from the faith and ended up in the chasm of relativity. By such swerving they abandoned the faith.

In another word picture, Paul writes descriptively, "Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck" (1 Timothy 1:19). Originally, faith involved a total dependence on Christ for salvation. Modern Christianity too often emphasizes the faith in Christ as primary and commitment to God's truth in life's walk as secondary, or less. Shipwreck is the result of such wrong priorities.

Much of so-called Christendom is geared toward arriving at faith in Christ. It seems to be a terminal point, a place to park, of "having

arrived."

Some do not come to faith in Christ because they are afraid they will be unfaithful, don't want to interrupt personal pleasure, or fear what others might say. Some individuals say they don't want to be Christians unless they can be REAL ones.

Great! Now we are getting somewhere! You know what? God thinks the same thing. The REALITY of life and real Christian living is what this whole series is about. How can we go from mystery to reality? God has proposed faith in Christ as the means toward doing what is right from the heart. Doing what is right, based on faith in God, is the highest reality in life. God also wants every Christian to be a *real one!*

Faith is the basis for living. It is the foundation on which one can build. It is the harbor from which to sail. It is the runway from which to take off. Faith is needed because when faith stops, life itself stops. But when you arrive at faith in Christ, you find that yet something else is needed. Let's try to simplify the concept that "faith yields to doing what is right" by seeing it in three parts.

A. Believing for Real

Between us and God distance is the problem. Sin is the cause. Christ is the remedy. Faith in Christ is the reconnection. Jesus' blood is the cost.

Jesus' resurrection is the validation. Faith unto salvation is the link to that which is real.

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:1,2). Faith is the access into this grace. Faith is the connection. Faith is the life line of the rescue operation. Faith in Christ is all that is needed for acceptance, status, and freedom with God.

Abel believed God when there was no precedent. Noah believed in his assignment without so much as a lake in view. Abraham believed God despite the absence of fertility specialists. Job confidently believed God in prosperity and adversity. Hannah believed God and persevered in prayer. Daniel believed God and responded in resignation. Paul believed God and gave himself as a living sacrifice. Their untarnished faith was real!

A Christian who lives by faith in God and His truth is a *real* Christian. Faith is faith when it makes no sense, seems illogical, and appears to be without purpose or reward. *Such faith shines!* Such faith rescues the exhausted swimmer. Such faith directs the confused traveler. Such

faith rises and carries upward the weary worker.

B. Being for Real

This is the hardest part.

Faking and pretense are easy. Feigning is possible. Hypocrites do it all the time. Some part-time Christians do it too. Being pure, sincere, free, transparent and honest is not natural—certainly not for the sinner, nor for the hypocrite. And you know what? Even the child of God may find it tempting!

Being for real requires a yieldedness of personal rights and personal aspirations. Crucifying "the flesh with its affections and lusts" is a part of it (Galatians 5:24). What we are in Christ is more devastating to our flesh than either the largeness of our faith or the extent of our discipline.

Right attitudes, pure motives, and selfless aspirations all come from the life of Christ within. Life flows from the inside out. "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).

C. Doing for Real

Many Christians struggle with doing right from the heart. Believing in Jesus Christ is the easy part compared to doing what is right. Why?

It must be repeated; *the hard part is being, not doing*. When one fails to do what is right, the problem is a problem of the heart—rather than


the head or hands or feet. Wrongdoing is an index of a heart need that is unmet. Right doing doesn't make the heart right. But right doing out of a heart made right by Christ makes for the highest freedom in this life. That's certainly more than a right belief alone can accomplish. Doing what is right is a challenge for Christians worldwide.

Many a person has become convinced of the need to do right after he has obediently done right. The discipline of doing right has definite value, even if it takes him beyond his personal convictions. One's personal commitment to doing right is a higher call than a particular conviction, even a bit higher than faith itself, assuming that faith is active.

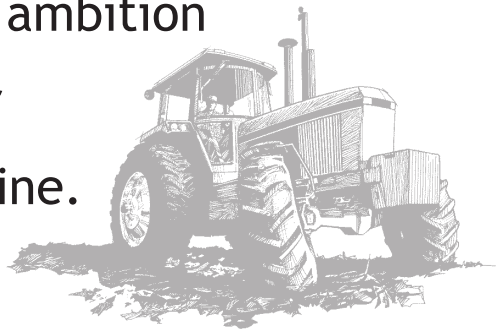
The standards of the home need to be obeyed because you are a member of the home. The regulations of the school need to be obeyed because you are a student there. The standards

of the church need to be supported because of your covenant with the church, citizenship responsibilities likewise. We have a personal obligation to fulfill personal responsibilities wherever we are involved, whether or not our personal convictions call for it.

Doing what is right helps in returning me to the reality of life. When my input is genuine, my output is also genuine. Much of evangelical Christianity has been weak and keeps getting weaker on the practical "do's" of the New Testament. Real Christians don't vacillate when it comes to doing what is right when it arises from faith in God.

The Bottom Line is that a full-orbed faith progressively and aggressively and profusely augurs toward the fullest measure of reality in life. Doing what is right is on a higher level than faith itself when it issues out of one's personal faith in God and His Word. 

Ability without ambition
is like a tractor
without an engine.



God Loves His Children

Jonas Hershberger, Burton, OH/Phoenix, AZ

Does God reveal Himself to His children today as He did in days of yore? I will let you judge after I tell you my experience.

Joshua 1:9 gives us this promise: **“Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”**

Let me tell you about a miraculous experience for the glory of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ that inspired me to trust Him more. Even in the mundane things of life, He wants us to know that He cares for us even when we are unaware of our needs. The spine-tingler I want to tell you about happened on December 1, 2005.

On the evening before, November 30, Jake Coblenz called me and wondered if I would be able to pick up someone the next day at the airport in Phoenix at 10:16 a.m. He reported not feeling well at the time and felt it best to ask someone else to substitute for him, which I consented to do. He gave me the flight information, America West #280, from Columbus, Ohio, to Phoenix.

Thursday morning I left the house

later than I meant to. America West uses Terminal 4 for their departures and arrivals. So I parked our van on Level Four of the seven-level parking garage. The couple I was to pick up was expecting to be met at the baggage claim.

I took the elevator to that level and began walking toward the carousels to find my party waiting for someone to assist them with their luggage, when I met a kind, mannerly airport employee who asked me if he could help me. I told him I was but a “taxi” driver and had come to pick up a couple who was to come in on flight 280 from Columbus. I also told him that the monitor shows that the plane had already arrived, so I would go and see if I could find them.

I went on toward the carousel where a crowd was gathering to wait for their luggage. Suddenly, over the intercom I heard, “Jonas, meet your party at door No. 2 at the baggage claim level.”

I wasn’t quite sure I had heard right, so I kept on walking and looking at the carousel monitors to see if I was heading to the right place for Flight 280. Then I heard it again, “Jonas, meet your party at door No.

2 at the baggage claim level.”

I had been looking for door No. 2 just beyond the car rental desks and couldn't figure out where that door was. But by then, I decided that I must not have gone far enough. So I decided to go outside where I was sure I could find that door. I went out through door No. 6 and checked which direction to take to find door No. 2. I hurried toward it and as I did so, the announcement came the third time, and this time the noise level was improved so that I heard it most clearly, “Jonas, meet your party at door No. 2, at the baggage claim level.”

I then hurried down the sidewalk till I came to door No. 2 and went inside the door. Immediately, I saw a couple at the lost baggage claim counter. I walked up to them and introduced myself. It was the couple I was looking for. I told them I was glad they had put a message over the intercom to direct me to where they were searching for their luggage. They astounded me by saying, “We didn't page you on the intercom. We didn't even know that you would be

picking us up.”

I just looked at them and said, “This sounds like something the Lord would do for us, knowing that I would not be able to find you in the carousel area.” I think the man I had met, who asked if he could assist me, was an angel in disguise as an airport employee, for I had not given him my name at all. It seemed so unusual to have a message come over the intercom using the first name only. I have no work shirt or jacket with my name on it, so I couldn't have been giving him my name that way.

We have an awesome God who always knows our whereabouts and also promised us in Hebrews 13:5b, 6 that He would take care of us. “...for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.**” Amen!

The lost luggage was soon found and we went on our way to Ash Court to enjoy the beautiful sunshine in the Valley of the Sun. Praise His name! He cares for us!



What good is good advice if you don't take it?

marriages

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

Bauman-Coblentz

Bro. Joseph, son of Titus and Ruth Bauman, Breckinridge, KY, and Sis. Debra, daughter of Ed and Kathy Coblentz, Summersville, KY, at First Baptist Church for Summersville Mennonite on March 9, 2007, by James Hershberger.

Bontrager-Yoder

Bro. Justin, son of Glendon and Patricia Bontrager, Shipshewana, IN, and Sis. Danita, daughter of Richard and Susan Yoder, Hutchinson, KS, at Yoder Mennonite Church for Cedar Crest A.M. Church on Mar. 10, 2007, by Paul L. Miller.

cradle roll

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

Beachy, Brian and Valerie (Stoltzfus), Auburn, KY, first child and son, Isaac Morgan, Feb. 4, 2007.

Beachy, Durlin and Emily (Schlabach), Ruckersville, VA, first child and son, Demetrius Sean, Mar. 8, 2007.

Contreras-Carrillo

Bro. Luis, son of Luis and Carolina Contreras, Esperanza Village, Cayo, Belize, and Sis. Dalila, daughter of Jose and Adelia Carrillo, Santa Familia, Cayo, Belize, on Jan. 6, 2007, at Cayo Christian Fellowship, Belize, Central America, by Lester Gingerich.

Peachey-Yoder

Bro. Joseph, son of Dan and Leona Peachey, Strasburg, PA and Sis. Susan, daughter of Larry and Esther Yoder, Middlebury, IN, at Fair Haven for Rosewood A.M. Church, on March 24, 2007, by Glenn Yoder.

Stoltzfus-Troyer

Bro. Lavon, son of David and Mabel Stoltzfus, Dundee, OH, and Sis. Melissa, daughter of Paul and Barbara Troyer, Bourbon, IN, at United Pentecostal Church of Bourbon for Clay Street A.M. Church on Sept. 30, 2006, by Wade Burkholder.

Coblentz, Mark and Naomi (Miller), Flemingsburg, KY, third child, first dau., Mariah Faith, Feb. 24, 2007.

Eicher, Reuben and Rosina (Miller), Belvidere, TN, second child and dau., Kendra Rose, Mar. 9, 2007.

Fisher, Elvin and Saralynn (Esh), Honey Grove, PA, first child and son, Patrick Durrell, Aug. 10, 2006.

Fisher, Leroy and Rebekah (Miller), Mifflin, PA, second child, first dau., Deborah Rose, Jan 4, 2007.

Gingerich, Joe and Rhoda (Stoltzfus), Dyke, VA, second child and dau., Natasha Kinzie, Mar. 16, 2007.

Glick, Dwayne and Rosie (King), Mt. Morris, NY, fifth child, second son, Jonathan Dwayne, Feb. 25, 2007.

Jantzi, Wayne and Judy (Miller), Aroda, VA, fifth child, fourth son, Daryll Brandon, Mar. 30, 2007.

Graber, Phillip and Amy (Lengacher), Loogootee, IN, second child, first son, André Phillip, Feb. 17, 2007.

Hostetler, Erin and Freida (Stoltzfoos), Martinsburg, OH, third child, second son, Wyatt Erin, Feb. 22, 2007.

Hostetler, Jonathan and Linda (Stoltzfus), Plain City, OH, third child, second dau., Alea Destinee, Mar. 14, 2007.

Hostetler, Matthew and Keturah (Yutzzy), Belvidere, TN, first child and dau., Yvonne Ranae, Apr. 4, 2007.

King, Calvin and Linda (Esh), Kinzers, PA, third child, second dau., Aliya Noell, Jan. 31, 2007.

Lapp, James and Anne (Esh), Gap, PA, fourth child, third dau., Kiana Elizabeth, Mar. 28, 2007.

Lapp, John and Bethany (Lantz), Honey Brook, PA, fifth child, second dau., Katrina Shalom, Feb. 22, 2007.

Mast, Forrest and Genevieve (Stoll), Summersville, KY, fourth child, third dau, Laurel Autumn, Mar. 5, 2007.

Mast, Jon and Sara (Troyer), Lyndon, KS, sixth child, (one deceased), fourth dau., Alisha Joy, Feb. 9, 2007.

Miller, Daniel and Anita (Lapp), Freeport, OH, first child and son, Blake Nicholas, Mar. 1, 2007.

Miller, Darryl and Renee (Hochstedler), Martinsburg, OH, third child, first dau., Ashlyn Jaira, April 5, 2007.

Miller, Joe and Mary Ellen (Fisher), Mifflin, PA, first child and dau., Luran Matia, Dec. 21, 2006.

Miller, John A. and Irene (Miller), Malta, OH, sixth child, fourth dau., Jerika Irene, Mar. 4, 2007.

Miller, Lloyd and Ruth Marie (Fisher), Free Union, VA/London, OH, fourth child, second son, Joshua Lloyd, Mar. 7, 2007.

Schmucker, William and Rosina (Miller), Partridge, KS, first child and son, Elijah Neil, Feb. 4, 2007.

Schrock, Dwight and Lori (Bontrager), Iowa City, IA, first child and son, Taylor Osa, Nov. 28, 2006.

Stoltzfoos, David and Regina (Overholt), Leola, PA, sixth child, fifth son, Alex Reagan, Mar. 13, 2007.

Stoltzfus, Dathan and Wilma (Diener), Perry, NY, sixth child, fourth son, Christopher Luke, Mar. 2, 2007.

Stoltzfus, Jonas B., Jr. and Debbie (King), Honey Brook, PA, sixth child, third dau., Martina Dawn, Feb. 7, 2007.

Stutzman, Elwyn and Rhonda (Hackman), Washington, IA, first child and son, Kaden Lee, Dec. 1, 2006.

Weaver, Travis and Rhoda (Schmucker), Franklin, KY, third child and son, Kevin Eric, Feb. 23, 2007.

Yoder, Andrew and Martha Ann (Kauffman), Bittinger, MD, sixth child, third dau., Katrina Faith, Mar. 23, 2007.

Yoder, Michael and Heather (Henderson), Aroda, VA, second child, first son, Shiloh Jordan, Feb. 16, 2007.

Yoder, Millard and Carolyn (Yoder), Hartselle, AL, first child and son, Logan Grant, Jan. 14, 2007.

Zook, Jonathan and Geraldine (Lapp), Chesapeake, VA, second child and son, Matthew Leon, Mar. 19, 2007.

Zook, Lavern and Patricia (Miller), Lewisburg, PA, fourth child, second dau., Sharla Rochelle, Feb. 19, 2007.

ordinations

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

Bro. Nathan Yoder, 37, was ordained to the Christian ministry to serve at Haven Fellowship, Plain City, OH, on March 11, 2007. Preordination messages were given by Ernest Stoltzfus, Perry, NY. The charge was given by Lonnie Beachy, assisted by Mark Beachy and John Hostetler. Mitchel Chupp was also in the lot.

Bro. Aaron Yoder, 47, was ordained to the office of minister Jan. 14, 2007, at Clay Street A.M. Church, Bourbon, IN. Preordination messages were brought by Glenn Yoder, Middlebury, IN. The charge was given by Wade Burkholder, assisted by Glenn Yoder and Thomas Mast. Steve Burkholder was also in the lot.

The world's most unsatisfied
hunger is the hunger for

appreciation.

Miller, Joessa Lynn Miller, was born and died on March 21, 2007 at Lutheran Hospital, Ft. Wayne, IN. She was the fifth child of Melvin and Connie Miller, of Shipshewana, IN.

Survivors include her parents, brothers: Joshua, Justin, and Jedrik and sister, Jordanna; grandparents: Elmer and Alice Miller, Stuarts Draft, VA; and Raymond and Barbara Miller, Paris, TN.

Graveside services were held on March 24, with the home ministers serving. Burial was in the Rosewood Cemetery.

Taylor, Nancy Purdum, 49, died March 28, 2007, at Mountain View Nursing Home, Aroda, VA. She was born Oct. 20, 1957, in Danville, VA, daughter of the late Kenneth Grayson and Mary (Clark) Taylor.

She was a member of the Oak Grove Mennonite Church.

Surviving are her brother Kenneth Taylor, Jr., and his wife, Diane and a niece, Elizabeth. Also surviving are two aunts and several cousins.

Being handicapped with Cruzon's Disease, Nancy lived most of her life at Faith Mission Home in Free Union, VA. When she was no longer able to walk and needed more extensive care, she moved to Mountain View Nursing Home in

Sept., 1995. Life became even more difficult when she began losing her vision in the spring of 2003. We rejoice that she is now free from all these disabilities.

Funeral services were held March 30, with Tim Miller in charge. A private burial in the family cemetery near Chatham, VA, followed.

Yoder, Joel Lyndon, 19, died after a 16-month battle with Hodgkin's Disease on March 2, 2007. He was born Dec. 26, 1987, son of Ray and Gladys Yoder, Cedar Creek, TX.

He was a member of Grace Mennonite Fellowship of Bastrop.

He is survived by his parents; brother-in-law, Darrel Hostetler, Brownsville, OR; brothers: Anthony (Rose) and Marlin (Anna) of Cedar Creek; sister Glanette, of the home; paternal grandparents, Elvin and Barbara Yoder, Falkville, AL; and maternal grandfather Marvin Amstutz, Orrville, OH.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Valerie Hostetler; his maternal grandmother, Etta Amstutz, and paternal grandmother, Clara (Troyer) Yoder.

Funeral services were held March 6 at Bastrop Christian Outreach Center for Grace Mennonite Fellowship with Reuben Kaufman and Glenford Amstutz serving. Elmer Smucker was in charge of the committal at Grace Mennonite Fellowship Cemetery.

observations

Daryl Hostetler from Linn, Missouri, reports an unusual happening. He was in a local grocery store parking lot when he suddenly noticed a man in uniform. He was wearing a red band on his sleeve and also a Nazi symbol (swastika). Daryl was understandably startled and bewildered. But after a brief hesitation, he decided to engage the man in conversation.

The person was reluctant to answer questions but summoned another person close by who was more sociable. In fact, Daryl found it a bit intimidating when his vehicle was suddenly surrounded by vehicles whose occupants obviously belonged to the same crowd. From this interaction and further research, the following details emerged:

There were perhaps 25-30 together in uniforms with various levels of military status. They had been to Columbia, MO, some 60 miles distant for a public demonstration/march. The law enforcement and FBI were well aware of their coming and took pertinent precautionary measures.

They were on their way to a member's place for a cookout.

They explained that they were organized for their own protec-

tion. They want to be recognized as representing their race: white. They explained that people of color have their organization for racial representation and they consider it unfair that they are labeled racist if they do likewise.

When questioned about the holocaust a person who claimed to be a historian offered the following explanation: The victors in World War II got to write the history. The holocaust did not happen.

Daryl mentioned that one of the group, whose name he could not recall, lived in Hutchinson, KS.

In response to the question whether they were Christian, they replied that a few were, but that most were pagan. Daryl tells me that according to their web site, they are against abortion, except in cases of rape or when the unborn child is racially mixed or retarded. They advocate freedom of speech, except for speaking against the state. They consider themselves to be the state.

What should we make of all this? It is apparent that the military victory over Hitler more than 60 years ago did not eradicate his evil and heartless philosophy of white supremacy. We believe everyone is potentially eligible for salvation by grace through faith. Ultimately, every knee will bow

and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is who He said He is.

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I recently came across an unusual book, copyright 1977, written by Mary (Summy) Yoder (Mrs. Pete Yoder). It is basically the story of her father, Jacob Summy (1888-1970).

The book is a collection of stories that Jacob told his family, as well as material taken from the diary that Jacob kept during his unusual lifetime.

The record does not camouflage the character flaws of persons mentioned. The author hopes that readers can profit from negative examples. A prominent example is the main character's father, whose serious drinking problem brought much hardship on his family, whom he eventually deserted. Apparently drinking problems were more common during this time.

Jake Summy found it nearly unbearable to endure his father's addiction. His first stint away from their Somerset County, PA, home was to Norfolk, VA. But the book records that Jacob Summy had 20 different mailing addresses in nine different states during his lifetime.

It is difficult to do justice to this book in a review. It is very detailed, mentioning many incidents, people,

and places. Accounts are typically brief which means subjects change abruptly. It is an insightful report of Amish life of that era. The economic culture was essentially agricultural. Neighbors needed each other to accomplish the labor-intensive projects of threshing, building, butchering, and so on.

Amish people seem already to have been traveling a great deal. There was some westward movement and settlement from eastern states. It is interesting that when the two settlements in Ford County, Kansas, dissolved, many moved back east. A few families moved to Reno County, KS, as well as to Mayes County, OK.

I found it interesting that on March 20, 1893, two families who moved from Holmes/Wayne County, Ohio, were my great grandparents, Jerry and Fannie Miller and the Eli J. Yoders. Eli J. Yoder was a brother to Noah J. Yoder, who with his wife, Barbara, were the first Amish couple to be married in the Partridge, KS, community. Noah J. Yoder was the grandfather of Eli M. Yoder, Millersburg, OH, who occasionally contributes to this periodical.

I had not been aware of this Eli Yoder, who moved from here to Ford County, then later to Kokomo, IN. It was here that Jake Summy met and

married their daughter, Amanda. Eventually Jake and Amanda returned to his boyhood community (Somerset County, PA) where they spent their final days.

Incidents mentioned include the flu of 1918, and a blizzard so severe that church services were cancelled from Sept. 28 to Nov. 4, 1920. There were also dust storms and tornadoes.

This 278-page book is quite unlike any other that I remember reading. Variety and human interest are prominent. There are many lists of weddings, births, funerals, and a record of families who lived in the same settlements they did. Many incidents are more or less humorous and trivial rather than profound. The book does have a certain historical significance. Christian faith is assumed rather than emphasized. The book is still available for \$6, postpaid. Order from: Albert P. Yoder, 173 Old River Road, Salisbury, PA 15558.

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Things a Minister Should Know

*Author unknown, Submitted by
—Homer Zook, Uniontown, Ohio*

1. Be quick to admit your mistakes, sins, or faults.
2. Never ask something of someone you wouldn't be willing to do.
3. Have a readiness and willingness

to hear another man's viewpoint. There is a difference between being steadfast and headstrong.

4. Be a good listener. Then consider. Then give your ideas.
5. Commend or give praise for work well done.
6. Have compassion and sympathy for others' failures.
7. Remember that others see our shortcomings much as we see theirs.
8. We should seek to magnify others' good points and minimize their faults.
9. Other people's problems should not be made our problems.
10. Never consider others as problem people but as people with a problem.
11. The church's mission will never rise above its leaders.
12. Never think, *When God got me, He got a bargain.*
13. Never take honor to yourself. When it comes, give it to the Lord.
14. The greatest mistake a person can make is to say he makes no mistakes.
15. We must give people ourselves before we can give them our Gospel.
16. Converts do need our love and advice. —DLM



Admonition

John Czekalski, Salem, MO

And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another” (Romans 15:14).

“Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother” (2 Thessalonians 3:15).

If I were to take these verses at face value in all situations and admonish my brothers for all their wrongs and faults, I believe that people would soon learn to avoid me and all relationships would be broken. I have learned that admonition alone will destroy and defeat the purpose of your speaking to a brother or sister. Admonition should be done only with the love of Jesus Christ in you and through the Holy Spirit if ye are to accomplish anything for God.

How can true biblical admonition be given so that God is glorified and relationships are strengthened?

1. True spiritual love must be in the admonition. You must have love in your heart for the person who needs admonishing and this love must be expressed in action and word.

If you walk away from the person not telling them how much you love them, I’m afraid that you may have destroyed the relationship. Loveless admonishing smells of piousness, anger, bitterness, and hatred. Tears of love are much more effective than accusations. “Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins” (Proverbs 10:12).

2. True spiritual admonition should include an offer to help the offended person, and should come from a servant’s heart. How easy it is to find fault, judge, and criticize others, but it takes a Christian heart to say words like these: “I am here if you need help. I am here whenever you would like to talk. I care about you and will hold your hand through these trials.” Humility shows love. It is an effective way of reaching people. Unfortunately, many times this is not done and we may hear mostly damaging gossip. How poor is the church body when this occurs! A loveless church body is a congregation that is far from the Lord Jesus Christ. “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain

mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16).

3. Admonition should include forgiveness. Forgiveness must be in the heart of the person who is admonishing someone, if the Holy Spirit is to work. “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you” (Matthew 6:14). If anger and bitterness remain in the heart instead of forgiveness, Satan has won the victory. Let God first work in the heart of the one who admonishes before he goes to admonish another.

All three points here speak of love. “Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am the Lord” (Leviticus 19:18). And notice that all three points were not included in the verses quoted at the beginning. That

is why it can be confusing to build doctrine off one Bible verse.

We must use the whole Bible and His Spirit of love in giving admonition. I believe that these three points are only a good start in giving helpful admonition. No doubt there are others. I have not had to give a lot of admonition in my Christian walk. Sometimes I seem to forgive and forget before I have a chance to talk to someone. But I have been on the receiving end of admonition and I find it much easier to accept when the person comes with the right heart and in God’s love, especially if I’m struggling.

“Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law” (Romans 13:8). May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you!



When **HAPPINESS** gets into your system, it’s bound to break out on your face.

My Birth Story

Elmer Gingerich, Mt. View, AR

In Flesh and Spirit class at Calvary Bible School, 2007, Elmer Gingerich assigned his students essays about themselves. They wrote well, but seemed to think that their stories would best be anonymous. Their teacher modeled the simple humility of putting his name with his story. We thank you, Bro. Elmer. Look for student stories in the coming months. –PLM

I was born to Amish parents. In my growing up years, I lived in northern Indiana in the Elkhart/LaGrange County area. My world as a little boy was very small. I remember going to Goshen once or twice before I was 15 years old. That was a huge trip of about 18 miles from where I lived.

We went to church only every other Sunday. One or two summers our church had Sunday school on the in-between Sundays. I learned to read German through the teaching at the Sunday school, but also through reading from the Bible in our family worship every morning.

I remember when my father started praying his own spontaneous prayers instead of reading from the prayer book. By the time I was 15, I could read the German Bible well, and so had been exposed to Bible teachings.

I had also been held to good behavior by my parents through consistent discipline. I had many spankings in those years, but my father was a kind man. One time he creatively required that I spank him as a way to get my attention.

Before that, when I was about 13 years old, I could not sleep one night. I was thinking back in disappointment over my day, wishing I were different. I was an energetic second-born in our family and seemed to always be doing things for attention. That often got me into trouble. I did not mean to get into trouble, but somehow, it would happen. I wished I knew how to change that. That night, in desperation, I crawled back out of bed and knelt by my bedside to pray. It was the first I had done that. I had not received instructions about a new birth, and I don't remember what I said in my prayer, but as I talked to God a wonderful peace came over me. I got up and lit a kerosene lamp and wrote a poem about my experience. My heart was still touched the next morning and I told my mother about the experience.

In those years I had a sinful habit in my life that I could not seem to stop. That habit continued on over the next

years, I went through the normal teenage frustrations and adjustments in life. During those years, I would alternate between resisting my habit and at other times excusing myself and indulging in it. However, I had no desire to be “wild” or rebellious as some of my peers were.

Because of a childhood bout with rheumatic fever, I was diagnosed with a heart murmur and the doctor recommended that my parents send me on through high school. That made my experience significantly different than the average Amish boy.

When I was almost 17 years old, with encouragement from my parents, I began attending a local Beachy Amish Mennonite church. My older brother was already attending there, so it was a simple matter to accompany him. I became a member of this church at 17 and learned a lot about being a Christian. During those years I made a number of recommitments. At times, I felt comfortable about my Christian life. At other times, I had doubts and wondered if I was really a Christian. This battle continued until I was about 24 years old, married, and living in another state.

The first summer we lived in Arkansas, I was assigned to be our Summer Bible School superintendent. Because we picked up 75 or more children from the community, we invited youth

from other communities to come and help us teach. That year a student in the fifth grade class asked her teacher (who was a youth from Iowa) how we can know whether we are Christians or not. Since the teacher did not know how to answer the question, she asked her superintendent how to answer it. That put me on the spot, because it was a question I had not answered for myself. But God rescued me by bringing to my memory 1 John 1:9, which says, “If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I was immediately struck with the simplicity of that. So that is it, if we confess the sins we know, we can be assured that they are forgiven and we are accepted. From that day on, I never had doubts about whether I have been forgiven by God.

Because of my many small commitments to the Lord and my lack of clear understanding in the early years, I often wondered when I actually was born into the Kingdom of God. This used to bother me when I would be asked to explain when I became a Christian. Today I don’t hesitate to point to that experience in the night at my bedside as my birthplace. I do so, though, with the understanding that that little gateway was just the entrance to an entire road ahead.



Contrasts

David Gingerich, Hazelton, IA

Jesus

“I can of mine own self do nothing.”

“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.”

“As the Father gave me commandment, even so I do.”

“My meat is to do the will of him that sent me.”

“I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth.” (John 5:30; 6:38; 14:31; 4:34; and 8:50)

Satan

“I will ascend into heaven.

“I will exalt my throne above the stars of heaven.”

“I will sit upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.”

“I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.”

“I will be like the most high.”
(Isaiah 14: 12-14)

Repentance—Which Is It?

A woman weeping at the feet of Jesus, washing them with her tears. (Luke 7:38)

Childlike dependence on God (Matt. 18:3)

A publican standing afar off, praying, “God, be merciful to me a sinner.” (Luke 18:13)

“Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof.” (Luke 7:6)

“Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” (Acts 9:6)

A broken heart and a contrite spirit. (Psalm 51:17; 34:18)

A Pharisee standing by, righteous in his own eyes. (Luke 7:39)

Self-sufficient and doing things the way I think they should be done. (Mark 7:5-13)

Certain which trusted in themselves that , they were righteous, and despised others. (Luke 18:9)

Esteeming oneself better and holier than others. (Isaiah 65:5; Matthew 9:11)

Going about to establish their own righteousness. (Romans 10:3)

A voluntary humility. [false humility] (Colossians 2:18)



They Understood Not

Jim Petroski, Parma, OH

Our fathers understood not thy wonders in Egypt; they remembered not the multitude of thy mercies; but provoked him at the sea, even the Red sea” *Psalm 106:7.*

This verse gives us an interesting commentary about the Israelites’ lack of perception when God was leading them out of Egypt. You will recall the ten plagues God used to open the way for their release from the house of bondage. Only a short time later, as they stood at the edge of the Red Sea, they seemed to have forgotten. The approaching Egyptians had their knees trembling.

Just what had Israel failed to understand about God’s actions? First, they didn’t seem to realize that God was at work doing things that were far out of the ordinary! Something so unusual calls for our attention. We rightly seek for understanding and meaning. Hence, God expects that as we observe, we inquire into the matter to find the truth He means to convey. Remember that when Moses observed the burning bush earlier, he had stopped and turned aside to see what was happening.

However, the Israelites’ response

was not satisfactory. It was a response of not understanding. There was a “disconnect” between the message given and the message understood. The fault lay with the hearer. Even though the message was clearly stated, it fell on deaf ears. It must have appeared as though God had not spoken.

What a gulf! God stands on one side of the canyon and speaks a message. On the other side stands Israel and fails to hear what He’s saying. What is the reason for this great gulf? Sin is at the heart of the matter. Note verse 6: “We have sinned with our fathers, we have committed iniquity, we have done wickedly.” If one wonders how large the divide is, he needs to look at the magnitude of the message not heard. That indicates the size of the sin.

A great bridge may span hundreds of yards; but if the gulf is greater, the material the bridge is meant to carry will never reach its destination--no matter how great the bridge.

In this case an enormously profound message was sent from heaven, accompanied with miracles, but sadly, it was not *heard*.

The heart that does not hear or re-

call the words of God will not follow Him; ultimately that soul will follow a path that displeases Him. The effect is great and may be obvious to everyone

except that person. And the problem started all the way back when God spoke and *they understood not*.



The Obituary of Mrs. Prayer Meeting

From Free Will Echo, Pulpit Helps

Mrs. Prayer Meeting died recently at the First Neglected Church on Worldly Avenue. Born many years ago in the midst of great revivals, she was a strong, healthy child, fed largely on testimony and Bible study, soon grew into world-wide prominence, and was one of the most influential members of the famous church family.

For the past several years Mrs. Prayer Meeting has been in failing health, gradually wasting away until rendered helpless by stiffness of knees, coldness of heart, inactivity, and weakness of purpose and will power. At the last she was but a shadow of her former happy self. Her last whispered words were inquiries concerning the strange absence of her loved ones now busy in the markets of trade and places of worldly amusements.

Experts, including Dr. Works, Dr.

Reform, and Dr. Joiner, disagreed as to the cause of her fatal illness. They had administered large doses of organizations, socials, contests, and drives, but to no avail. An autopsy showed that a deficiency of spiritual food, coupled with the lack of faith, heartfelt religion, and general support, were contributing causes. Only a few were present at her death, sobbing over memories of her past beauty and power.

In honor of her going, the church doors will be closed on Wednesday nights, except the third Wednesday night of each month when the Ladies Pink Lemonade Society serves refreshments to the Men's Handball Team.

God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you" (I Samuel 12:23).

Submitted by

Perry L. Miller, Hutchinson, KS.

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A Team is Essential

Rebecca Byler, Jamaica, New York

[In the 2004-2005 school term, 565,039 foreign students came to the United States to pursue their education. Six countries of origin leading in this are India, China, Korea, Japan, Canada, and Taiwan. Christians who seek to relate to students may face unusual challenges. Jesus told His disciples that He was sending them forth “as sheep in the midst of wolves” and instructed them to be “wise as serpents and harmless as doves” (Matthew 10:16). Rebecca Byler serves with Urban International Outreach in New York City. –Editor]

Last week I was again reminded of the importance, no, the necessity of being part of a team. One day a week I teach English to Arab women at a Friendship Center. I work alongside others who teach or serve to bring the Good News.

One Muslim student from Egypt has taken a liking to me over the last six months. She always gives me a big hug when I come to the center and often brings food for me. Over the months, I have enjoyed my relationship with her as well as her food. She has seemed to be open to the Good News, and I have been praying for her. Last week she gave me some food

again. After class was over, I sat down to eat it for lunch.

While I sat there eating, two Christian Arab friends who work with me told me to beware. They were concerned that this Muslim lady may have ulterior motives and urged me to be careful in my relationship with her. They encouraged me to pray over the food she gives. In Egypt, Muslims have been known to put curses or spells on food to entice Christians to do what they want them to do.

My Christian friends knew of people who left the ministry or their spouse through the “spells” and friendships with Muslims. I was stunned to hear what they told me. It was also a shock to think that I was a possible target for a “spell.” Gratitude filled my heart for being part of a team working together to share the Good News and for hearing a warning of a possible deception.

Of course, it was humbling to listen and receive admonition. My first thought was that it couldn't be true in my relationship with my Muslim friend. In reality, to believe this could have been the first step towards deception. I rejected the thought that came, bringing it under obedience to

Christ. I saw in this experience how essential a team is. How easily I could have been deceived if I were on my own in ministry.

Laboring together as a team is well worth the work of faithfulness

and commitment. **It is essential for ministry.**

Used by permission from Urban International Outreach newsletter, Fall, 2006.



mission awareness

Creation Science Portrayed in the Psalms—Part 1

Kraig Beachy, Winfield, PA

Creation portrayed in the Psalms? *Just a minute*, you may think, *I thought six-day creation was an idea popularized by Genesis. Isn't the Bible a book about religion, not science? Wasn't creationism shot down by scientists long ago? Isn't Genesis just a book of disproven legends and tales?* In this essay, I will look into some of these questions, attempting to make the case for biblical creationism not only from Genesis, but the books of Job and Psalms, as well. I will also attempt to convince the reader of the scientific accuracy of the entire Bible, thereby supporting its historic accuracy.

Genesis teaches that God created the world in six days, about 6,000 years ago. It also teaches a worldwide flood about 4,000 years ago. These ideas have been bombarded

with secular skepticism for centuries. But the science contained in the three above-mentioned books is powerful evidence for an all-knowing God, Who created this world as He said He did.

As a basis for understanding the Bible, we must first understand the eternal nature of God. Psalm 90 tells us that God existed from infinity. This only makes sense. The laws of information require that all information has a previous source of information. So the information contained in our genes must have a source. It does, in our parents. And their information also comes from their parents. If the genealogies of information are followed back far enough, we come to the Source of infinite information. And the first words of the Bible affirm that, indeed,

“in the beginning [was] God.”

Another big problem that a lot of people have with the Bible is the world-wide flood that Genesis describes. So many people just prefer to throw Genesis out. But other books speak of The Flood as well. Psalm 104:5-9 speaks clearly about The Flood: “Who [God] laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed forever. Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains. At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away. They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them. Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over, that they turn not again to cover the earth.”

Many who believe in The Flood assume that the water receded slowly from the earth. Recently evidence has been accumulating that it occurred rapidly. Once again, science has caught up with the Bible. This passage clearly says “they hasted away.” This explains the immense erosion on the earth that evolutionists tell us has taken “a lot of time and a little bit of water.” The Bible states it was “a lot of water and a little bit of time!”

The receding flood waters, rushing outward to fill the ocean, could easily have eroded formations such

as the Grand Canyon in a very short time, especially if it were carrying mud. The Bible is always consistent with what we observe in the natural world.

In Job, we read of the weights of wind and water. It had not been scientifically confirmed that air and water have any weight at all until relatively recently. Air especially was believed to be weightless. But God didn't need any scientist to tell Him that air is heavy. He had it in His revelation to man thousands of years ago.

Another amazing passage of Scripture is Isaiah 40:22: “It is [God] that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers.” This verse has long been confirmed by science. Longer ago the earth was thought to be flat, but this passage clearly states that it is round. “Circle” in this verse would be better translated “sphere.” And indeed the earth is a sphere, a fact known by God long before men discovered the fact. This brings out an important point: Man's opinions are fickle. What men say today may be the opposite of what they will be saying tomorrow. “It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man,” (Psalm 118:8). And indeed, God knows all things, yet finite humans have repeatedly attempted to refute what our all-knowing God says.

Psalm 104:2 is an incredible passage. It tells us “who [God] stretches out the heavens as a curtain.” Until a very few years ago, this passage would not have made sense. Isn’t God finished creating the world? What does it mean when it says, “thou stretchest out the heavens”? The suffix “est” implies continuing action. Is He still stretching out the heavens?

A few years ago astronomers made a startling discovery. The light arriving at earth from distant stars was substantially shifting toward the red end of the color spectrum. This implied that the object emitting the light was traveling away from us. This is similar to sound waves coming from an object that is traveling away from us. This movement “stretches” the sound waves, giving them a lower pitch. This is called the Doppler Effect. In other words, as the stars (the source of the light waves) move away from the earth,

the light is shifted toward the red end of the spectrum, called the “red shift.” This means that the universe is expanding! After more research, it was concluded that the universe is indeed expanding at an astonishing rate! The stars are traveling away from us at a phenomenal speed. This fact is hard to believe, even when observational science confirms it. It must have seemed almost ludicrous to men of the ancient past. But God knew it all along. He had it written in His Word many years ago. Man has only recently discovered this fact.

As if to reaffirm what probably sounded insane to people of past ages, God repeats the concept in Isaiah. In fact, it is the second part of the above-mentioned verse, Isaiah 40:22. It is almost identical to the passage in Psalms. Oceanic springs were a relatively recent discovery. Yet God spoke of them long ago.

(to be concluded)



Overcomers

Enos M. Schrock, Rochelle, VA

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them [evil spirits] because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

While Nora and I were serving as

missionaries in Belize, I met Tom in a store in San Ignacio. He asked me if I knew the Lord. I answered, “I love the Lord.”

With greater emphasis, he said, “That is not what I asked you. I asked

if you KNOW the Lord.”

“Yes,” I affirmed, “I know the Lord.”

Tom then told me how he used to be in drugs and had given himself to serve Satan. He attended meetings where they exercised the power of darkness. Finally, he wanted to get out of his bondage, but Satan had him believe there was no way out.

One day Tom went for a walk in the woods, where he met Satan. Satan said, “Tom, I have done enough for you that you owe me a debt. You cannot get out of this.”


Tom said, “I turned and ran as fast as I could.” He went back to his apartment, thinking there was only one way for him to get free from Satan’s claims. He would commit suicide. Satan had so deceived Tom, that if he had killed himself, Satan would have had him where he wanted him.

As Tom was making plans to end his life, he thought of the God he had heard people talk about. But he knew practically nothing about God or prayer. He was really ignorant about the Bible and Jesus Christ. But he decided to pray. He got down on

his knees and began to cry. He cried and said some words the best he could and kept on crying. For three days he kept seeking God with crying and praying. In that desperate crying out to God, he got hold of God, Who made him a new man.

He went to his friends and told them, “I became a Christian.” He said that when he told them that, they were so overcome with his new spirit, they just fell down.

After this, he found other believers and studied the Bible. When I met Tom, he was also a missionary in Central America. Tom overcame the power of darkness by calling on God in humble repentance and faith.

In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, John wrote to the seven churches in Asia giving each of those churches Jesus’ promise to “Him that overcomes.” Remember, our victory is through the Lord, for “In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us” (Romans 8:37). “Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:5). 

My Mother: Emma Nisly Stutzman

Perry Lee Stutzman, Hutchinson, KS

Readers of the book, Tobias of the Amish, Herald Press, 2001, will remember that Tobias left a young widow

with six children. The author of the book, Ervin Ray Stutzman, was only three years old at the time of his father’s


passing. His brother, Perry Lee, was 13. Several years ago, Perry wrote the following lines for Mother's Day to honor the memory of his mother, Emma. These lines refer to Tobe and Emma's move to Iowa to find treatment for their handicapped child, Edith. This writing gives insight and perspective from one who assumed adult responsibility in adolescence. —PLM

Mother was born in 1916,
the 12th of January,
Her father was Levi and
her mother was Mary.
She was precious; they held her gently and mild,
Because she was their very first child.
They did not know what the future had in store—
When all was said and done, they ended with seven more.
Emma got married at age 24--
To a young man she could really adore.
Her husband loved working with wood,
Mother supported him as much as she could.
After seven years of married life,
The Lord had something special for Tobe and his wife:
A special child they named Edith was born in 1947.
The angels gave close attention from

heaven,
“We have entrusted this girl to you.
Now we are interested to see what you will do.
I will provide all you're going to need,
Just trust Me and I will do it indeed.”
A doctor 600 miles away seemed to care,
Mom and Dad thought it best to move up there.
The move was made in 1951,
A total new lifestyle was now begun.
The next five years moved at an unusual pace,
But Mother tried to keep things in place.
Suddenly one day at age 37
My dad answered the call from God up in heaven.
Mother was terribly shocked with the remaining load,
But many friends helped us to move down the road.
The move was made back to Kansas, our state
The Lord seemed to say, “I'll bless you at any rate.”
Mother never said much about her inner feeling,
But the Lord knew what she was wasn't revealing,
She had a close relationship with the Lord:

By that her life was fully restored.
She prayed to the Lord in the quiet
of the night,
Trusting her family would turn out
all right.

I'm sure she went to sleep many a
night in tears,
The Lord took her home, after being
widowed for 33 years.

—*Her grateful son, Perry Lee* 

helpers at home

The Proverbs 31 Woman Today

Mary June Glick

Proverbs 31:10-31 has caused a lot of controversy. It seems that people either love it or hate it. I have heard many messages and read many articles on it. Some feel that its concepts are impossible for women of today to attain. Others feel it promotes women's rights to work outside the home or to manage a business. I like to look at the context.

We realize that it was written in a completely different culture and time. We see that it is written by a king—King Lemuel. His mother taught him to look for these qualities in a woman for the **palace**. Such a woman has many maidservants to do her work for her. She probably needs only to give the commands and see that they are carried through. I have often told my husband that I wish I were two women—one to think about what to do, and the other to

do it! This woman is also a picture of what a woman has accomplished in a lifetime, not in a day or a year or even ten years. She is blessed by her children when they are older.

I shall attempt to paraphrase these verses in a way that is attainable for each of us and hope this portion will become a blessing in your life.

Verse 10— The ornament of a godly woman is a meek and quiet spirit, according to 1 Peter 3:4 and this kind of spirit is of great value to God.

Verses 11, 12— Her husband can always trust her; he knows that she respects him. His confidences will be safe with her; he knows he can tell her anything. She will support him in his job, his ministries and his goals in life. She will never belittle him to others. She will never break their marriage vows.

Verse 13— She is a hard worker, providing for the needs of her family.

She either sews their clothes or sees that they are dressed decently.

Verse 14— She prepares nourishing meals for her family. She is thrifty when she shops for groceries.

Verse 15— She prepares a healthy breakfast for her husband and children in the morning and sends them off with a smile. She begins her day with a quiet time, alone with God and His Word.

Verses 16–19— She plants a garden, if it's possible, because she knows that it will provide good food for her family; it will save money and it also gives the children an opportunity to learn to work. She might start a business in the home to help with the family income if it is needed. She may need to work outside the home in times of emergencies but she **always** remembers that her family is her first priority. She will always see that their needs are met, both physically and spiritually. She also knows her own limitations and will care for her own physical and emotional needs. She will remember that God calls each of us to be a servant and when the children are small, she is called to serve her family.

Verse 20— In spite of her busy life, she still takes time to reach out to others. She may take a meal to a new mother or to someone who is sick. She can take the children with

her to visit an elderly person. She can teach the children to do things for others, make a card or a scrapbook, sing, bake cookies, and so on. She can go to sewing circle and sew for the needy in other countries, and, even if she doesn't get much done, she is a blessing to others.


Verses 21, 22, 24— She supplies the needs of her family for each season of the year. Her home is cheery, clean, and comfortable. She dresses neatly and tries to look her best for her husband. She might sew or quilt or make some kind of crafts as a means of making a little extra income, but she will not allow that to distract her from caring for her family.

Verse 23— When her husband is known for his spiritual leadership and a man of integrity, she will be inspired to assist him in every way possible, making his work easier for him.

Verses 25–27— A godly woman will not be afraid of getting older. Rather, she will find joy in her children and grandchildren. She will become a woman who speaks with wisdom and kindness. She will continue to do what she can even when she has physical limitations. She will use her mind to learn and to encourage and to pray.

Verses 28–31— Her children and her husband will give her Mother's

Day cards, telling her how much they appreciate and love her. They will praise her for all she has done for them (not just on Mother's Day). Then she will rejoice and say, "It is

worth all the sleepless nights, the work, the tears, and the worries," and she will thank God for blessing her with a family. 

junior messages

To Be King

Anita Yoder

Have you ever wondered how it would feel to be king for a day? Would everybody follow your directions? Would everything be peaceful?


Josiah became king when he was only eight years old. It was not a good time to be king. His father had been a wicked king. Being so young, he must have had good advisors, because the Bible says, "he did that which was right in the sight of God" (2 Kings 22:2).

At the age of 16, he decided to seek God further. He broke the idols and graven images and beat them to powder. When he finished in Jerusalem, he began to get rid of the idols in all the land of Judah.

After he got rid of all the idol worship, he began a campaign to restore the temple. He made Hilkiah, the priest, the overseer. One day, to their great excitement, they found the

book of the law. The king asked Hilkiah to read from the long lost book. Josiah heard the words and became very sad. Even though the children of Israel no longer worshiped idols, they had not been obedient to all of God's laws.

The king tore his clothes and thought about the words he had heard. He gathered all the people of Israel around him. He had the book of the law read to all the people. Josiah promised to follow the true God with all his heart and soul. The people returned to serving the God of their fathers.

These were happy years for the children of Israel. Josiah had actually made God his advisor and king. This is why he is remembered as being a righteous person. God wants to be king of our hearts. God is delighted when His children choose Him as king of their lives. 

Dear Youth,

Where is your heart? Toward what is it turned? Upon what are your affections set?

Spring is a time of much activity. Youth faces lots of pressure to set God aside and allow Satan's fascinating temptations to take over their lives.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:24 that it is impossible to serve two masters at once. So it is good for us to stop and think each day about who has our heart.

Thanks to each of you who continue to contribute questions and answers. —EE

This Month's QUESTION

What are some unhealthy influences and pressures that are facing today's youth? What are some weapons that can be used against these threats?

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

PRESSURES?

- Listening to unhealthy music that makes a person think wrong thoughts

- Becoming close friends with fellow employees and local people, and being more influenced by the ungodly than influencing the ungodly for good

- The compulsion to pursue "the American Dream"

- Watching videos and DVD's that do not build the "inner new man"

- The unspoken constraint to "be on top" socially

Weapons?

- Personal stability, being rooted

and grounded in the Truth

- Prayer

- Listen to the counsel of parents and leaders, even if they seem to be behind the times.

- Do not be arrogant. Be open and willing to hear the opinions of others.

- Live on the "offensive." Challenge others to take a stand for God.

Bringing up this question for family discussion sparked interesting conversation!

We decided that unhealthy influences and pressures include—

- Pressure to go, go, go. It becomes a mindset: 'If I have an evening at

home, what would I do?’ It becomes a lifestyle: ‘If there’s nothing going; make something happen so that you can go.’ Family IS important.

· For the girls, there’s pressure to get a job. For me, working at home caused raised eyebrows and comments like: ‘What in the world do you do all the time?’ and ‘What an easy life!’

· Pressure to find out what the sports world is doing, and to follow the games closely, even if it means going to a restaurant to watch the games that you can’t view at home.

· You must keep up with the Joneses to be ‘in.’ Pressures include feeling like you must own a cell phone, digital camera, name brand clothes, and so on.

· Pressure to listen to ungodly music.

· Dad mentioned ready availability of cash as being a hindrance. For some, money flows freely, both in and out! To think twice before making unnecessary purchases would be unthinkable.

Praise the Lord! He is stronger than the pressures and influences the devil desires us to yield to. Weapons include planting your feet on solid ground (The Bible), maintaining a close walk with God, keeping that relationship vital, and listening to

the Holy Spirit’s voice! Meditate on Scriptures instead of sports. By the way, making choices based on unhealthy influences zap desire for God and His Word. Oh, yes... parents who know where they stand and who tell you where they choose to draw the line, are an additional, well-equipped, God-given weapon.

—Lynita Beachy, Dundee, OH



Many answers could be given to this question. There comes an influence from within that has done and is doing more damage than those myriad of things from without. I cannot name it (I call it “fundamentalized health and happiness,” but that is not quite accurate), only attempt to describe it.

It is the teaching that a person should follow biblical principles so that God can bless his life. If one follows God, his life will be more pleasant. One will not have to suffer like all the evildoers. Things will not turn out bad for him in life. And, oh, by the way, when he dies, he can go to heaven and won’t need to burn in hell. No one would be silly enough to pass up a deal like this, if he knew what were good for him.

So we persuade people to follow God because it is beneficial to them. Is it a great benefit to serve God? Indeed it is!

Is this why I ought to serve Him?

When reading the teachings of Christ, one gets the impression that those who diligently follow Him will experience suffering, ridicule, and, in general, an abrupt end to a once “pleasant” existence. He did state that His “yoke is easy,” and His “burden is light,” but as a rabbi, He was referring to the relative simplicity of His requirements compared to the complex requirements of many other rabbis of the day. When compared with His other statements about the life of His followers, it is clear that He did not mean the reduction of suffering or the increase if ease. In the same passage, He invites the weary ones to “come, and find rest for your souls.” It does not take a detective to observe that the most “rested” souls around are those that have willingly and joyfully embraced the suffering that God has allowed to be brought to them.

We ought to serve God because He deserves the praise that our lives can bring him. We ought to follow His commands because doing so will bring

fame to Him. This might improve our life, and it might not. That is up to God, not us. He has the perfect right to destine us to a life of continual suffering or poverty if this will glorify Him most. In fact, He would be loving and good to do so.


Someone has said that only in the West do people preach that one’s life will get better by yielding to Christ. That is an overstatement, but certainly we would be forced to rethink our “blessings gospel” if the political and economic structure of our society were different. We will, I believe, in time be given that opportunity. We cannot afford to wait until then.

So what are the weapons that can be used against this threat? Well, how is a person persuaded to give up completely to Christ, at any cost? Not likely by telling him that to do so will improve His life. To spend at least an equal amount of time advertising the soul-wrenching aspects of true Christ-following would be a start in the right direction.

—Arlyn Kauffman, Weldon, IA

Next Month’s
QUESTION

What is God’s purpose in allowing us to experience things that are both pleasant and unpleasant?

Please respond by May 20. 

THOUGHT GEMS

You can do everything you ought to do.

• • • • •

Let us be as conscientious in our devotional life,
as careful in our personal hygiene, and as kind in
our conversation as we wish others were.

• • • • •

There's no sense aiming at a target with no arrow in your bow.

• • • • •

Adversity is not pleasant, but we may learn some-
thing from it that we learn in no other way.

• • • • •

Most of us are too fond of people who agree
with us and food that doesn't.

• • • • •

An alibi is first cousin to an excuse, and
they're both mighty poor relatives.

• • • • •

Lazy people seem to expend about as much energy as an echo.

• • • • •

“Anger” is just one letter short of danger.

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