



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

Galatians 6:14

## AUGUST 2010

Meditation	
<i>Courage to Stand</i> .....	1
Editorial	
<i>Three Keys to Victory</i> .....	2
Reader Response.....	4
The Bottom Line	
<i>Current Events in Nonresistance</i> .....	5
Minister's Meeting Messages — 2010	
<i>The Heart of a Father</i> .....	7
Children Do Not Realize .....	13
Marriages .....	14
Cradle Roll.....	16
Ordinations .....	17
Obituaries .....	18
Observations .....	20
The TOV Bible .....	24
Carrying the Cross .....	26
REAL Real Estate.....	27
Mission Awareness	
<i>Amazon River Basin</i> .....	29
Helpers at Home	
<i>The Happy Years</i> .....	31
Junior Messages	
<i>Hope for Healing</i> .....	33
Youth Messages	
<i>Continue your Education</i> .....	37
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 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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## *Courage to Stand*

*Nathan L. Yoder, Limestone, TN*

We need courage to stand with a friend that is low,  
Reviving the faith and defeating the foe.  
Lift high Jesus' name and the blood that brings life  
To Brother or Sister in life's daily strife.

The courage to stand by a sick one's bedside,  
To hold trembling fingers and weary feet guide.  
To soothe when there's pain, to comfort and cheer,  
To have faith in God and to know He is near.

The courage to stand with the strong in the fight,  
To love while you stand on the Truth in God's might.  
Through Jesus alone all the strongholds cast down,  
Then God gives release where sin's darkness has bound.

The courage to stand with our children and youth  
To teach them the Way and show them the Truth.  
To be there and listen when they want to share,  
To show them God's love and His kind, loving care.

So courage, my brother, as long as there's breath,  
For courage is needed until we've met death.  
And then, blissful moment, O moment most blest!  
To be with our Savior—in heaven, at rest!



## Three Keys to Victory

The sports section of our daily paper seldom justifies my interest. Last Saturday (June 5, 2010) contained an interesting exception: John Wooden, who for many years successfully coached professional basketball, died at 99 years of age. The story actually made front-page, national news. This man was counted as one of America's "winningest" coaches in professional basketball. He won 885 games and lost 203 (winning about four out of every five games he coached). That many wins is outstanding, but winning ball games was not his greatest success.

His greatest success was his manner of life. He modeled calm direction, careful instruction, and sincere motivation. No angry outbursts from him. Even though he seemed gentle, he was known for three things that he lived by and also required from his men. If a man played for Coach Wooden, he was to abide by these three important rules:

*no profanity*

*no tardiness*

*no criticizing teammates*

Wooden's famous triplet

requirements touch one's attitudes toward God, toward himself and toward his fellowman. If practicing these three virtues helps win ball games, just think of what it does for Christian testimony!

### 1. No Profanity

We might well respond to this rule with, "Of course!" I am told, however, that in intense athletic competition disgusted profanity is fairly common. Many of Wooden's players did not profess Christ, but he asked them all to refrain from "cussing."

The third of the Ten Commandments says, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." This prohibits all irreverent reference to God. Profane living lacks a relationship with or affinity to God. Profanity expresses the natural antagonism between what is for God and what is against God. (Vine's Word Studies)

Profane oaths use the name of deity carelessly. To abstain from profanity means we speak no oaths—profane or solemn. Jesus' simple, "Swear not at all..." (Matthew 5:34) forbids even solemn oaths. We are fortunate that in our land a simple affirmation is as

binding as a solemn oath.

Careful Christians wisely avoid all careless expletives and terms like “Gee,” “Gosh,” “Darn,” “Heck,” and the like. Furthermore, we must never speak mockingly of God’s mighty acts in the earth. James, the Lord’s brother, mentions yet another expression of reverence: When telling others our plans, we should preface it with, “If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that” (James 4:15). Humility has no need to boast.

## 2. No Tardiness

Coach Wooden operated on the premise that players must be punctual for self-respect and their best contribution. Punctuality contributed to his teams’ success.

Every person’s life works better with promptness. It is the Golden Rule in action. No one can always be on time, but sincere effort to show up in good time speaks of a disciplined life. Punctuality shows respect for others. It seems to me that only those who enjoy being delayed by latecomers have the right to be habitually tardy.

God is honored when we get to church in good time. He may not ask what made us late, but He is given greater honor when we get there early enough to enter the sanctuary thoughtfully and pause in silence for a word with Him before the service

gets underway.

When you need to be somewhere at a certain time, get an early start. It makes the grass seem greener, the sky bluer, and the traffic less frustrating. Starting early and arriving on time are great morale boosters.

## 3. No Criticizing Teammates

We all have blind spots and weaknesses. Our weaknesses are not improved by talking about others’ weaknesses. That’s the coach’s work (Romans 14:4). As team spirit is essential to basketball victory, so team spirit is essential to Christian brotherhood. Apostolic writers mention key aspects of team spirit: Paul admonishes us to esteem others better than ourselves (Philippians 2:3). John explains that God gives us love for our brothers because they are meant to be allies, not enemies. (1 John 5:1). Peter says our love for our brothers should not be casual, but fervent (1 Peter 1:24).

Let us walk worthy of the Lord and wish each other well. How sad it would be if a brother or sister whom we offended would wander away from God into the darkness of unbelief! Let us treasure our

“*Let us walk worthy of the Lord and wish each other well.*”

Christian siblings and show them kindness and respect. When we note their interests by walking and talking with them, they *and* we are encouraged.

Coach John Wooden emphasized three foundational rules for winning in basketball. Victory in basketball and victory in Christ have some similarities. Let us give the much greater cause of Christ our best

efforts. While immediate outcomes don't make headlines, ultimate victory is assured!

Furthermore, in Christ's "game," the number of losers may be different from the number of winners. **We can all be winners!** It is really up to us. Victory comes to *all* who give their *all* to Jesus who gave His *all* for us *all*. Hallelujah!

—PLM 

## reader response

**Re: "Finding the Right Church"**  
(June, 2010)

This has got to be one of the best articles ever printed in *Calvary Messenger*, as well as one of the best kept secrets of all time! The principles laid out here can be applied to so many other practical areas of human relationships, home, school, work, and community.

Thank you for the reprint.

*Kevin Mullet, Lott, TX*

### **Pronunciation**

It bothers me when people talk about the "in-com-PAR-a-ble Christ," etc., when they should be saying the "in-COM-par-a-ble Christ."

*S. L., New Holland, PA* 

*God may give us a little —  
— to see what we might do with a lot.*

## Current Events in Nonresistance

Aaron Lapp, Kinzers, PA

My friend has a restaurant. An oversized gentleman occupied precious space for three hours on a busy fall Saturday. Closing time came and so the man had to be asked to leave. After repeated requests, he reluctantly went outside the first set of doors, but refused to go through the next set to the outside.

Eventually my friend called the police. When they arrived, the difficult patron went outside to talk to the police. My owner-friend explained the reason for the call. The patron was asked to sit in the police car for consultation.

My friend went back to his office to wrap up business for the day. But something bothered him. After 20 minutes, he stepped outside. The police car was still there with the erstwhile patron inside. He asked the police if they would mind if he would find a place for the drifter for the night. The police were elated! "Sure enough," they said.

He took the forlorn "Samaritan" to a nearby motel, paid his room, and wished him a good night, and

hoped he would go to a church in the morning.

"Do you go to church?" the fat man asked my friend. "Yes."

"Can I go with you?"

"Well, yes."

The next morning the fat man was at Weavertown Church, sitting near the front with my friend. The host family invited the visitor (and my friend and his wife) to their house for Sunday dinner. Half way through the meal the visitor put his hands on his very substantial girth and asked for Pepto Bismol. "We don't need Pepto Bismol at our house since all our children are grown," she explained. He slept on the sofa for the rest of the afternoon. He reported that he had a bad night at the motel. Maybe the three-hour feast at the fabulous smorgasbord the previous day had something to do with it.

*Sometimes nonresistance is giving when there is no chance of receiving anything in return.*

• • • • •

My farmer friend has a six-row harvester. On a very narrow country

road, he met a cattle hauler. Both slowed down. There was minor sideswipe damage before they got stopped. Both were still moving when they hit. Both had gone off the road as far as they could.

My farmer friend suggested each would pay for his own damages. The trucker insisted it was the farmer's fault. The farmer agreed to pay damages to both his equipment and the cattle hauler's. When no bill came after many months, my farmer friend called the trucker. The trucker said that he decided to pay his damages himself.

• • • • •


My contractor friend lays concrete blocks by contract. A large, new Target store (not in his home area) was being built. Such buildings are done by blueprint and with detailed specifications. No guess work here. Everything is very precisely diagrammed and spelled out. That is what professional building engineers are supposed to do. Contractors follow the blueprint as they are supposed to do.

But the project supervisor saw where someone made a mistake. He blamed my friend, who obviously was not at fault. He went as specified on the blueprint. "Will you correct this or shall we see each other in court?" the supervisor asked.

My friend knew he could win in court. He also knew by now how it feels to "get warm under the collar." He remembered the words of the Lord Jesus and the writings of Paul and Peter. My friend said he would fix the error even though he had to do it at considerable cost to himself.

At the very next Target store to be built, my friend was asked to submit a bid for masonry work. He submitted a routine bid.

The company sent back this memo: "Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, we really need you to do this job. To make sure we will have your services, we are *adding X* thousands of dollars on top of your bid."

*The Bottom Line* in fulfilling the spirit of nonresistance is not the benefit we expect to receive but the good we are willing to give! 

***A man's character is revealed by how he perceives and describes others.***



# Minister's Meeting Messages — 2010

*This is a condensation of the first message given at the annual ministers' meetings held at Fair Haven Church, Goshen, IN, on April 6-8, 2010. The complete set of eight CD's may be ordered from Victory Music Services, 5520 Harrison St., Apt. 4, North Highlands, CA, 95660 (Phone: 443-480-1489), for \$50, postpaid.*

## ***The Heart of a Father***

*Earl Peachey, Belleville, PA*

Knowing the Father is the best thing that ever happened to me. In Jeremiah 9:23, 24 we find a text for this subject. In that chapter the Lord had been grieving. Jeremiah also had been grieving. Then the Father said, **“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.”**

First we shall look at: Who is this Father? From the book by A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. Worship is pure or base as the worshipper entertains high or low thoughts of God. Were we able to extract from any man a complete

answer to the question, ‘What comes into your mind when you think about God?’ we might predict with certainty the spiritual future of that man. Were we able to know exactly what our most influential religious leaders [e.g., Beachy preachers] think of God today, we might be able with some precision to foretell where the church will stand tomorrow.”

If we could somehow sum up what, for example, this group here tonight thinks about God, we might be able to tell what our churches will be like in the future. Without a doubt, the mightiest thought the mind can entertain is the thought of God and the weightiest word in any language is its word for God.

Who is the Father? Where do we begin to find the answer for this question? In order to end up right, we must start and go right. One thing sure in answering this question, we don't begin with ourselves.

From an article from Scott McKnight, in the latest issue of *Christianity Today*, I quote, “On the opening day of my class on Jesus

of Nazareth, I give a standardized psychological test divided into two parts. The results are nothing short of astounding. The first part is about Jesus. It asks students to imagine Jesus' personality with questions such as, 'Does He prefer to go his own way rather than act by the rules?' and 'Is He a worrier?' The second part asks the students the same questions about themselves. The test is not about right or wrong answers, nor is it designed to help students understand Jesus, instead if given to enough people, the test will reveal that we all think Jesus is like us. Introverts think Jesus is an introvert, for example, and on the basis of the same question, extroverts think Jesus is extroverted. Spiritual formation experts would love to hear that students in my Jesus class are becoming like Jesus, but the test actually reveals the reverse. Students are fashioning Jesus to be more like themselves." So when we ask to know the Father, we don't begin with us.

We learn something of God by observing creation. Jeremiah 32:17, **"Ah, Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee."** God's fingerprints are all over creation. We see order, design, wisdom, and infinity. But nature, for all its splendor and powerful witness can never teach us all that we need to know about the Father. For that, there is another source: the Bible.

This book is authoritative and true on every subject it addresses. It is the written Word of God. God breathed without error, an absolutely relevant word for our time. He is the self-existent One, The I AM in Exodus 3:14. The opening words of Scripture give no explanation of how or where He came from, but simply this statement, "In the beginning God..." with the assumption that God *is!*

Such implications are uncomfortable to man, because we prefer to be able to understand and control. God has no beginning nor ending, nor does He have any equal. Tozer observed, "He's not exactly like anything or anybody. He's not responsible or accountable to anyone. He's all-powerful. He has no difficulty to cause a bush to burn without being consumed, and though He tolerates the opposition of Pharaohs, He is not in the least frustrated by them, because you see, He is God!"

He's the self-existent one, fully self-sufficient, and self-dependent. He doesn't need any outside support to exist, and though He is a stranger to many people, yet none are a stranger to Him.

No place is unfamiliar to Him. Just last week I was driving down a road seeing customers, when I drove down a road I had never before driven on. I looked around to see potential customers. For God there is no mystery. He knows all about it. There

is no foreign land to God. He's at home in the world he created.

God does not discover anything. He is not taken by surprise. He does not become more mature, more knowledgeable, wiser, more experienced or even older. As man discovers and unveils secrets and gains in knowledge, if he looks carefully he would discover that God has already been there. Such a being is a terrifying threat to man.

Many of us remember our fears when we were informed that the first big computer in Belgium could keep track of all of us. Now computers are both greatly enhanced and reduced in size at the same time. We now tend to be alarmed about health care, "big brother" government, and so on. "Big brother" doesn't even compare with the Father, who knows exactly what you're thinking and what you're carrying in your heart.

God has reserved that place of omniscience for Himself. Isaiah 43:10, 11, **"Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen; that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour."**

From our perspective, it is very obvious that we are in a conflict between good and evil. One writer said it this way, "Though there is a conflict, there is no real competition.

The one leader was created; the other one was the Creator. One has a kingdom with limits prescribed by the other and even in that kingdom does not rule as the final authority. He can't do just anything. One rules for a time in his kingdom, the other rules for eternity." It is probably true that Satan is just a small blip in the screen of eternity.

Looking closer at the Father's heart, we see that He is a personal Father. It is abundantly clear from the Scriptures that we are getting the attention of one who enjoys our attention. He is not some remote, "first cause of all things," not just an impersonal designer nor a mere influence, and He's *not* well-described as "the man upstairs." He experiences joy, love, grief, anger, and has a great desire to fellowship with us.

I hope every one of us can give a living expression of what the written Word says about Him. He is merciful and faithful to us. My experience has been that there are no negatives in knowing God. There are no downsides. Do you know how medication is? We must take this to counteract that, but with God there are no negative side effects.

I want to focus on his obvious attention to man. Though He created most things in nature by the spoken word, yet notice the intimate way that Adam and Eve were created. **"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his**

**nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul.”** The word *form* refers to fashion or frame. The Bible doesn't tell us exactly how it was done, but I think it is right to think that He formed man with His hands and breathed into his nostrils. God could have stood 1,000 miles away and done these things, but I doubt that it was so.

There is also the interest He showed in providing a companion for Adam. He planned something special for Adam and Eve above the rest of His creation. When God called Moses at the bush, He did not address him by saying, “Hey you!” He called him by his name, “Moses, Moses!” The angel of the Lord called to Abraham out of heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” Other examples: “Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?” When Mary stood outside the garden tomb, weeping, Jesus said, “Mary.” “What doest thou here, Elijah?” “Zaccheus, make haste and come down, for today I must abide at thy house.”

The uncounted stars are so numerous that humans cannot fathom it, yet the Scriptures indicate that He calls them by name. I believe we are worth more than the stars. God was giving us attention even before we were born. Jeremiah was known of God before he was conceived in his mother's womb. He was appointed to be a prophet.

One day, when I woke up, I had no idea what would happen that day. It was a Sunday morning on March 22,

1964. I reached into a book case and was looking for something to read. I found a Gospel tract. I don't think I ever saw it before and I don't know where my parents got it. I pulled it out and looked at it. It said, “Religious but Lost” written by John R. Rice. I had no idea who John R. Rice was. I had no idea what I was going to be reading. But when I began to read it, something happened: I began to hear a call. The writer said, “It's not good enough to be good. There are even preachers who go to church who are religious, but they're not saved.”

I was trying to be good. I was trying to take care of things like avoiding filthy jokes on the school bus ride home and was having some success, but I was reading that I needed something more. That night as I went to bed, I knelt down alongside my bed and I asked the Lord to save my soul. I didn't tell anyone. The next night, I did the same thing. Nobody told me about a formula. I just heard something. I knew I needed to do it, and the Lord gave me peace inside after that second night.

Later that week, I told my mom that I had been saved. I think she was a bit surprised. There was a day when the written Word came alive for me. I'm not saying that I hadn't heard the same message before. I did, but somehow this was different. I didn't know what was taking place. I didn't know the Spirit was drawing me, but I thank Him that He was.

As we have gathered here with friends, we often say and hear, “God bless you, Brother/ Sister!” We have many things to give attention to. I wonder, how these meetings would be impacted if every one of us would take deliberate time during this time to make contact with the Living Word. If it is for you like it is for me, I’m not on my regular schedule; I can’t take my regular prayer walk down along the river. People want to talk when we go to our places of rest. It’s not normal and it’s harder for me to keep that connection. But I want to encourage you and myself to do that during this time.

Let it be understood that the connection with God comes only when we bow and submit to Him. In Psalm 86:8-10, **“Among the gods, there is none like unto thee, O Lord,...For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.”** Not only in power, but in character. He is wonderful! His mercy in dealing with us, His goodness and the blessing that He is to us and compare that with those who fear the spirits they worship. There is no god like our God!

Neither are there any works like unto the works of our heavenly Father. Creation is a fascinating subject. The speed of light is calculated to be so fast that it goes around the earth 7.5 times in one second; past the moon in two seconds; Mars in four minutes; past Pluto in five hours; but

the nearest star is 4.3 light years away (25 trillion miles). Crossing the Milky Way galaxy would take 100,000 light years. There are 100 million galaxies. I got this information from the book, *The Stranger on the Road to Emmaus* by John Cross. It is absolutely mind-boggling! If you want to have a more vivid impression of some of these things, visit Creation Museum.

This Gospel saves souls all over the world. There is not a culture that it is not able to touch. “For thou art great and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone.”

In Philippians 2, speaking of Jesus, **“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him and given him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of things in heaven, things in the earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”** God has raised Jesus to supreme majesty to exalt Him to the highest rank and power. Jesus has been given a name above every other name in heaven and earth. Jesus does not have merely a name but an actual position. The lesser bows to the greater, giving recognition, respect, and honor.

In the abode of God, angels were perhaps regional stars. “In the earth” may refer to those living on the earth. “Under the earth,” may refer to those who have died. According to this passage, every knee (with no

exceptions) shall bow before Him. The rich, the powerful, men like Karl Marx, Adolph Hitler, Charles Darwin, Michael Jackson, the Apostles, the Prophets, the martyrs, the persecutors, even the physically handicapped. The common people and the angels (Gabriel, Michael and Lucifer included) will bow to Jesus. Every tongue will *confess* (acknowledge openly, honor, give praise to) that Jesus Christ is Lord! At that day, the reality of who Jesus is will be known! There will be no forceful, “Come on, get down; get on your knees!” Everyone will bow willingly to the glory of God. All resistance will be past, though not all will be saved.

God is greatly interested in togetherness—now and forever. We have been created for His purpose and His pleasure. In Revelation 4:11, **“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for thou hast created all things and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”** We were created from the start for togetherness with God. We can never find rest or satisfaction till we find our place by bowing our hearts in surrender to Jesus as Master acknowledging that we are His servants.

God is an intense lover. He sought Adam, “Where art thou?” He grieves over His wayward children. He delights in those who respond to Him. Enoch

and Noah walked with God. Abraham was called “the friend of God.” Elisha is frequently called “the man of God.” The New Testament gives parallels about His desire for relationship and the love of husband and wife. I hope there is still some intensity in your marriage—and in your relationship with Jesus!

I think his greatest expression of desire for togetherness is sending His only Son called Immanuel, *God with us*.

[Here are several Scriptures that were read and expounded on showing the Father’s heart: John 14:2, 3, 16, 17, and 23. According to this, we get the whole package of the Trinity. Other Scriptures were read: John 17:24; Revelation 3:20, and 21; Matthew 28:19, and 20; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Revelation 21: 1-3. It is the heart’s desire of the Father for togetherness with us. -Editor]

Here is a promise that distinctly speaks of the present: **“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them”** (Matthew 18:20). He is not just somewhere close, He is in their midst. That is the Father that we serve! He who has seen Jesus has seen the Father. What a tremendous privilege is ours to serve the Lord! Whatever the intensity of desire for togetherness that is kindled in our hearts, His desire for togetherness is greater than ours.




# *Children Do Not Realize*

*Author unknown*

*To Faithful Fathers and Grandfathers*

As children, we can't comprehend or fully realize  
The meaning of our father's love, how tender and how wise,  
His patience and his guidance, his helpful, caring ways,  
The special, thoughtful things he does to brighten up our days...

Years go by before we know the depth of his concern,  
The love in his protectiveness—it takes so long to learn...  
But as we grow, we understand, for we look back and see,  
Through older eyes and wiser hearts, his love and loyalty.

It's these and many other things that make him grow more dear,  
More admired and more appreciated with every passing year. 



## marriages

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

### **Byler-Knepp**

Bro. Kenneth, son of Vera and the late Harvey Byler, Whiteville, TN, and Sis. Kate, daughter of Ernest and Delilah Knepp, Whiteville, TN, at House of Faith Ministries for Whiteville Mennonite Church on April 9, 2010, by Lavern Eash.

### **Derstine-Miller**

Bro. David, son of Nevin and Dorothy Derstine, Milton-Freewater, OR, and Sis. Rosalyn, daughter of Roman and Ruth Miller, Partridge, KS, at The Father's House for Cedar Crest A.M. Church on June 19, 2010, by Lee Nisly.

### **Kooistra-Bauman**

Bro. Jesse, son of Steve and Donna Kooistra, LaGrange, IN, and Sis. Anne, daughter of Eugene and Vera Bauman, Bancroft, ON, at Fair Haven A.M. Church, Goshen, IN, for Hebron Christian Fellowship, on May 22, 2010, by Virgil Hershberger.

### **Kratzer-Stoltzfus**

Bro. Charles, son of Dwight and Katie Kratzer, Millersburg, OH, and Sis. Gloria, daughter of Eli and Naomi Stoltzfus, Talmage, PA, at Weavertown A.M. Church, April 17, 2010, by Dave Stoltzfoos.

### **Kuepfer-Miller**

Bro. Joseph, son of Mark and Esther Kuepfer, Free Union, VA, and Sis. Marilyn, daughter of Gary and Rosanna Miller, Hutchinson, KS, at First Southern Baptist Church for Center A.M. Church, on June 5, 2010, by David Yoder.

### **Lehman-Stoltzfus**

Bro. Christopher, son of Jason and Eunice Lehman, Aaronsburg, PA, and Sis. Shari, daughter of Ivan and Katrina Stoltzfus, Middleburg, PA, at Hummels United Methodist Church for Shekinah Christian Fellowship, Middleburg, PA, June 5, 2010, by Ray Byers.

### **Miller-Beachy**

Bro. Vincent, son of Ruben and Kathryn Miller, Fredonia, KY, and Sis. Juanita, daughter of Henry and Clara Beachy, Huntland, TN, at First United Methodist Church, Winchester, TN, for Belvidere Mennonite Church, on June 5, 2010, by Stephen Beachy.

### **Miller-Graber**

Bro. Philip, son of Joseph and Hannah Miller, Lyndon, KS, and Sis. Jessica, daughter of Mervin and Betty Graber, Oskaloosa, KS, at Rock Creek Bible Church for Ebenezer A.M. Church, on May 28, 2010, by Rudy Overholt.



### **Miller-Mast**

Bro. Marc, son of Alpha and Lauranna Miller, Monterey, TN, and Sis. Julia, daughter of John and Mahala Mast, Crossville, TN, at Mt. Moriah Mennonite Church, on June 19, 2010, by John Mast.

### **Miller-Ropp**

Bro. Alvin, son of Solomon and Sarah Miller, Munnsville, NY, and Sis. Lorena, daughter of Chester and Annie Ropp, Kalona, IA, at Fairview Mennonite Church for Sharon Bethel A.M. Church on March 27, 2010, by Delmar Bontrager.

### **Miller-Schrock**

Bro. Melvin, son of Ervin and Alma Miller, Huntsville, AR, and Sis. Lisa, daughter of Truman and Laura Schrock, Thomas, OK, at Pleasant View Mennonite Church for Zion A.M. Church, on May 22, 2010, by Elmer J. Miller.

### **Peachey-Byler**

Bro. Mark, son of Earl and Irene Peachey, Mattawana, PA, and Sis. Shirley, daughter of Bennie and Ann Mary Byler, Stuarts Draft, VA, at Pilgrim Fellowship, on May 28, 2010, by Bennie Byler.

### **Raber-Helmuth**

Bro. Josiah (with Choice Books at Jesup, GA) son of David and Amanda Raber, Antrim, OH/Romania, and Sis. Bethany, daughter of Frederick and Anna Helmuth, Antrim, OH, at Antrim Mennonite Church, on May 1, 2010, by Jason Miller.

### **Schrock-Ciocan**

Bro. Ellis, son of Eli and Elva Schrock, Antrim, OH, and Sis. Daniela, daughter of Valeriu and Lucretia Ciocan, Suceava, Romania, at Antrim Mennonite Church on June 5, 2010, by Jason Miller.

### **Schrock-Stoltzfus**

Bro. Lonnie, son of Herman and Mary Schrock, Sarcoxie, MO, and Sis. Regina, daughter of Daniel and Jemima Stoltzfus, Munnsville, NY, at Munnsville Mennonite Church, on June 11, 2010, by Dave Schwartz.

### **Stoltzfus-Miller**

Bro. Mahlon, son of Ben and Priscilla Stoltzfus, Morgantown, PA, and Sis. Charity, daughter of Omar and Elsie Miller, Harrison, AR, at Faith Assembly for Cornerstone Mennonite Church on May 15, 2010, by Steve Miller.

### **Swartzentruber-Weaver**

Bro. Rodney, son of Ernest and Barbara Swartzentruber, Montezuma, GA, and Sis. Amy, daughter of Irvin, Jr. and LaVerda Weaver, Denmark, SC, at Williston Baptist Church, Williston, SC, for Calvary Fellowship Mennonite Church, Blackville, SC, on June 19, 2010, by Virgil Kanagy.

### **Yoder-Martin**

Bro. Morris Allen, son of Emma Mae and the late Allen Yoder, Montezuma, GA, and Sis. Elizabeth Nora, daughter of David and Christine Martin, Aroda, VA, at Oak Grove Mennonite Church on June 26, 2010, by Tim Miller.

## **Yoder-Shenk**

Bro. Michael, son of Freeman and Betty Yoder, Harrison, AR, and Sis. Sarah, daughter of Joseph and Sharon Shenk, Bridgewater, VA, at Dayton Mennonite Church for Cornerstone Mennonite Church on March 13, 2010, by Steve Miller.

## **cradle roll**

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

**Chupp**, Ivan and Carol (Mast), Holmesville, OH, first child and dau., Annie Alysabeth, June 4, 2010.

**Coblentz**, Jonathan and Sara (Wagler), Oskaloosa, KS, second child, first dau., Danelle Ruth, May 23, 2010.

**Fawcett**, Ian and Gloria (Miller), Napanee, IN, third child and son, Josiah Michael, March 21, 2010.

**Jantzi**, Arnold and Rosemary (Wagler), Wellesley, ON, eleventh child, sixth dau., Eunice Diane, March 21, 2010.

**Jantzi**, Derek and Janice (Gerber), Wellesley, ON, fourth child, second dau., Dynelle Jolene, March 4, 2010.

**Jantzi**, Gabriel and Jennifer (Willey), Dublin, Ireland, (currently Brunner, ON) second child and dau., (one deceased), Bronwyn Elizabeth, May 18, 2010.

**Lapp**, Matthew and Miriam (Miller), Malta, OH, eighth child, fourth son, Malachi Jamin, June 5, 2010.

**Lapp**, Thaddeus and Edith (Mast), Malta, OH, first child and son, Braxton Lael, June 22, 2010.

**Lehman**, Spencer and Trudy (Dick) Mifflinburg, PA, second child and dau., Natasha Paige, April 27, 2010.

**Martin**, Shannon and Kay (Graber), Plain City, OH, third child and dau., Megan Lydia, June 1, 2010.

**Mast**, Jason and Jessica (Miller), Mountain View, AR, second child, first dau., Janae Nicole, June 4, 2010.

**Miller**, David and Valerie (Weaver), Hartselle, AL, first child and son, Austin David, June 1, 2010.

**Miller**, Nelson and Ellen (Nissley), Burr Oak, MI, third child and son, Joshua Glenn, June 29, 2010.

**Miller**, Raymond and Darlene (Wagler), Paris, TN, fourth child, second son, Linford Joel, June 14, 2010.

**Plank**, George and Gayle (Yoder), Crockett, VA, second child and son, Randy Wayne, June 20, 2010.

**Stoll**, Leonard and Lana (Knepp), Odon, IN, fifth child, third son, Luke Andrew, May 18, 2010.

**Stoltzfus**, Sam and Sadie (Zook), Leola, PA, sixth child, third dau., Malena Rose, May 13, 2010.

**Swartzentruber**, Brian and Dorothy (Petersheim), Abbeville, SC, first and

second children, twins: a son, Myles Andre` and a daughter, Madison Kate, May 14, 2010.

**Swartzentruber**, Lester and Miriam (Brenneman), Chesapeake, VA, sixth child, fifth dau., Jessica Dawn, May 18, 2010.

**Wagler**, Jeff and Kristen (Wagler), Odon, IN, first child and dau., Chloe Alexandria, June 11, 2010.

**Waldron**, Bill and Cari (Schroer), Louisa, VA, tenth child, sixth dau., Sarah Hope, May 29, 2010.

**Yoder**, Jerry and Rose (Miller), Haven, KS, third child and dau., Jennifer Faith, March 12, 2010.

**Yoder**, John David and Judy (Jones), Aroda, VA, fifth child, second son, Troy William, April 30, 2010.

**Yoder**, Keith and Hannah (Beachy), Abbeville, SC, first child and son, Trevor Lane, May 24, 2010.

**Yoder**, Michael and Lynette (Yoder), Meyersdale, PA, first child and son, Caleb Lamar, May 29, 2010.

**Yoder**, Steve and Charlene (Miller), Bakersville, OH, third child and son, Wyatt Andrew, May 13, 2010.

**Zook**, Dwayne and Heidi (Gingerich), Middleburg, PA, (serving in Leogane, Haiti) third child, second dau., Autumn Hosanna, June 1, 2010.

**Zook**, Marcus and Anna Mary (Stoltzfus), Mifflin, PA, sixth child, fifth son, Derrick James, June 2, 2010.

## ordinations

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

**Bro. Daniel Fisher**, 36, was chosen by voice of the church to minister at Shade Mountain Christian Fellowship, Mifflin, PA, on May 30, 2010. Norman Kauffman from Weavertown A.M. Church gave preordination messages, assisted by Isaac Gehman and Nathan Yoder. The charge was given by Raymond King.

**Bro. Nathan Lapp**, 40, was ordained as bishop at Grace Mennonite Fellowship, Bastrop, TX, on June 13, 2010. Preordination messages were given by Reuben Kaufman, Sugarcreek, OH. The charge was given by Clayton Weaver, assisted by Marlin Yoder, Elmer Smucker, and Reuben Kaufman. Jason Bontrager was also in the lot.

**Bro. Ivan K. Stoltzfus**, 43, of Middleburg, PA, was ordained as minister at Shekinah Christian Fellowship, on June 27, 2010. Preordination messages were brought by Perry Troyer, Plain City, OH. The charge was given by Dave Beiler, assisted by Ray Byers, Perry Troyer, and George Stoltzfus. Elmer Stoltzfus was also in the lot.

**Byler**, Ida, 81, of Cottage Grove, TN, died April 1, 2010, at her home. She was born April 5, 1928, daughter of the late Rudy and Matilda (Bender) Byler.

She was a member of Bethel Fellowship Church.

On Nov. 27, 1947, she was married to Earl Byler, who survives. Other survivors include sons: David (Mary) Byler, Dover, DE; Paul (Darlene) Byler, Summersville, MO; Lester (Jean) Byler, El Dorado Springs, MO; daughters: Mary Jane (Ben) Schrock, Paris, TN; Ruth Ann Byler, Quarryville, PA; Rhoda (Paul) Breneman, Beckwourth, CA; Barbara (Menno) Wagler, Cottage Grove, TN; Martha (John) Byler, Richmond, MO; Anna Mae Byler, Cottage Grove, TN; brothers: Lester Byler, Sarasota, FL; John Byler, Marysville, MO; sisters: Sarah Schrock, Summersville, MO; Anna Miller, Mifflinburg, PA; Ruth Yoder, Millmont, PA; 46 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren.

Preceding her in death are four brothers: Henry, Jonas, William, and Raymond; two sisters: Neoma and Elizabeth; one grandson, Eugene Schrock and one great grandson; Colton Burkholder.

The funeral was held on April 4, at Calvary Christian Fellowship with Raymond Miller, Dale Byler, Allen Sommers, and John Mast serving. Burial was in the adjoining cemetery.

**Helmuth**, Sarah (Mast) (Miller), 82, died at her home May 2, 2010, in rural Kalona, IA.. She was born at Kokomo, IN, August 30, 1927, daughter of the late Menno and Katie (Schlabach) Mast.

She was a member of Sharon Bethel A.M. Church.

On Oct. 7, 1947, she was married to Edward F. Miller; he died in 2006. Their surviving children are: David Lee (Martha) Miller, Kalona; Lucy (Roman) Stoltzfoos, Kinzers, PA; Elaine Miller, Kalona; Evelyn (Steve) Miller, Hutchinson, KS; Nancy Miller, Iowa City, IA; and Louise Miller, Kalona. Also surviving are 26 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren, one sister, Mary (Mark) Hershberger, Kalona.

On Sept. 23, 2007, she was married to Eli C. Helmuth, Whiteville, TN. He died Oct. 14, 2008. Eli's son is Lloyd J. (RoseMary) Helmuth, with five grandchildren and three great grandchildren surviving.

She was preceded in death by two husbands; three sons, Arden, and infants sons Raymond and Howard; a daughter, Mary Catherine Miller; brothers, David Mast, Andrew Mast, infant Abraham Mast; two sisters: Esther Mast and infant Susanna Mast.

The funeral was on May 5, with Delmar Bontrager, Jacob Yoder, and Gabriel Beachy serving. Lamar Ropp conducted the committal at the burial in Sharon Bethel Cemetery.

**Hershberger**, Sarah B., 94, of Due West, SC, peacefully died May 7, 2010, at her home. She was born in Nappanee, Indiana, April 19, 1916, daughter of the late Levi N. and Martha (Hochstetler) Bontrager. When she was 11, the family moved to Virginia Beach, VA. On Jan. 18, 1942, she was married to Elmer J. Hershberger, son of Joseph I. and Mary Ann (Miller) Hershberger. In 1962, they (with their six children) moved to Amelia, VA, and lived there until 1970, when they moved to Due West, SC.

She was a member of Cold Spring Mennonite Church and often expressed gratefulness for her church family and the ministers there. She enjoyed gardening and sewing with the sewing circle and made a number of quilts for family and friends.

Her husband, Elmer, preceded her in death. She is survived by six children: Merlin (Pam) Hershberger, Sarasota, FL; Daniel (Marilyn) Hershberger, Due West, SC; Martha (Clair) Steiner, Hendersonville, NC; Mary (David) Kraybill, Columbus, OH; Jim (Ann) Hershberger, Harrisonburg, VA, and Duane (Ruth) Hershberger, Boyertown, PA, 23 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren, one sister, Polly Miller, Greenwood, DE; and two brothers, Eli Bontrager, Milford, DE; and Amos Bontrager, Quarryville, PA. Two sisters, Sylvia Miller and Anna Bontrager and an infant brother, Louis, preceded her in death.

**Wittmer**, Mary, 85, of Montgomery, IN, died June 10, 2010, at her home. She was born January 14, 1925, in Daviess County, daughter of the late Daniel and Susan (Raber) Schrock.

She was a member of the Mt. Olive Mennonite Church, of Montgomery.

On Feb. 9, 1957, she was married to Raymond Wittmer, who survives. Surviving are one son, David (Esther) Wittmer; two daughters, Karen (Marty) Graber; and Shirley (Alvin, Jr.) Wagler, all of Montgomery. Also surviving: one sister, Lydia Knepp, Montgomery; 10 grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by three sisters: Caroline Wagler, Emma and Lucy Schrock; and two brothers: Willie and Bennie Schrock.

The funeral was held at Zion A.M. Church, with Clyde Stoll, Loren Graber, and Kevin Graber serving. Willard Knepp served at the committal in the Mt. Olive cemetery.

**Yutzy**, Ivan H., 73, of Linneus, MO, died March 29, 2010, of an apparent heart attack. He was born at Plain City, OH, August 1, 1936, son of the late Homer N. and Ada (Frey) Yutzy.


He was ordained a deacon Nov. 15, 1970, at Plain City and later helped establish Locust Creek A.M. Church where he served for nearly 30 years.

On Nov. 22, 1962, he was married to Martha Miller, who survives. They were blessed with seven children: one

son, Wilmer (Joanna) Yutzy, Huntsville, MO; six daughters, Keturah (Matthew) Hostetler, Belvidere, IN; Hannah, Paris, TN; Doris, Rebekah, Rhoda, Mary, all of the home; eight grandchildren; five sisters: Erma (Curtis) Kauffman, Strawberry, AR; Laura (Sylvan) Miller, Strawberry, AR; Bernice Yutzy, Sarasota, FL; Edna (David) Gingerich, Linneus; Arlene (Stanley) Schlabach, Monticello, KY; one brother, Milo Yutzy, address

unknown; brother-in-law, Lester Miller, Brookfield, MO; and 20 nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were two sisters: Leah Byler and Verna Miller.

Funeral services were held on April 2, at Locust Creek A.M. Church, with Howard Kuhns officiating. Others ministering were John Mast and Clayton Weaver. Sylvan Miller conducted the committal at the burial in the church cemetery. 

**observations**

**M**artin Meyer Rosen married his high school sweetheart, Ceil Starr in an Orthodox synagogue. Soon after their marriage a Christian friend influenced Ceil to become a Christian. In order to refute his wife’s “unjewish” ideas he began to read the New Testament and tracts that the friend had left. He discovered a life-changing truth: “What I was reading was true and I became a completed Jew.”

He is remembered more than any other single person as responsible for “the idea of being Jewish and believing in Jesus.”

Rosen died of prostate cancer on May 19, 2010, at age 78. The following quotes are attributed to him:

- “Being born in a Christian home doesn’t make you a Christian any more than being born in a bakery makes you a bagel.”

- “Careless Christians vaccinate their friends against the Gospel. They give them enough of a dose that they never catch a case.”

- “The man who knows he’s going to live for eternity can afford to be patient.”



According to a survey reported in *USA Today* (4-27), most young adults in the U.S. do not pray, worship, or read the Bible. Of those who call themselves Christian, 65% rarely or never attend worship services, 65% rarely or never pray with others, 67% don’t read the Bible or sacred texts. A 2007 survey found that seven in ten who regularly attended church during high school, no longer attended at age 30. (Courtesy Ernest Hochstetler and David N. Troyer.)

These surveys were not taken in our church circles. The Christian commitment of many young people

is truly thankworthy. A reality check reminds us that the spiritual safety of our young people should not be taken for granted. God is able and eager to receive and keep those who make themselves available to Him.



It is well known that obesity is not friendly to good health. According to a study released last year from a non-profit research institute, health care costs in 1998 were \$14 billion. In 2008, they were \$147 billion. (From *Weekend Journal*, May 1-2, 2010.) Physical health and financial health seem closely related in this case.



Osage, Iowa, has a county ordinance that prohibits the use of steel wheels on hard-surfaced roads. Matthew Zimmerman was found guilty of violating the ordinance. The county says the steel wheels damage the roads. Old Order Mennonites say that the use of conventional wheels would violate church rules.

A defender argued that it is a case of their constitutional right to exercise religious freedom. But the County Attorney maintained that the ordinance reflects nothing more than a desire to protect public roads. (*The Hutchinson News*, 5-29-10)



The Old Testament account of Saul’s behavior toward David tells us something about human nature. Twice the Bible says that Saul was

afraid of David because David behaved himself wisely.

Reading through the Gospels the same dynamic is seen with the scribes’ and Pharisees’ reaction to Jesus’ sinless life. His miracles of mercy could not be denied. But their position and prominence was threatened. Their response was that of fear, hatred and murder.

The persecution of the Anabaptists by the Reformed and Catholic churches was also fearful, hateful, and murderous. The following quotes are attributed to some of their opposers.

•Ulrich Zwingli wrote in 1527: “If you investigate their life and conduct it seems at first irreproachable and pious, unassuming, attractive, yea, above this world. Even their critics will say their lives are excellent.”

•A bitter opponent noted their rejection of covetousness, pride, profanity, lewd conversation, immorality, drinking and gluttony. His summary statement was that their hypocrisy was great and manifold.

•One critic acknowledged their apparent sincerity by their willingness to suffer extreme torture and exile. He noted that they were somewhat indifferent toward earthly things.

•The preachers of the Canton of Bern admitted in a letter in 1532 that: “The Anabaptists have the semblance of outward piety to a far greater degree than we and all the churches

which unitedly with us confess Christ and avoid offensive sins which are very common among us.”

•A statement dated in 1585 by the Council of Bern states that offensive sins and vices were common among the preachers and membership of the Reformed church, adding this was the greatest reason why many God-fearing people are offended and forsake our church and unite with the Brethren. A court record of 1562 reports that Caspar Zaeler was accused of being an Anabaptist, but the records showed that he was an envious man who could not get along with others. He often started quarrels, was guilty of swearing and cursing and was also found carrying a weapon. Such a lifestyle cleared him of the “offensive” possibility that he was an Anabaptist.

•In 1570, Hans Jager was brought before the court because his irreproachable lifestyle made him a suspect of being a hated Anabaptist.

(From *The Recovery of the Anabaptist Vision*, 1957, pp. 44-47. This chapter was written by Harold S. Bender.)

These selections are a fresh reminder of the importance of being sure that whatever we favor or oppose, that we do so for the right reasons.

• • • • •

Time banks are formed by groups of people who have time and are

willing to work for the benefit of the group. For one hour of work, a person gets credit and becomes eligible to receive services provided by another member of the group. This becomes a cashless exchange. The recession and scarcity of money is the reason for this interesting movement. About 115 are now operating nationwide and 100 more are in the early stages of development.

Judith Lasker, a professor at Lehigh University, is quoted as follows: “People believe the best way to survive in this crazy, unpredictable world is to forge local ties, support local economies, and support local people in a variety of ways.” (A.P., *The Hutchinson News*, 6-4-10)

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Dorcas Smucker is a writer, a pastor’s wife, mother and homemaker who writes with an interesting mix of humor, philosophy, and common sense. In *Mennonite Weekly Review*, (6-7-10), she takes inventory of her talents and deficiencies evident in the course of ordinary living. Her lack of certain skills was troublesome and embarrassing when she was young. At age 40, she is able to say, “Life is short and I will never learn to be good at everything. Thankfully, however, I am surrounded by family and friends who collectively have all the skills I lack and even my shaky skills can bless their lives in return.”

• • • • •



The following letter by John Drescher, Quakertown, PA, was printed in *Mennonite Weekly Review* (6-7-10). It is reprinted here by permission.

“Columbia University president Nicholas Murray Butler, traveling the United States after World War I, spoke about what the money spent on that war could have done if used in positive ways. It could have built and furnished a new home on five acres of land for every family in the United States, Canada, Australia, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, France, Belgium, Germany, and Russia. In addition, it could have put a \$5 million library and a \$10 million university in every city of 20,000 inhabitants in each of the above countries. With the interest at 5 percent on what would be left, a salary could be paid for 120,000 nurses and 125,000 teachers.

“Our president’s defense budget for 2011 is \$739 billion—more than \$2,000 for each man, woman, and child in the United States. All other government programs fade into insignificance in the light of the military budget.”

• • • • •

A recent article in *The Hutchinson News* (6-7-10) by AP medical writer Lauran Neergaard reminded me of a recent conversation with a brother who was born in 1930.

This brother was experiencing

a number of health problems. His diligent doctor prescribed a remedy for every health need he diagnosed in his patient. In spite of many medications, the patient was not getting better.

Finally my friend decided to change doctors. He was startled when the new doctor promptly took away all the medications. But his health now seems much improved.

The front-page article referred to above has this bold headline: “Overdosing on Medical Treatment? Close look at studies and quizzing of specialists indicate that more care isn’t necessarily better.”

Space does not permit appropriate summary here, but the following ideas come through:

- The high incidence of C-section births (one in three) seem traceable to faulty fetal monitoring.
- Intensive medical training, a busy practice, and liability considerations can add up to doing procedures, testing and surgical, that contribute more to costs than to patients’ well being.
- Some tests are themselves not friendly to good health.

It is encouraging to learn that there are those within the medical community who are trying to address these issues in a helpful manner. In some cases this includes the use of all-natural, nutritional formulas.

—DLM 

# The TOV Bible

*Simon Schrock, Catlett, VA*

**A**s you watch a congregation gather for worship these days, you may see various Scripture versions being carried into the church. When the class is assembled for study, one reads from one version, one from another and the teacher from another. Versions—we've got them by the dozen. Which ones are God's Word and can be trusted?

Sometimes strife and ill attitudes result from disagreements over favorite versions. When a new version is introduced, it undergoes scrutiny and is sometimes declared to be the work of the devil. Others defend it as the best "good news" yet. Their favorite version, whether new or old, becomes of more value than unity and right relationships.

This version thing can be a puzzle. However, it's not all the different versions that are most puzzling. It's the ones who make the most noise in defense of the "easier to understand" versions and how they are used.

To make things more confusing, let me challenge you to examine another angle of versions. I've called it the TOV. Make a careful study of it. The blood, death, resurrection, and coming again of Jesus will

hardly be an issue. The clarity of it can be no problem. It's easy to understand. TOV—I think it is the best. Before you become angry with my endorsement of the TOV, be sure you are fully familiar with it.

Before introducing you to the TOV, let's pull another problem into focus. In fact, this is the puzzle with the conglomerate of versions being carried today. The new versions coming to Sunday school speak more clearly on some issues than the older versions. What is the real problem? Why hasn't the standard of behavior and obedience risen as the new versions make the way of discipleship clearer and easier to understand? Why aren't more believers experiencing deeper relationships and brotherhood instead of splitting? The new versions are somewhat clearer on love and forgiveness. Yet with this clear teaching, love and forgiveness are not experienced always evident. Clarity doesn't seem to solve the problem.

The new versions clearly indicate that there is a way of behavior for the world of unbelievers, and another way for the believers. Yet with such clear teaching there is no sharp distinction in their way of life. Of

course, the believer doesn't shoot his neighbor, divorce his wife, or get drunk in public. Outside of that, too often they both seem to be in the same mad race for pleasure and self-gratification. Both support the movie house, fashion designer, and the world system with their money. One older version speaks to that point in these words: "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life: that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." *The Living Bible*, (Taylor's paraphrase) states the same passage in an easier-to-understand manner for today's readers. He is saying Christ's soldiers should not let themselves become tied up in worldly affairs.

With all the new, clearer versions being carried today, why are so many believers "tied up" in worldly affairs? Perhaps the TOV will give some answers.

The Bible in your favorite version teaches that God is calling to Himself a separate people set apart to serve Him. Yet with the clarity of the new versions, much of professing Christendom is being a better *blender* than *separator*. I've been surprised that some of the people I meet at church gatherings are church members. Outside the church I could not tell the difference between them and people of no faith.

New versions of Scripture are helpful and valuable to Bible students and teachers. On the other hand they can be a "cop-out," a mask, a cover-up, or an escape. The need of many Christians is to experience honest, open confession of where they are in their experience. The need is for healing through their weakness. This need can be squashed and bottled by a cover-up, which can take shape through Scripture versions. Rather than talk about our real needs, it becomes easier to let out steam in promotion or condemnation of certain versions of Scripture. When someone gets hot under the collar with insistence on using his new version, one wonders what he is trying to hide.

Jesus called for a commitment of total loyalty to God and His service. It is possible to escape this commitment by placing great emphasis on versions and avoiding the call to service. The "new version" carrier can make his point and go on living for himself.


Others become involved in defending the "only Bible." Some of these great fighters should unmask and begin working on love and relationships. The fights for the only Bible may only be cover-up of deep needs in the heart of a person. One should never use version arguments to hide sin. That does injustice to any version.

So what is the answer to all these versions, cover-ups, and masks? **The TOV.** That will do it. Does that mean you switch versions? No, not really. The TOV may be your present version.

What is the TOV? It is not another version. It is an attitude and a commitment. It stands for **Trust Obey Version.** There it is—trust and obey your favorite version. If you carry a “new” Bible, then obey it! The real need is not a dozen other versions, but obedience to the versions we already have. I see people

who carry versions that speak clearer on certain doctrines than the older versions. Despite the clarity, they ignore its teaching.

Jesus said, “If a man love me, he will keep my words” (John 14:23). Our love to God is not expressed in the ability to carry the clearest version, but in obedience to His Word. Love is expressed in a firm resolve to do His will.

[Reprinted and slightly revised from *Gospel Herald*. Submitted for publication by Menno Nisly, Hutchinson, KS.] 

## *Carrying the Cross*

A. W. Tozer

**T**he well-defined spiritual life is not only the highest life, but it is also the most easily lived. The whole cross is more easily carried than half. It is the man who tries to make the best of both worlds, who makes nothing of either. He who seeks to serve two masters misses the benediction of both. He who has

taken his stand, who has drawn a boundary line sharp and deep about his religious life, who has marked off all beyond, as forever forbidden ground to him, finds the yoke [of Christ] easy and the burden light.

[Excerpted from *The Pursuit of God*.] 

***A man goes nowhere while straddling the fence.***

# ***REAL Real Estate***

*Joseph S. Kuepfer, Newton, ON*

*[Writer's note: "Here is something I have had on my mind lately. I finished chemotherapy treatments in January, 2009." J.S.K.]*

**R** real estate agents use many methods and schemes to promote the properties they have to offer. The advertisements speak of all the wonderful features of these properties. Their offers are directed toward all potential home owners—their needs, desires, and interests. We want to compare the value of these properties with what the Bible offers to everyone who is willing to come and claim them and be worthy of their possession.

Real estate agents first make the claim of the beautiful location and the soil that surrounds the property. They mention the scenic view it provides. Another important selling factor is the easy access one has to the property. They clearly state major highway availability and the convenience of shopping possibilities. It is important that potential buyers understand the convenience of an airport nearby. All these features could be factors in enticing people to at least see the property. They go to great efforts to describe the beauty: the beautiful yards with meticulous flower beds and countless trees and

shrubs, described in great detail. If the property has a pond or access to a lake, that makes for an even more spectacular view. Real estate agents also describe the beauty of the driveway leading to this mansion, flanked by rare trees and beautiful lights marking the way.

However, as we consider some of these features advertised we will look at some REAL real estate mentioned in the Bible. First we want to turn in John 14, where we are told that our precious Lord has been preparing a place for us to live. It has been about 2,000 years since Jesus ascended to heaven. In those 2,000 years His love has been preparing a place for His people.

When we consider the beauty of this earth, which was created in six days, we can hardly imagine what is waiting for us. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 2:9, "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." John, however, being in the Spirit, had a vision of a very beautiful place, when he was isolated

on the Isle of Patmos. Even though John had a heavenly vision, he tried to describe it with earthly language.

Here are some of the particulars: Revelation 21:1 contains the promise that this home of property which existed on Planet Earth will have passed away. There will be no more disease, pestilences, earthquakes, volcanoes, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, or drought.

The concerns of pollution and global warming will no longer exist. The environment will be new! There will be no power outages or large electricity bills because the Light of this estate forever remains consistent. According to Revelation 22:4, there will be no need to replace worn wiring or burnt-out bulbs. In fact, we will not need to purchase any type of lighting whatsoever. No real estate sales person can come anywhere close to such claims: No darkness at any time!

A very important fact in looking for a property is the availability of water. Is there a good well? What are the rates of water available? But in our heavenly home the water supply is extraordinary. Revelation 22:1 and 2 give us descriptive words like: "pure" and "clear as crystal." In John 4:14, Jesus promised that if you drink

of this water you will never thirst again. From this beautiful river on both sides was a tree of life bearing 12 crops and yielding fruit every month. So this property eliminates any need for filters or water purifiers. No sanitizers or chlorine will be necessary.

As we move into further investigation of this property in Revelation 21, we discover some very breath-taking facts. We see a place that is filled with the glory of God. This heavenly home is described as a city of pure gold. This claim of pure gold is hard to attain, because gold as we know it usually has other elements mixed in; however, this city is of pure gold. The city has walls reflecting colors of the rainbow. The walls are made of jewels, indicating purity and durability.

Are you looking for real estate? What seems like a worthwhile investment? Real estate agents have their bargains and dream houses to promote. But as we look at these options, we see that there is incomparable value in this heavenly offer.

Revelation 21:4 makes two claims no earthly property can make: 1) There will be no more tears. 2) There will be no more death. This must be REAL real estate!



## Amazon River Basin

Floyd Stoltzfus, New Holland, PA

Some people have not had the opportunity to hear the Gospel even once. They live in a window that extends from 10° south of the equator to 40° north. Stretching from western Africa to eastern Asia, the “10/40 Window” consists of approximately 65 countries. More than three billion people live there, about 85% of the world’s poor. Research shows that while 95% of the people who live in the least evangelized countries live in the 10/40 Window, only about 4% of mission funding is spent there. But there is another window further southwest and closer to home that may be overlooked

It is believed by Christian mission leaders that there are hundreds of tribes in the Amazon River Basin without a Gospel witness. It seems to be one of the neediest fields in the world and is home to some of the world’s most isolated tribes. Some of these people are known only by the name of a nearby river. No one knows the exact number of people groups who live there but estimates range from 67 to 400.

Notice how the following story unveils the belief system of the

Waimiri Atroari people of Brazil and how their folklore is similar to the biblical story of creation, the fall of man and a redeemer. In their folklore, they have an analogy to help them grasp the Gospel sooner.

*As the beetles clicked, the sun set behind the curtain of foliage. The delicate Waimiri Atroari boy sat on Grandmother Yuki’s lap, his big black eyes fixed on her creased and animated face. She said, ‘When the son of Tupa will come to visit us, then all that our people fear will be hidden again in the tucuma nut.’ Yuki had just narrated to her precocious grandson the story of the tucuma nut, from which the horrors in the world were unleashed. This is a story that the Waimiri Atroari people pass down from generation to generation. Yuki herself still remembered the fear in her grandmother’s eyes as she droned on in her distinctive voice about how Caboclo and his wife had broken open the nut, and darkness engulfed the whole earth. Yuki had gasped while her grandmother continued, ‘Not only darkness, but all those night creatures that so terrify us will get you.’ Yuki had often pondered that fact that the woes of the world occurred because of that*

*primeval curiosity and offense. She also awaits deliverance from darkness by the son of Tupa, the great god who created the world.* (From Global Prayer Digest, Pasadena, CA. Used by permission.)

Who will go to these people that God loves so dearly to tell them the good news of forgiveness of sins through faith in the blood of Jesus Christ? God is unfolding a purpose for all nations to bring about a greater glory to His Name. It is ultimately His plan to draw to Himself the worship of all peoples. "God be merciful unto us...that thy way may be known upon the earth, thy saving health (salvation) among all nations. O, let the nations be glad and sing for joy..." (Psalm 67:1a, 2, 4a). The word *nations* in the New Testament is translated from the Greek word *ethnos*. This is not a geographical term with boundaries such as Kenya or China. It is a people group, a "race" within a nation.

God promised Abraham "...in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 22:3b). Again in verse 18, "And in thy seed shall all nations of the earth be blessed: because thou hast heard my voice."

The Apostle Paul expounds on this promise in Galatians: "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall

all nations be blessed" (3:8). Can you just get a glimpse of the beauty of God's amazing grace through the song of the redeemed and how these promises are fulfilled in the glories of heaven. "And they sang a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9). We have a similar scene in Revelation 7:9. Notice the descriptiveness of the words: "...a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues..." The word *kindred* means *tribes*.

I am excited to share a letter with you. The passion to reach unreached people groups without a copy of God's Word burns within the hearts of a group of brethren.

*Golden fields of ripened grain stand totally untouched and waiting. Who will go? How will they hear and believe? The hundreds of untouched people groups without one single verse of Scripture in their language should motivate us to action. Let us feel the heartbeat of our brother, Paul, who wrote, 'yea, so I have striven to preach the gospel not where Christ was named...'* (Romans 15:20).

*Recently those of us involved in the Bible translation organization we are forming met with Christian*



*Aid Ministries for the third time. We have greatly appreciated their interest. Already the benefits that this relationship has provided are clearly recognized. Their coaching and advice as a competent organization serving our Anabaptist churches has been invaluable.*

*Their suggestion has been for us to form an independent organization. They have encouraged us to move ahead with the formation of a board and an advisory council. They hope to remain involved with the roles of support, coaching, and promoting the vision.*

*Emanuel Esh, Steve Clark, Mannie King, and Joel Martin have committed themselves to serve as a board. We have been deeply grateful and encouraged by the seasoned men who have accepted the invitation to be an Advisory Council. They are Allen Roth, Bob Miller, John Coblenz, Mark Zook, Paul Weaver, and Val Yoder. After some lengthy discussions, the*

*decision was made to use the name, 'All Nations Bible Translation' to identify this organization.*

*Some short term goals are the development of a website, acquiring legal status, creating a letterhead, and the completion of our by-laws and vision statement. The Lord willing, our team will be available to share in churches, at mission conferences, and other places that may provide an opportunity to promote the vision God has laid on our hearts. Thanks for your interest praying for this new endeavor.*

*A fellow servant in the Kingdom, Joel Martin. (Abridged and edited; used by permission.)*

Pray that the Lord of the harvest may send laborers into His harvest. Pray for God's direction and intervention on the behalf of the isolated tribes that could easily be destroyed, especially in the Amazon River Basin and across the world.



## helpers at home

### *The Happy Years*

*Mary June Glick, Seneca, SC*

**A**t our annual Choice Books meeting, we felt privileged to have John Drescher as one of our guest speakers. Drescher was editor of *Gospel Herald* for many

years and a well-known author in Mennonite churches. Those of us who are older may remember the books he wrote for parents. One book that left a deep impression on me as

a young mother was the book, *Now is the Time to Love*.

In his message at our Choice Books meeting, he referred to a child's years between 6 and 12 as "the comfortable years." I have chosen to call them "the happy years."

Much is written about the early years and about the teen years but very little of the child's life in the ages of 6 to 12. Maybe it is simply because these are the easier years for a parent and the happy years for a child. However, these are very formative and important years. I have chosen to look at these years drawing from our own experience and the wisdom of others.

We have heard comments from Catholics stating: "Give me a child until he is five and he will be a Catholic for life." However, we know this is not always true. I believe it does tell us that what a child learns before he is five leaves a strong impression on his life. These are very important and formative years even though children forget much of what happens in those years.

Life after six will remain pretty much as memories for the future in "the computer of their minds." They will remember special family times, their first year of school, their pets and friends; however, they will also remember unkindness, harshness,

and feelings of misunderstanding or lack of acceptance by their peers or family. It is a challenge for parents to give the child happy years.

The home should be their favorite place or haven during those years. Children love to imitate their parents. Just watch a small boy walking beside his father, matching his stride, modeling his expressions and gestures. It does not take a lot to make him happy. In later years it becomes apparent that small gifts and surprises have left happy memories. I have good memories of trips to the mountains, an occasional day at the beach, summer picnics with friends, sitting on the porch together, catching fireflies, even working together as a family when I was a child. I hope we bestowed such positive memories to our children.

Fill a child's life with happiness during this period of his life. Now is the time to answer questions about spiritual issues and concerns, leading a small child to an awareness of sin, but also of God's love and forgiveness. Many children are afraid because they do not understand spiritual truths. It is also a time to talk about sex. Parent and child can talk without embarrassment at this age. Answers can be simple, but must be true and factual. The answers must come from you, a person the child can trust.

This is the time to teach values to your child. Children learn much by observing your life, but you also need to teach *why* these values are important to you. I will share a few values that I believe are important, however, there are many others. Remember, your child is following you.

### **Respect Authority**

Obedying traffic signs, driving speed limits, praying for the president (rather than criticizing the government), and paying taxes cheerfully will teach your child respect and appreciation. Honoring police officers, ministers, and teachers by your words and actions will influence your child to love and submit to authority.

### **A Good Work Ethic**

Our Amish and Mennonite background has often been an example of a hard-working people. Many of us learned to work at an early age. We have also learned the discipline of doing a job well. We can pass on the value of good work ethics to our children by example and by showing them how to do it.

### **Recognizing all People as made in God's Image with Equal Dignity and Worth**

Having lived in Central America for quite a few years, we have learned to love people of other nationalities.

I am troubled when I hear unkind remarks about those who live in our communities from other cultures or nationalities. Perhaps God has brought these people into our midst so we can share the Good News of Jesus Christ with them. Our children learn to treat others with kindness by observing our attitudes toward them.

### **Reaching out with Compassion**

Teach your children to show compassion. Encourage them to look around in the community or church. Does an elderly person need the lawn mowed or some other helping hand? Are there handicapped children who need a friend? Can they send money to meet needs overseas or even our own country? Teach them to be a blessing to others.

### **Offer Hospitality**

God commands His children to show hospitality. We may be serving "angels unawares." Young children will find a lot of joy in helping their parents with meal preparation, talking with the guests and being involved. I am blessed when we are in homes where the children interact with us and are excited about having guests in their home. Give your child the opportunity to show hospitality.

*Values are contagious; your values will likely be caught.*



## Hope for Healing

Amy Gingerich, age 15, Belle Center, OH

A -chew! A-chew! A-chew!  
A-chew!"

"Edoh, dear, are you all right?" Edoh's African mother asked, concern edging her voice. "Here, let me wipe your mouth," She bent over her nine-year-old daughter who was squatting in the corner on the floor. Carefully she wiped the blood that Edoh had coughed up.

Edoh's spindly arms and legs and tiny frame were obvious signs of malnourishment. A massive tumor on the side of her face distorted her nose, filled her mouth, and shifted her left eye obviously off center. A new backward growth of the tumor was blocking her airway, which made it difficult for her to breathe. This caused great concern for her parents, who loved her dearly. The tumor was so large she had trouble eating.

"Mother," the little girl whispered faintly.

"Yes?"

"I's hungry. And thirsty." Edoh looked up at her mother pleadingly.

"I'll get you some water and something to eat," Mother assured her, squeezing her hand. Mother

poured some water into one bowl and ladled some watery rice into another one. She walked over to Edoh and carefully spooned some water and rice into her mouth.

"Thank you, Mother," Edoh sighed gratefully as she sank down on the cot and closed her eyes in weariness.

Long after Edoh had fallen asleep, Mother stood watching her. She yearned for her only child to be healed from the tumor that was robbing her of her life. "*Dear Lord, please heal my daughter if it is your will. You know that we have gone to every doctor in the village and tried everything we could think of, but nothing has worked. And now she is at the point of...of...dying, Lord.*" A sob tore at her throat. Suddenly Mother felt an arm around her shoulder. She turned to face Father, who was squatting down beside her.

"The Lord will take care of her," he whispered hoarsely, desperately trying to comfort both of them. "I hate to tell you this, but I talked to the village doctor today. He said we might as well prepare for her death," Father finished sadly.

Mother wept softly. “Come, Mother,” Father said after her sobs had subsided. “Let’s go to bed. We have to get our sleep so we have strength to face the coming days.” Although it was already dark outside, sleep seemed far away.

• • • • •

“Lutifa! Have you heard that a huge hospital ship is docked in one of the ports here in Togo?”

Mother was filling her water buckets at the river where many other women came to get water. As she filled her buckets, she listened to the chatter around her. Her ears perked up when she heard about the hospital ship. She edged a bit closer to the women. “No, I hadn’t,” she heard Lutifa answer. “How much do they charge?”

“Nothing!” The older lady exclaimed. “That’s why everyone is so excited. They do surgeries on anyone who is healthy enough to endure the stress of surgery.”

Mother didn’t wait to hear more. Although she had filled only one bucket, she turned around and fairly ran down the path, water sloshing in the pail and splashing on her dress. Arriving at her hut, she plopped the buckets down outside the door. The filled bucket teetered precariously on one side then settled down right side up, saving what little water she

had left after her excited run from the river.

Dashing into the house, she nearly collided with Father, who was wondering what the excitement was all about. Breathlessly, she told him all that she had heard down at the river. “Do you think they could do surgery on Edoh?” she asked.

“It would be worth trying,” Father said, his excitement mounting.

“Mother, what are you...talking about?” Edoh wondered, her large eyes gazing questioningly at Mother.

“We know of some doctors who might do surgery on you!” Mother answered excitedly. “Isn’t that wonderful?”

“Yes!” Edoh whispered hopefully.

Mother washed Edoh’s face, hands, and feet to make her look as presentable as possible. Father picked her up in his strong arms and carried her as they made their way to the port. It was growing dusk as they finally neared the port. “There’s the ship!” Father said thankfully, his arms aching with weariness.

“Such a long line,” Mother worried. “Do you think we’ll get to the ship before Edoh dies?”

“I don’t know,” Father said. “It sounds like she’s having a hard time breathing.” Edoh had gone to sleep on the way to the port, but now her

breath was coming in short gasps.

“Couldn’t we somehow pass her up to the ship, so they could do something to help her breathe easier?”

Mother questioned hopefully.

“Here,” the man in front of them said who had overheard their conversation. “I’ll send her up to the next person and they can just pass her on up,” he offered helpfully.

“Sure,” Father agreed as he handed her to him. “Thank you very much.”

“You’re welcome,” The man said. He took Edoh and passed her to the next man.

“Mo-other-r-r!” Edoh screamed in terror as she woke up and felt herself being passed from one person to the next. Edoh was still screaming as they lifted her over the steel gate of the ship. A white doctor grabbed her and ran for the operating room. They finally hushed her as they worked on her lungs, trying to clear the airway so she could breathe. By the time they had her stabilized, Father and Mother had pressed through the crowd and were on the ship. As soon as they walked into the operating room, Mother walked over to comfort Edoh. She grabbed Mother tightly, determined

that they would never be separated again. An interpreter told Father and Mother that the doctors had decided that Edoh was able to undergo surgery. Mother’s eyes shone with hope as she told Edoh that she might be helped.

• • • • •

Three hours later, the surgeon walked into the waiting room. “The surgery was successful,” he said through an interpreter. “I think Edoh will be able to function normally now.”

“Praise the Lord!” Father exclaimed thankfully.

“Yes,” Mother agreed. “Thank you, so much. This means so much to us. When may we see Edoh?”

“She was waking up when I came out here, so I think you could come see her now.”

“Edoh!”

“Mother!” Edoh grabbed Mother excitedly. “I feel so much better now, ‘cause the doctors healed me!”

“God healed you, dear,” Mother corrected gently as she wrapped her arms around her in a warm hug. “He has answered our prayers!”

Edoh leaned against Mother and sighed happily.



*Many advertisements remind us of things we are better off without.*

## Continue your Education

*Andrew Yoder, Leon, IA*

Life is a learning experience. You must continue educating yourself if you want to succeed in life. The options for continuing your education are countless. You can learn orally, through direct conversation with people. You can travel and experience different cultures. Or you can go to the library and borrow a book that sparks your particular field of interest. You should read well-written books on a variety of subjects for your personal development.

You can read practically anywhere and reading is an inexpensive way of continuing your education. It does not require special equipment, costly tuition, or expensive facilities. It does not even require the assistance of other people. All you need is a book and light. God has provided plenty of light during the day, and a book can be borrowed from the local library or bought at a used bookstore. Take a book along wherever you go. There is no need to sit in the waiting room impatiently drumming your fingers. Although time spent in silence or in conversation is by no means wasted, a book can help pass the time.

Reading is an acquired skill. Don't start with a 500-page book on theology.

It will look daunting, and you will "burn out." Start with simple stories and progress on to books with thicker plots. Focus on reading well-written material to give you an appreciation of the art. Have a plan as you decide what to read. Decide whether your life could benefit from reading for pleasure, personal growth, or educational purposes. Choose your genre accordingly.

Books are a window into the past. From the vantage point of the present we can look at the past and learn what worked or did not work in history. There are many things about history that we know only through the written record. We see mistakes as well as wise decisions made by men long ago, and we can learn from them. History lets us see that the problems we face today are not new. The basic problems we have today caused difficulties back then as well. Reading on historical themes gives us a perspective of the past and a purpose for the future.

Everyone needs to learn to read both for personal growth and for a worthwhile purpose pastime. Reading is an economical alternative to other means of education.

Why not pick up a book and start reading now?



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Periodicals

## THOUGHT GEMS

Giving appreciation to people may do more good than whatever else we give them.

• • • • •

Bumper sticker: "Watch out for the driver in the car following me if he's talking on the phone."

• • • • •

Some folks seem to forget that even a bargain costs money.

• • • • •

Carry God's Word when you are young and it will carry you when you are old.

• • • • •

We should be as careful of the books we read as we are of the company we keep.

• • • • •

A burden must be carried before it can be put down.

• • • • •

A promise does not become more powerful when it is wrapped in red tape.

• • • • •

A well-rounded character is square in all his dealings.

• • • • •

If we give only advice to someone, he may have trouble giving us thanks.

• • • • •

Children brought up in Sunday school are less likely to be brought up in court.

• • • • •

Christians may not see eye-to-eye, but they can still go hand-in-hand.