



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

Galatians 6:14

OCTOBER 2012

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 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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**Editor:** Paul L. Miller  
 7809 S. Herren Rd., Partridge, KS 67566  
 Ph/Fax 620-567-2286  
 paulmiller@bttskynet.net

**Assistant Editor:** Elmer D. Glick  
 P.O. Box 400, Slanesville, WV 25444  
 elmerg@frontiernet.net

**Associate Editor:** David L. Miller  
 P O Box 73, Partridge, KS 67566  
 620-567-2376

**Contributing Editors:**  
 Simon Schrock, Enos D. Stutzman,  
 Aaron Lapp

**Missions Editor:** Floyd Stoltzfus  
 186 Skyline Dr., New Holland, PA 17557

**Youth Messages Editor:** Ernest Eby  
 11558 Hwy. 198, Guys Mills, PA 16327  
 ec.eby.ar@gmail.com | 814-789-3209

**Junior Messages Editor:**  
 Mrs. Mary Ellen Beachy  
 11095 Pleasant Hill Rd. NW  
 Dundee, OH 44624

**Helpers at Home Editor:**  
 Mrs. Mary June Glick  
 1080 Return Church Rd., Seneca, SC 29678

**Circulation Manager/Treasurer:**  
 Mark I. Beachy  
 11095 Pleasant Hill Rd. NW  
 Dundee, OH 44624  
 markbeachy@afo.net | 330-852-2982

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## *Putting Out the Lights*

*Mrs. Ervin (Darlene) Miller, Linn. MO*


Not all the darkness in the world can once put out the light  
 Of one small, faithful candle that's burning in the night.  
 How brightly beams its tiny flame when all around is dark,  
 But put it in a well-lit room, and scarce we see its spark!

Now let me ask you, if I may, if you have ever been  
 Eclipsed by greater light than yours—and jealousy set in?  
 Perhaps you felt, as humans do, that gifts more than your own  
 Had been bestowed on someone else, and thus you were outshone.

And did you then, in selfish pride—upon some foolish whim—  
 With words and deeds unkind or rude, attempt that light to dim?  
 And did you think by dimming his, more brightly yours would shine?  
 Alas, my friend, it will not work! You dim not his, but thine!

For how can deeds so dark as these: your jealousy and pride,  
 When cast into that well-lit room, succeed that light to hide?  
 As darker grows the darkness, how bright his light will seem;  
 While you, poor struggling candle, have snuffed out your own beam!

And now to those of you who are those lights so bright and clear,  
 When you've received a word of spite, remember! Do not fear!  
 Perhaps your glow just seems too bright to one more dim and weak,  
 'Twould only serve your light to dim, if vengeance you would seek!

Then speak instead kind words of grace, and thus your light will show.  
 When by your light they see themselves, their little flame can grow! 

## Fruitful Teachers

*Moreover, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful*" (1 Corinthians 4:2). God assigns meaningful work to His children. His gifts to us do not replace what He asks us to do. If we are to bring Him glory, we must apply ourselves. It is He who makes us fruitful. Diligence precedes fruitfulness as surely as sowing precedes harvest.

Recently many school teachers again took up their tasks. Thank God for faithful, fruitful teachers! I see the following four aspects of effectiveness for teachers: alertness, humility, gratefulness and faithfulness.

- *Alertness* implies interest. Curiosity precedes information. Life is much too short to learn all that could profitably be learned. Furthermore, without eagerness to learn we cannot expect to live a fruitful life. Life lived on the growing edge meets life's challenges much more effectively than life lived with a bored yawn. Pity the man or woman who loses interest in learning. Such persons can hardly expect to inspire learning in others.

- *Humility* enhances every other virtue. Without humility all is vain. We are human and fallible. None

of us gets it right all the time; so if we face this, that in itself helps our teaching to be more effective. Humility is attractive. Few things are as hard to bear as strutting arrogance. Nothing good comes from a boastful, know-it-all attitude. We may need help to find a path in life that fits us.

- *Gratefulness* with good stewardship is the recognition that God gives us gifts, which we are to develop for His glory. God's path for us includes things both easy and difficult—pleasant and unpleasant. If a task is so hard we despair, discouragement and failure follow. If it is too easy, we tend to lose interest. It is the Lord's mercy that He assigns us to challenging tasks for which He also gives us natural talents and abilities. Let us exercise them diligently and enthusiastically!


- *Faithfulness* is the gift that ties all the gifts together into the strongest contribution possible. Faith recognizes that God is sovereign. Faithfulness builds my life on Jesus, the Son of God. Walking in the Spirit is my path for effective Christian service. Being faithful requires my willingness to buckle down and get to work and to keep on working when the work is difficult. Failure

may come, but I need not despair and give up.

The song writer said it well, “My Lord knows the way through the wilderness, all I have to do is follow. Strength for today is mine all the way and all I need for tomorrow.”

God bless all of you who carry on the work of teaching. Let me add a word of personal testimony. I taught school for more than forty years. Early on, I sensed that God wanted this of me, but I was not always satisfied with it. When I embraced it as God’s call, things went better. I was sometimes discouraged to see how much better others taught than I, but I found encouragement by looking to

the Lord and competing with myself.

Regardless of your present teaching situation, if you question whether this is to be your long-term work, my sympathies are with you. Take a lesson from David when he was greatly distressed. He “encouraged himself in the Lord his God” (1 Samuel 30:6). Trust God to show you what He wants for you. If you’ve considered these things well and still think you should go on to something else, I leave that with you, but please don’t quit through unfaithfulness. Cultivate alertness, humility, and grateful stewardship faithfully. Fruitfulness that honors God will be your reward. —PLM 

## reader response

### Re: Reader Response, August, 2012.

In response to the response of August, I encourage a reconsideration of the stated understanding of the issue of Israel and Jerusalem in general and the statement that “The New Jerusalem church is the new heavens and the new earth,” in particular.

The support of this statement requires either selective reading of Scripture or a very careful and purposeful going back and forth

between a literal and a figurative view of verses within the same passage, neither of which provides a clear and trustworthy understanding of Scripture. Consider these several instances:

Reference is made to Isaiah 65:17-19 as being an Old Testament passage pointing to a specific time (future to Isaiah), in which is outlined the creation of the new heavens and a new earth. The verse following the selected reference states that in this new creation having come, no longer will people be considered old at an

age of 100, and further, that only those who are cursed will die at that age, with the implication of 100 being an abnormally young age to die. Is there currently any place on earth with evidence of such a lifespan?

Reference is also made to Revelation 21:1,2 as describing our alleged present reality of the New Testament church as the new heavens and the new earth. Two verses later, however, we find the well-known words of Revelation 21:4, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Again, is there any evidence to support this as the current state of either physical or spiritual life?

Finally, reference is made to Revelation 21:9-11 as also descriptive of our present reality. Later we are encouraged to "take literally plain Scripture such as Hebrews 12:22-24," in response to which I suggest taking an equally literal view of the verses following Revelation 21:9-11, which verses give a physical description of the city, stating its size as 1,400 miles in each of three dimensions. Is it reasonable to list physical dimensions of something that is purely spiritual, according to the original proposition?

To each of these questions, the only

answer I see when reading literally these passages (as suggested in the original response) is no.

*Matthew Petersheim, Kalona, IA*

*[Editor's comment: Having heard from several sides of the prophecy question, may I offer this? Both writers have proof texts they point to. Thus, both have Scripture on their side, so to speak. Is it too much to ask that we simply acknowledge that honest souls come to differing conclusions on questions about prophecy and end time events? As I understand it, both persuasions that were presented claim salvation through the merits of Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary. I would not take anything away from that hope for either persuasion. But do we need to have this just right in order go forward on our way to heaven? I am content to know that we now know in part, but then we shall know as we are known. What is now mysterious shall be in the range of our greatly increased understanding then. Glory be to God!]*

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**Re: "Molly," August, 2012**

I just want to express my appreciation for the article, "Molly," written by Bro. Elmer Schrock.

Thank you; it's BEAUTIFUL!

*Matina (Mrs. Javan) Zimmerman,  
Lyndon, KS*



## *Fire on the Family Altar - 2*

*In June, 2012, I wrote “Fire on the Family Altar.” In it I invited participation from readers on maintaining a meaningful family altar. I said I hoped to publish your contributions this fall. Thank you for these helpful responses. —PLM*

I enjoyed the editorial. I grew up as an Amish boy in Middlefield, Ohio, in a home where family worship (daily Bible reading and prayer) was normal.

We are now great grandparents, but when my wife and I were married, an uncle, an Amish minister, said the first piece of furniture in our home needs to be the family altar.

Our practice has been to read a chapter, verse by verse, taking turns, followed by discussion, application, and prayer. In reading 1 Chronicles, our children could at least practice phonics.

Our biggest hindrance has been the ringing telephone. Our solution? Take it off the hook.

What worked well for us was having devotions in the morning after breakfast. If we had overnight visitors, they joined us in worship.

Years ago, we read the book, *Salvation Full and Free*, by D. E. Mast. Otherwise, we always used the Bible.

Some years ago, we were supper guests in a home in another state. After supper, our host said because

of their morning schedule, it doesn't work well for them to have family worship in the morning. So they have their worship in the evening. That evening we joined that family in the living room for a time of worship. After that we visited. What a blessing!

When visiting, we enjoy sitting around other family altars, seeing how they do it. Let's keep the fire burning on the altar!

*Albert Miller, Crossville, TN*

• • • • •

A family altar is very important and very beneficial. “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God” (Col. 3:1). When we rise in the morning our minds are rested and ready to be filled with the new day. To have a time of family worship in the morning is a very good way to start filling those refreshed minds.

A daily schedule for family devotions is important for a Christian family. Our family is still young, with the oldest only eleven years

old. Young children as well as older children can benefit greatly from daily family devotions. That is a great help for the faith to continue from one generation to the next.

We normally eat breakfast before devotions to strengthen the body and finish waking. After breakfast we gather in the living room with everyone who is able to read getting their Bibles. We like to use “Beside the Still Waters” devotional guide. I usually read the article out loud then we open our Bibles to the suggested Bible reading. We take turns reading with each person taking one verse. After the Bible reading, there might be a few questions or comments. Next one of the children passes out song books. We take turns selecting songs, one person per morning. After singing, I ask for prayer requests or suggestions. We close with a kneeling prayer, ending the prayer with everyone helping in the Lord’s Prayer.

The above schedule for family devotions seems to work well for us. I work at home with somewhat of a flexible schedule. We try to allow enough time each morning for a full family devotion but sometimes there is an interruption which causes the need to cut it a little bit short.

Most of our married life I have worked at home or had a job that was reasonably flexible. At one time I worked for someone where

the schedule was more demanding. Even then we tried to maintain our family devotional time. Very likely it is possible in most situations to have time for family devotions. It seems to work best for us in the morning, but could also be done in the evening.

*John Lehman, Roodhouse, IL*



“Fire on the Family Altar” is a worthy subject. The Christian family means much to me. In addition to personal devotions, I feel family devotions are important in our family circle as it creates a love for God and also stability in our home when respectfully conducted in the fear of God.

We realize that our dear children are a gift from God to us to take care of and direct back to God for His honor and glory. What better thing can we do aside from taking them to worship services every Sunday, than to light the family altar whenever we can in our daily schedule?

When I was a day laborer, it was somewhat a struggle to get family devotions done as I left for work early before the children were up. In the evening, it was easy to to come home, relax, do odd jobs, and sometimes go to various church functions. Then we might end up coming home late with the children already falling asleep. But we usually did have time to gather around evenings.

I am now a dairy farmer and



we find time in the morning after breakfast to read and share from God's Word and have prayer.

My dear wife is also a great encouragement to me as she supports family devotions. It is a great time to teach our young children how to be quiet and sit still in a worship service. We feel public worship services are not really a good time to start training children to sit still and be quiet. It can easily be done at home.

Our devotions last from 10 to 15 minutes, with me reading usually one chapter in the Bible, followed with a discussion and then prayer around the breakfast table.

Some obstacles we have faced are ringing phones, or neighbors needing something, or distractions such as farm machinery roaring down the road, or livestock acting up. But we have learned how to take all that for what it is and sometimes we just have to cancel devotions.

We feel it is important for Dad to choose an occupation that enables him to be at home at least some time every day, if possible, to simply be there for his children and make good effort to shoot his quiver of arrows straight for Jesus.

While our children are young we can teach them about God and how to live right. Then when they are older and come to the age of accountability, they have to make their own decisions to a large degree.

Then I feel they will not forget what we as parents taught them.

Let's encourage one another to keep the family altar lighted up.

*Elam L. Nissley, Paris, TN*

• • • • •

What a blessing to read your editorial on the Family Altar. I feel this is a very important subject. I have been blessed growing up in a home with a Family Altar. I tried to make it a high priority in the home that God has blessed me with.

God has blessed our home with five children, the two oldest are boys, ages 11 and 12; the youngest three are girls ages 7, 4, and 1. It's a challenge to have family devotions that fits well for all of them. As time moves on, it seems to become more of a challenge. Here is what we are doing and it seems to work quite well:

We structure our Family Altar time for each day of the week. At the stage our family is in, we do our Family Altar in the evening, just before bed. On Monday evening, we have what we call Girls Night and the girls pick the Bible story they want or read some other kind of inspirational story, such as *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories*. We then close with prayer and a song, if they wish. We also try to open up for requests from anyone each evening, and let the children pray at times.

On Tuesday evening, we read from a series of books call Heroes. These

are stories of missionaries that have blessed many people's lives. We then close with prayer.

On Wednesday evening, we have Bible reading where all that can read take turns reading. We read through a book at a time and usually read 20-30 verses each time. I then try to share some thought from what we just read. We then close in prayer.

On Thursday evening, we call this separate Family Altar. I, as a father, take the boys and we discuss the past week and discuss boy issues. My wife takes the girls and they have their time sharing, singing, reading stories, and so on. I feel this evening is very special and important.

On Friday evening, we let the boys pick what they want to read, and as usual, we close with prayer.

On Saturday evening, we have them do their Sunday School lessons and sometimes use this for devotions.

On Sunday evenings, we read the stories they bring home from Sunday School, such as "Story Mates."

For our family, doing it this way helps us know what to plan for each evening, and also gives a good variety for the ages we are working with.

*Is this different from what we grew up with?* Even though it is much the same, it is a bit different

*What obstacles have we encountered?* Trying to keep things interesting for all ages and not just focusing on the younger ones, but having something

that benefits them all. Balancing that is a challenge.

*Of what benefit is a regular Family Altar?* It is a must. Family life soon falls apart without this time. The children may not express it, but this is a time of bonding for all. We feel it is very important for husband and wife to find their own time together each day reading and praying together before the day starts. The times when my wife and I let this go by, we soon reap the consequences. Husbands and wives must regularly light their altar.

*What solutions have we found?* We have found that to have structure is very important. Plan ahead for a meaningful time. This changes as the children grow.

A question we, as parents, have is: Should we be reading more Scripture in our Family Altar time? We don't want to replace the most important book, God's Word, with other books. We are not perfect by any means and are learning as we go.

May God help us all to have our Family Altars lit. Blessings to all.

*Wendell & Sheri Hochstetler  
Abbeville, SC*



What an appropriate and blessed reminder for the people of God who desire to maintain a daily worship of the God of heaven! For many it will be like Peter wrote in his second epistle (1:12) a stirring up by being

reminded, though established in the practice of a daily family altar. For some it may be a warning to give the more earnest heed to the things that are being neglected, lest there be a negative impact on a family's growing faith in Christ.

To daily gather as a family to sing, read the Bible, and pray can be a big help to maintain the proper "fear of the Lord" throughout the day. To gather in the living room is to distinguish between the natural (eating at the table) and the spiritual (partaking of the Word.)

The following is quoted from the book, *The Home*, by John R. Rice. "If there is a reason for the family eating together, then there is reason for the family to worship together. All the family should take part. The baby should be present in the family circle and taught to listen with reverence. He should learn to bow his head when others pray. I like best the reading of the Word of God chapter by chapter. There ought to be enough Scripture given and carefully attended to, to bless the whole day and to teach something of the will of God and of His dealings with His people. There is great virtue in using the Word of God in its own proper order, and with the context and connotation that God has given to it."

John R. Rice taught that for a child to read the Bible, book by book, and chapter by chapter helps them

recognize context, to interpret the Bible, and helps in knowing where to find something in the Bible.

By the mercy and grace of God some of the blessings that we as a family enjoyed in our morning worship were singing, usually two songs, reading a chapter, taking turns, usually reading two verses at a time, followed by memorization in various ways. I appreciate and support the idea from the editorial that prayer led by Dad or one of the sons on whom Dad called, after the sons reached sufficient maturity and interest.

Most certainly, there is more than one way to keep the fire burning on the family altar. I look with anticipation to learn from others how God led them to find a rewarding time of worship. "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord." We owe them an example of a right sense of values.

*John Mast, Crossville, TN*



I grew up in an Amish family that had regular family devotions. My wife did not, but we agreed to have that as part of our family life. Although we did things very imperfectly, we did have many worthwhile times.

When our children were small we read a chapter in the Bible, verse by verse, every morning after breakfast. In fact, our second daughter learned to read by doing this. She'd follow along and repeat the words as one

of us pointed and said them one by one. Soon she would see that word was like this one and she'd just say it on her own.

Family devotions provided an excellent way for the little ones to learn good behaviors when we were in "real" church, if we required them to sit still while we read the Bible and prayed at home.

Sometimes it was hard to be consistent with devotions as life situations changed. It helped to use variety. For a while, we focused on singing in addition to reading, standing together and going through a song book. We would sing every song we knew, one each morning.

Sometimes we read through books other than the Bible, such as *Hinds Feet on High Places* or *Mountains of Spices* or other allegorical readings that contain spiritual lessons. I would read a chapter each morning. We always had a prayer after the reading time and the children were included in taking turns to pray.

Sometimes we began kneeling in a circle on the living room rug just before going to bed at night. We continued this even after the children were older. Often we spent some time talking about the past day. Sometimes, if we had bad days, we confessed our faults to each other. If some were a bit hyper, I would insist on one minute of absolute silence before we started praying. This

practice became almost as important and routine as eating. Everyone was called and expected to drop what they were doing to join the family circle. It was good discipline as well as a serious time of interaction with our Heavenly Father.

Presently (and for many years again) as husband and wife, we meet early in the morning to talk about needs in ourselves, our church or the neighbors. We have a system whereby we pray for each person in the church: certain families on Monday, others on Tuesday, etc., so that we cover them all each week. I pray for the men and boys and my wife prays for the women and girls.

We agree that a regular family altar is more important than we may realize. It is one of the best ways to consistently teach our families a little about the Heavenly Kingdom, regularly and systematically. Perhaps even more importantly, it is a regular way they can see their parents interact with that Kingdom. Is it possible to effectively teach those who follow us the importance of spiritual interaction with the Kingdom of God without regular demonstrations of it? Of course, we can also do some of this with them as we/they encounter the experiences of life throughout the day.

It would be a shame if a large percent of a family's altar time were boring. We didn't always successfully

come to every family altar experience with the same amount of honesty and hunger. But it's probably true that the main spirit/attitude about family altar time that is demonstrated by the parents is picked up by the children.

And, yes, we are writing as grandparents. It would have been

nice to see all this more clearly 45 years ago. We look forward to reading about the experiences of others.

*Elmer & Lovina Gingerich,*

*Mountain View, AR*



## *Israel Report*

*Donnavon Graber*

**T**he Israeli Supreme Court sits in a magnificent building near the Knesset surrounded by stately gardens. Recently a friend gave me a seven-hour personal tour of its halls and courts. There is something impressive about the corridors of power. However, in an age when courts and governments are defining evil as good and good as evil, it is helpful to remember that the people of the highest court of any land will finally answer to the High Judge.

Even in Jerusalem, there is great pressure to accept evil as good. This past Friday the annual gay rights parade was held, ending a quarter mile from our house and accompanied by great security. In 2005, a Jewish extremist stabbed several parade marchers. This most certainly wasn't Jesus' way of dealing with sin. When the divorce rate in

much of the religious community is higher than the surrounding culture's rate and other forms of unfaithfulness are the expected norm, maybe we should recognize that such marches are only the very small tip of the iceberg of evil and really shouldn't be our chief concern.

From our living room windows we enjoy a beautiful panorama of Jerusalem. One of the first things to greet our eyes is a cross silhouetted against the sky, sprouting from the top of a church tower. This cross that should capture the essence of the crucified life has also been used to justify much evil done in the name of Christ. Muslims and Jews today describe the crusaders as "the people of the cross." This description was earned because the crusaders indiscriminately killed Muslims and Jews under the banner of the cross because they were not the "chosen" people.

Our rented house has an Arabic inscription above the main entrance, giving voice to the fact that before 1948 the house and neighborhood was Arab, before it was captured by Israel. This is so recent that the original owners of the house may still be alive and could even show up at our doorstep asking to be let across the threshold. This thought leaves us a bit uncomfortable.

How would Jesus live in today's world? Maybe our focus needs to move from the negative and obvious results of man's sin to the Good News of the Messiah's victory over death, sin, and hell—once for all! After all, the world's fundamental problems

haven't changed in the last 2,000 years.

Our house is situated somewhere along the same mountain ridge from which Abraham most likely "lifted up his eyes" and saw Mount Moriah in the distance as he trudged to the appointed place to sacrifice his only son. This story is the crystallizing demonstration of the faith of Abraham. In today's world more than ever we need this same faith to live in the reality of our Lord's victory. *"Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"* (Luke 18:8).

[Excerpted from a letter written from Jerusalem, August 5, 2012.] 

## *Melody in Your Heart*

*Timothy J. Myers, Keysville, GA*

*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (Ephesians 5:19).*

**O**ur Sunday evening service was a lovely evening devoted to singing songs, mostly focused on Jesus Christ. I can still hear some of them this morning: "O praise the Lord, all ye nations..." "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts..." "Man of sorrows, what a name, for the Son of God who came...Hallelujah, what a Savior!" "My soul is thrilled,

*my heart is filled, to think He died for me!" "When the ransomed get home..."*

Songs of Christ's deity, His love, His sacrifice, His return, His glory—their themes came into sharper focus when our leader reminded us that our singing needs to come from a "melody in your heart."

I mused on that term. How does melody come from the heart? A

cappella music comes from vocal chords, from a group of people singing different parts which harmonize. What does a melody from the heart sound like?

Ah, but it makes perfect sense. You see, God speaks the language of the heart. Just as some animals can hear pitches that we humans cannot, so God hears the music of the heart even though we cannot. In fact, God is so in tune with the heart and its message that in His ears the music of the heart completely drowns out the music of song sheet and choir. A rough-hewn voice that cannot carry a tune can sing from the heart a song with perfect pitch that completely harmonizes with the heart of God.

While only God can see another person's heart, we can certainly understand something of our own by how we approach singing.

On what do I focus when I sing? On the sound of the group, my own voice, distractions, the words, the music, the leader?

While all of these may call for some attention, of more importance is the melody of the heart. That is what is truly sung; that is what God hears. Is the song of our hearts what we want to "send" to God? Here are some heart songs that we should eliminate:

"Why did he choose that worn-out song?"


"I hit those notes and the timing very well. I wonder if A noticed."

"B sings so poorly."

"It seems that the song leader would realize that this should be sung a little faster."

A song sung from the heart in a way that reflects the tenor of its message, on the other hand, will inspire the singer and the listener, and bring honor to God.

Our musical heritage has left us a rich repertoire of songs worthy of our singing. Let's sing them well, but more importantly, let us sing their message from our hearts.

[From *Life Lines*, July-August, 2012. Used by permission.] 

***Backsliding typically doesn't come from a "blowout," but from a "slow leak."***

## marriages

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

### **Martin-Baker**

Bro. Willie, son of Willis, Jr. and Lois Martin, Wellsboro, PA, and Sis. Melva, daughter of David and Erma Baker, Concord, AR, at the Baptist church in Mountain View, AR, for Shady Lawn Church, August 18, 2012, by Elmer Gingerich.

### **Otto-Yoder**

Bro. Merlin Wayne, son of Omer and Lorene Otto, Humboldt, IL, and Sis. Luetta Elaine, daughter of Wilmer and Rosemary Yoder, Sullivan, IL, at Otto Center for Trinity Christian Fellowship on March 24, 2012, by Wilbur Gingerich.

### **Stoltzfus-Stoltzfus**

Bro. Glendon, son of Ivan and Barbie Ann Stoltzfus, New Holland, PA, and Sis. Rhoda, daughter of Reuben and Sadie Stoltzfus, Morgantown, PA, at Conestoga Mennonite Church for Summitview Christian Fellowship, on April 28, 2012, by Elmer Stoltzfus.

### **Yoder-Farmwald**

Bro. Lynn Marcus, son of Ernest and Clara Mae Yoder, Humboldt, IL, and Sis. Regina, daughter of David and Irene Farmwald, Arthur, IL, at Sunnyside Church for Trinity Christian Fellowship on July 21, 2012, by Wilbur Gingerich.

### **Yoder-Mast**

Bro. Stuart, son of Glen and Connie Yoder, Mountain View, AR, and Sis. Julia, daughter of Stanley and Edna Mast, Concord, AR, at the Baptist church in Mountain View, AR, for Shady Lawn, on May 5, 2012, by Elmer Gingerich.

### **Yoder-Troyer**

Bro. Caleb, son of Oren and Joanna Yoder, Partridge, KS, and Sis. Sherilyn, daughter of Vernon and Leona Troyer, Plain City, OH, on August 4, 2012, at United Bethel Mennonite for Haven Fellowship Church by Lonnie Beachy.

## cradle roll

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

**Beachy**, Daniel and Salina (Kanagy), Winfield, PA, sixth child, fourth dau., Aleah Grace, July 6, 2012.

**Beiler**, Donald and Sarah (Hostetler), Paradise, PA, who had two children (one son and one daughter) previously, added three children, Lavon Ray and Lorinda Elizabeth, twins, born May 14, 2008, and Amy Joanna, born Oct. 3, 2008. These three were received for adoption August 9, 2012.

**Byers**, Steven and Janelle (Glick), Stanardsville, VA, third and fourth children, first and second sons, Nicholas Alec and Grant Tyrone, August 5, 2012.



**Byler**, Lavern and Cheryl (Yoder), Whiteville, TN, second child and son, Dustin Lavern, July 12, 2012.

**Coblentz**, Jonathan and Sarah (Wagler), Oskaloosa, KS, third child, second son, Derik Laverne, August 14, 2012.

**Chupp**, Ivan and Carol (Mast), Holmesville, OH, second child, first son, Kentlyn Paul, May 25, 2012.

**Earl**, Matthew and Kristy (Wadsworth), Laurelville, OH, first child and dau., Hosanna Elizabeth, Aug. 19, 2012.

**Eash**, Steven and Anna Louise (Byler), Whiteville, TN, third child, second son, Darius Steve, July 14, 2012.

**Gingerich**, Gabe and Gwen (Stoll), Advance, MO, first child and dau., Lindsay Raine, August 1, 2012.

**Glick**, John D. and Martha (Stoltzfus), Philadelphia, PA, second child and dau., Sophia Rose, August 2, 2012.

**Hamilton**, Nicholas and Shae (Heft), Harrison, AR, first child and son, Braden Josiah, August 2, 2012.

**Helmuth**, Anthony and Amber (Upchurch), Whiteville, TN, first child and dau., Sophia Joy, August 1, 2012.

**Hershberger**, Darrel and Allison (Funk), Stuarts Draft, VA, second child and son, William Patrick, August 7, 2012.

**Hostetler**, Andrew and Joanna (Mast), Owenton, KY, fourth child and son, Kendall Eric, May 10, 2012.

**Hostetler**, Bruce and Amber (Troyer), London, OH, second child, first son, Elliot Daniel, August 22, 2012.

**Lamon**, Brad and Jennifer (Miller), Clarkson, KY, fifth child, fourth son, Adin Benjamin, July 27, 2012.

**Mast**, Elson and Beth (Zimmerman), Harrison, AR, first child and son, Ellis Wayne, March 14, 2012, received for adoption March 26, 2012.

**Miller**, Evangel and JoAnne (Brenneman), Honey Grove, PA, third child, first son, (stillborn), Angelo David, Aug. 5, 2012.

**Miller**, James and Robin (Mast), Clarkson, KY, second child and dau., Lana Gail, August 21, 2012.

**Miller**, Randy and Carrie (Lavy), Harrison, AR, eighth child, sixth son, Derek Wade, August 25, 2012.

**Overholt**, Jordan and Dorothy (Byler), Whiteville, TN, first child and dau., Delaney Anne, July 6, 2012.

**Plank**, Delmer and Carol (Yoder), Dale, TX, fourth child, second son, Brent Devon, August 31, 2012.

**Stoltzfoos**, Dwight and Brenda (Peter-  
sheim), Gap, PA, fourth child, third dau.,  
Savannah Joy, August 5, 2012.

**Stoltzfus**, Mark and Linda (Stoltzfus),  
Morgantown, PA, fifth child, third dau.,  
Kylia Jewel, August 8, 2012.

**Stoltzfus**, Michael and Lia (Yuliana),  
Chiang Mai, Thailand, second child and  
dau., Tiara Nadine, August 4, 2012.

**Stoltzfus**, Tim and Sara (Ropp), Har-  
rison, AR, eighth child, fifth dau., Krista  
Grace, July 23, 2012.

**Stoppel**, Arthur and Vanessa (Milam),  
Hindsville, AR, sixth child, third son,  
Morrell Edward, June 29, 2012.

**Troyer**, Melvin and Laura (Yoder),  
Wolcottville, IN, second child, first son,  
Carson Lamar, August 11, 2012.

**Wagler**, John David and Susan (Sum-  
my), Leon, IA, sixth child, first son,  
Japheth David, June 16, 2012.

**Wengerd**, James and Gail (Mast),  
Summersville, KY, first child and dau.,  
Jasmine Rain, June 22, 2012.

**Yoder**, Jerry and Rose (Miller), Haven,  
KS, fourth child, first son, Jonathan Da-  
vid, August 11, 2012.

**Yoder**, Lavon and Diane (Wengerd),  
Clarkson, KY, second child, first son,  
Kenton Alex, July 5, 2012.

**Yoder**, Steve and Carolyn (Fisher),  
Mifflintown, PA, sixth child, third son,  
Cedrick Hans, July 18, 2012.

## obituaries

**Guitierrez**, Rogelio M., "Rojo," 30, of  
Killbuck, OH, died at his home as a result  
of an accident on July 2, 2012. He was  
born Nov. 12, 1981, in Spanish Lookout,  
Belize, the son of Dario and Esperanza  
(Alcantara) Guitierrez.

He was a member of Cayo Christian  
Fellowship church where he was or-  
dained minister in 2005 and where he  
served until moving to Ohio in 2011. He  
worked as a mechanic at Eash Repair in  
Utica, OH.

On July 27, 2007, he was married to  
Linda Eicher. She survives. Surviving  
are two children of the home: Vance and  
Kaleigh. Also surviving are his parents,  
three brothers: Irbin (Gladys) Guitierrez,  
Emanuel Guitierrez and Albin Guitierrez,  
all of Spanish Lookout, BZ; one sister,  
Cindy (Kenton) Plett, Spanish Lookout,  
BZ; and two step brothers. He was pre-  
ceded in death by one sister.

The funeral was held at Gospel Haven  
Mennonite Church, Benton, OH, on July

7, with Marcus Yoder officiating. Burial was in Eicher Cemetery.

**Kinsinger, Thelma J.** (Petersheim), 76, of Oakland, MD, died June 15, 2012, at home. She was born August 23, 1935, in Meyersdale, PA, daughter of the late Jonas G. and Lydia C. (Zook) Petersehim.

She was a member of Mountain View Mennonite Church, Salisbury, PA. She served the Lord as a quiet, friendly homemaker.

On August 11, 1953, she was married to Noah D. Kinsinger. He survives. She is also survived by two sons: Paul N., of the home; Henry N. and wife Rhoda, Oakland; and four daughters: Naomi N. Kinsinger and Miriam N. Kinsinger, of the home; Lydia Irene and husband Merlin Slabaugh, Hamptonville, NC; Marie N. and husband William Slabaugh, Worthington, IN; two brothers, Noah J. Petersheim and wife Viola, Warrenton, VA; Henry J. Petersheim, and wife Marie, Abbeville, SC, two sisters, Annie J. Fisher, Salisbury, PA; Edna J. Swartzentruber, Hamptonville, NC, and 13 grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by one sister, Mildred Yoder.

The funeral was held at Mountain View church on June 17, with Jerry Yoder, David Kauffman, Simon N. Schrock, and Merlin Beachy serving. Menno Yoder conducted the committal at the church cemetery.

**Miller, Angelo David**, was stillborn August 5, 2012. His parents are Evangel

and JoAnne (Brenneman) Miller, of Honey Grove, PA. He is survived by two sisters, Annette and Katrina; grandparents: Donnie and Naomi Brenneman and Harold Dean and Ruth Miller.

The funeral was held at Shade Mt. Christian Fellowship on Aug. 6, with Nathan Fisher, Daniel Brenneman, and Daniel Fisher serving. Burial was in the church cemetery.

**Miller, Edna Irene** (Roth), 87, of Stuarts Draft, VA, died on June 5, 2012, at her residence after a courageous battle with cancer. She was born May 12, 1925, to the late Samuel and Catherine (Brenneman) Roth at Wellesley, ON. She was married 34 years to Eli J. Miller of Stuarts Draft, VA, who preceded her in death in 2008.

She was a member of Pilgrim Christian Fellowship at Stuarts Draft, VA. She was an active person who was known to enjoy the simple things in life, such as gardening and collecting seashells. She had a caring spirit that was expressed in caring for others, especially in caring for her husband in their sunset years.

She is survived by two sisters: Mildred (Lorne Rupert), Stratford, ON; Esther Roth, Lisbon, ON; two brothers: Nelson (Katie Gerber) Roth, Wellesley, ON; Kenneth Roth, Exeter, ON; two nephews, three nieces, 11 great nieces and nephews, and five great great nieces and nephews.

The funeral was held on June 8, with Bennie Byler, Marvin Yoder and Simon Schrock serving. John Beiler conducted the committal in the church cemetery.

**Miller**, Rosanne “Rosy” (Nisly), 53, died unexpectedly on July 30, 2012, at the University of Virginia Hospital in Charlottesville. She was born August 29, 1958, in Litchfield, MN, daughter of Moses and Mary (Wengerd) Nisly, of Shreve, OH, who survive.

She was a member of Pilgrim Christian Fellowship, Stuarts Draft. She was a dedicated Christian, a loving wife and mother who took special pleasure in keeping in touch with her children. Other joys included sewing, babysitting, bird watching, and especially singing.

On Feb. 21, 1981, she was married to Allen Miller, who survives. Also surviving are children: Rosemary Dawn and Nelson Schrock, missionaries in Haiti; Kenneth Eugene, missionary in Haiti; Randy Lee and Sharon (Zook), Stuarts Draft; Rolanda Joy, of the home, and one grandchild, Heidi Anne “Lovli,” daughter of Nelson and Rosemary Schrock. Sisters surviving are Ruth (Samuel) Kropf, Halsey, OR; Martha Hershberger, Holmesville, OH; Miriam (Monroe) Chupp, Waynesboro, VA; brothers surviving are Mark (Ella) Nisly, Fredericktown, OH; and Michael (Rose) Nisly, Shreve, OH.

She was preceded in death by a son, Dale Allen in 2001, a brother-in-law, Stanley Hershberger, and a nephew.

The funeral was held on August 2, with Simon Schrock, Bennie Byler, and Abe Yoder serving. David Yoder and Duane Weaver served in the committal at the church cemetery.

**Overholt**, Victor, 88, of Minerva, OH, died August 1, 2012, at Mercy Medical Center, Canton, OH. He was born Sept. 23, 1923, son of the late Simon and Mary Magdalena (Stoll) Overholt.

He was a faithful member of Christian Fellowship Church, Minerva. He was a farmer and brick mason by trade.

He is survived by Judy (Miller) his wife of 11 years, to whom he was married on July 14, 2001. He was first married to Emma Raber on March 22, 1945. She died Dec. 16, 1999. Their surviving children are: Ruth (Johnny) Miller, Minerva; Lena (Olen) Yoder, Minerva; JoAnn (Chris) Inhulsen, Montezuma, GA; Delilah (Lonnie) Beachy, Plain City, OH; Judy (David) Miller, Minerva; Fred (Bernadine) Overholt, East Rochester, OH; Leon (Ida) Overholt, Taylorsville, NC; David (Wilma) Overholt, Minerva; and Dwayne (Kathy) Overholt, Salisbury, PA; a sister, Fannie (Simon) Sommers, Hartville, OH, 41 grandchildren, 50 great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his first wife, Emma; daughter, Vera Overholt, son Michael Overholt, and seven brothers: Jerome, John, Fred, Abner, Ben, and Francis Overholt.

The funeral was held at Christian Fellowship Church on August 5, with Joel Gingerich, Johnny Miller and Lonnie Beachy serving. Burial was in the church cemetery.

**Tice**, Sarah J., 88, of Salisbury, PA, died June 23, 2012, at Meyersdale

Medical Center, Meyersdale, PA. She was born July 13, 1923, at Kempsville, VA, daughter of the late Jacob and Fannie (Kinsinger) Swartzentruber.

Sarah was a member of Mountain View Mennonite Church, Salisbury, PA. She enjoyed helping people, had a grateful spirit, and was a faithful supporter of the sewing circle.

On August 29, 1948, she was married to Monroe J. Tice, who preceded her in death in November, 2005. Surviving are seven sons: Ezra Tice and wife Joan, Gettysburg, PA, Jacob Tice and wife Marlene, Newberry, FL; Laban Tice and wife Julia; Ephraim Tice and wife Carolyn, all of Springs, PA; Reuben Tice and wife Carol; Aaron Tice and wife Dorothy, all of Grantsville, MD, Enos Tice and wife Carolyn, Salisbury, PA; one daughter, Orpha and husband James Smucker, Harrisburg, OR; one brother Crist Swartzentruber and one sister Mary Swartzentruber, both of Grantsville, MD; 15 grand children and five great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Nancy Swartzentruber and a daughter-in-law, Irene (Yoder) Tice.

The funeral was held on June 26 at Mountain View church with Jerry Yoder and Menno Yoder serving. Burial was in the church cemetery, with Merlin Beachy conducting the committal.

**Yoder, Alton J.**, 75, of Meyersdale, PA, died June 4, 2012, at his residence. He was born Dec. 4, 1936, son of the late John A. and Mary W. (Byler) Yoder. A hard-working dairy farmer and a wise business man, Alton faithfully provided for his family and was generous toward anyone in need.

He was a member of Mountain View Mennonite Church. He taught Sunday School class, served as a church trustee and board member of Mountain View Christian School for many years.

On Oct. 3, 1957, he was married to Naomi Stoltzfus. She survives. Other survivors include four sons: Vernon D. Yoder and wife Eleanor, Meyersdale, PA; Victor Yoder and wife Kimberly, Huntersville, NC; Kevin R. Yoder and wife Erika, Pittsburgh, PA, Keith J. Yoder and wife Debra, Centreville, VA; three daughters: Edith A. Yoder, Meyersdale, PA; Regina S. Yoder and husband Lyndon, Huntersville, NC; Connie L. Lapp and husband Jason, Narvon, PA; two brothers: William Yoder and wife Lydia, Unionville, MO; Daniel and wife Lois, Charlotte, NC; and a sister Lydia Bender and husband Albert, Oakland, MD; 17 grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

The funeral was held Mountain View church on June 7, with Merlin Beachy and Henry Tice serving. Joe Byler, Alton's cousin, conducted the committal at the church cemetery.



*A great deal of what we see depends on  
what we are looking for.*

According to *Time* (8-20-12), gun violence in America is off the charts compared to any other country on the planet. The gun homicide rate per capita is 30 times greater than in Britain or Australia. National Rifle Association (NRA) has become a formidable political influence which demands the attention of all who hold elective office. According to this article, NRA has become increasingly demanding during the last 30-40 years. They have invalidated most safeguards for firearms that earlier statesmen had put in place.

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Andrew E. Miller, Sugarcreek, OH, sent me an article on the subject of their local Pomerene health care facility who at some point became aware that certain Amish patients from their area were going outside of the county for better prices for medical services. CEO Tony Snyder decided to make a serious effort to address this problem. His efforts are proving successful.

They have established an Amish Service Program and created 200 self-pay packages on elective procedures that have competitive pricing. Laura

Schlabach has become a full-time Amish advocate. She is credited with doing a wonderful job. They are now attracting price-conscious patients from outside the area. They have had patients from New Mexico, Idaho, Wyoming, and New York for elective surgeries.

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Much of life is uneventful and predictable. But an ordinary life need not be boring. Interaction with fellow humans can become the occasion for learning and observation. As followers of Christ, we idealize being living examples that point others to Christ. We do like to be in charge of our plans and our surroundings. I recently experienced the sudden loss of this luxury.

After experiencing a miserable, nearly sleepless night on July 28, Sunday morning found me being taken to an emergency room, instead of going to church. Talk about a change of plans and brand new surroundings! The medical staff was very kind and helpful. We felt fortunate that our family doctor was on duty for the weekend.

It was soon determined that I had an intestinal blockage. X-rays did not

offer further clarity. A CAT scan done late Monday revealed a suspicious-looking growth in the colon. Our family doctor wanted to schedule surgery as soon as possible. Surgery the next day confirmed the suspicion that a malignant tumor was causing the blockage.

The surgeon removed the malignant mass with about a foot of colon. They felt the surgery went well. Recovery from major surgery to remove a major blockage is a major experience. It is an ongoing experience and the Great Healer is faithful.

It is interesting how many people are eager to share similar personal experiences as friends. Frailty of the flesh is the common lot of the human family. Following are random reflections and observations that I hope will interest at least some readers:

The strong support of biological and church family was much appreciated. This included many non-locals. It was almost overwhelming.

The surgeon was a likeable young man apparently highly trained and gifted. He was at the top of a very solid chain of command. No one is ethically free to “defy doctor’s orders.” There are some outstanding (and many good) employees in the system.

One of the aides was especially

outgoing and helpful. She was eager to do the extra and unnoticed. Although she has been involved in health care for 25 years, she is not an RN, but an aide. Her explanation was that she feels there are “too many chiefs and not enough Indians.” She is obviously a favorite among her peers.

It is common knowledge that there are cases of serious tension between medical orthodoxy and alternate possibilities. It seems to me that both have sometimes been guilty of irrational antagonism. We did not sense any of this from the surgeon or the oncologist. The oncologist was a clean cut, likeable young man from Lebanon. He has recommendations that are admittedly orthodox. But he is very open to monitor my case in any event. Highly trained doctors are human too. Some are more aware of this than others.

I would appreciate your continued prayers for complete healing. Also I want to have a teachable spirit to learn what God wants to teach me.

A prominent memory from my hospital stay is the night times. I never experienced acute pain, but most nights were not very restful. There are two nights that stand apart from the others. The one was pure pleasure. I slept restfully the entire time. I was looking forward to repeat that the following night.

For no apparent reason, sleep simply did not come. My mind was not sleepy. My thoughts were drawn to a well-known passage of Scripture. Eventually, there emerged a three-point message, complete with title and subtitle. If I ever preach at Center Church again, I will want to bring that message. I felt God kept me awake for a reason.



Recent mail includes several lengthy *Newsweek* articles, sent by Linda Miller, Huntsville, AR., highlighting the seriousness of electronic misuse in our time. The addictive potential of electronic media devices is more damaging than is often realized. The computer is like electronic cocaine fueling cycles of manic, followed by depressive stretches. Psychologist Larry Rose says it encourages and even promotes insanity. The brains of the internet addict are like the brain of a drug and alcohol addict. Much more could be said, but the need to be guarded and accountable can hardly be over emphasized.

A local columnist reports that “internet use disorder” will be listed for the first time in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Another report says that the over use of thumbs for texting, in some cases, damages the thumb.



The July issue of *Calvary Messenger* had my article entitled, “A Look at Christian Counseling.” One reader had words of affirmation, but also expressed his concern that there are many unmet needs for counseling in our circles. This writer had credible, personal experience to support his concern. His was a sad case of a person whose lustful thoughts became a way of life. Some sinful acts are also illegal. So this person was arrested in a “sting” operation and is now serving a prison sentence for cultivating an illegal interest.

After his arrest, before he began serving a five-year sentence, a surprising number of men came to him to express their struggle with secret sin. It seems that pornography was commonly a prominent feature of their problems.

Having an ongoing struggle with pornography calls for spiritual cleansing. Repentance (godly sorrow) is a first step. Confessing the sin is essential. Very often reaching out to another person for accountability and prayer support is a great help. It is not God’s will that any should perish, or continue in sin.

“...Let us cleanse our selves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Cor. 7:1).



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We are looking forward to having two, four-week CASP projects in January and February of 2013. We have a few volunteers, but we need more. We remember that former volunteers have told us that they would be willing to recommend the

experience to their peers. We will also need additional staff couples. So, leaders, dads, and young men, why not give serious attention to this opportunity for short-term Christian service? Others have been glad they did.

—DLM 

## *The Chick-fil-A Episode*

*Simon Schrock, Catlett, VA*

**T**he Chick-fil-A episode became a national news story. It reminded me of the biblical account of Joseph who was sold to slave traders by the brothers who hated him. Their hatred took him away from home and put him into slavery, then prison, and on to becoming a ruler in Egypt. Some 20 years later, his brothers went to Egypt to buy food. They unknowingly had to deal with their brother, Joseph. In a very emotional reunion, Joseph told his brothers, “Ye thought evil against me, but God meant it for good...to save much people alive” (Gen. 50:20).

Dan Cathy, president of Chick-fil-A expressed his convictions about gay “marriage.” He was unapologetically in favor of traditional marriage. He stated, “We are very supportive of the family—the biblical definition of the

family unit. We are a family-owned business, a family-led business, and we are married to our first wives. We give God thanks for that.”

This wove its way to the national media that reported another significant statement by Cathy, “I think we are inviting God’s judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at Him and say, ‘We know better than You do as to what constitutes a marriage.’ I pray God’s mercy on our generation that has such a prideful, arrogant attitude to think that we would have the audacity to try to redefine what marriage is all about.”

After Cathy’s statements went public, there was an immediate strong negative reaction from the gay community, the liberal press and politicians across the nation. Mayors in cities from east

to west and in between vowed to make efforts to block Chick-fil-A from opening restaurants in their respective communities. The company was accused of disrespect to fellow neighbors and residents of being bigoted and homophobic. The reaction was not made with the good of Chick-fil-A in mind. They meant it for evil.

Several interesting twists happened that can be seen for good. A “good” thing came from the media frenzy. Mike Huckabee, former governor of Arkansas, urged the public to show their support for Chick-fil-A by patronizing the chain of restaurants on August 1. It was called “Appreciation Day.” The turnout of support was overwhelmingly strong. From our office window at Choice Books, we could see traffic lined up at Chick-fil-A across the road. The place was packed all day and into evening until closing time. It was encouraging to see the crowds show support for the company’s stand. The company reported that supporters who flocked to the restaurant on Appreciation Day propelled the company to a “record-setting day.” What was meant to hurt the company turned into a record-setting “good” day.

Another exciting twist was the news story of a man who wanted


to show his disfavor of Chick-fil-A’s position. He drove to the drive-through window, ordered only a cup of water, and was very rude and nasty to the young lady serving. He videoed the whole encounter and posted it on *youtube* where it was later removed and he was fired from his CFO position for his actions. The report emphasized how she kept her “cool” and was very kind and respectful in response. What kept her so calm and collected? She explained it this way: “I am a Christian.” This rude encounter had its “good” side. The world was given a Christian message.

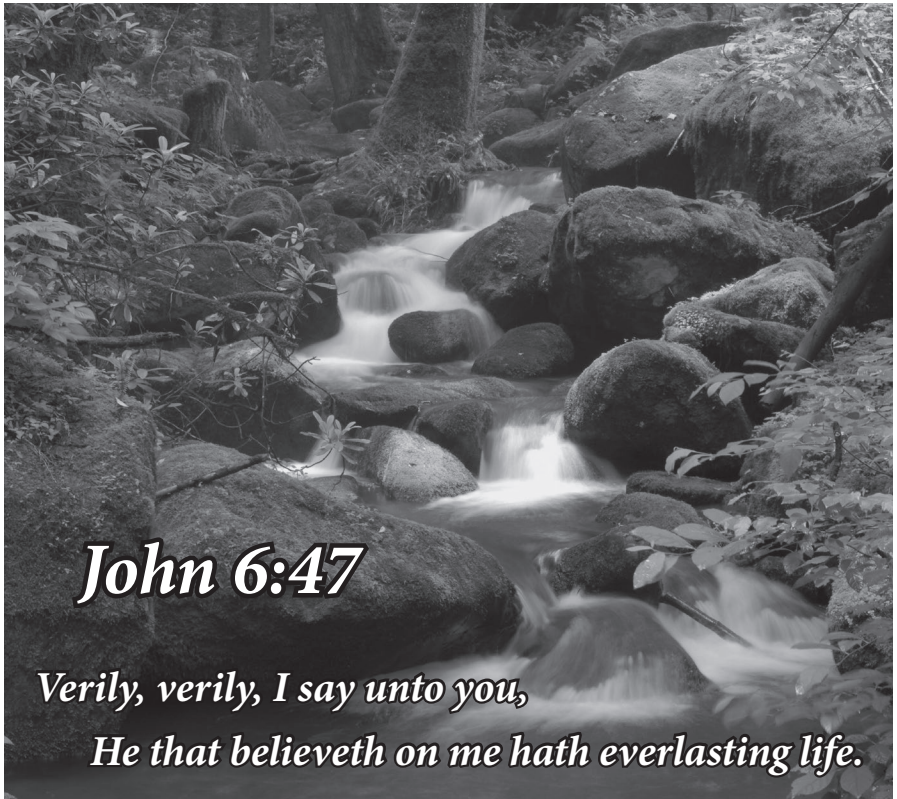
The news media repeated in broadcast and print what Mr. Cathy said. This really got the message of God’s principles in the Bible broadcast nationwide. People reading these stories were reminded of God’s definition of marriage. This was followed by a top story of comments by Billy Graham. He said, “Each generation faces different issues and challenges, but our standard must always be measured by God’s Word. I appreciate the Cathy family’s public support of God’s definition of marriage.” So while the negative reaction was not meant for good, could it have a good result? Could the Holy Spirit reinforce this statement in people’s minds and remind them of

this sin against God?

The Bible says, “For the Word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12). I’m still rejoicing that this message was given with the help of the news media and was sent across the nation at no financial cost to Bible-believing Christians. It reminds me of a statement by the Apostle Paul, “Some indeed preach

Christ even of envy and strife...” (Philippians 1:16).

So, thanks to these men for speaking God’s will. Thanks to the media for splashing it in front of the nation—even if it wasn’t meant for good. Imagine what the Spirit of God can do with the truth of His Word in the hearts of the critics! The Spirit can bring conviction by the quick and powerful Word of God. I’m still praying that the Spirit of God will use this for “good” in expanding the Kingdom of Christ. How about including this in your prayers? 



***John 6:47***

*Verily, verily, I say unto you,*

*He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.*

# *Harp on the Willows*

*(Psalm 137:2)*

*By Suzigrace*

I hung my harp on the willow  
My harp, my joy, my song.  
I'm captive, bound and wasted,  
So much in life is wrong.

I still can praise my Savior,  
In moments here or there.  
But somehow these clouds of struggle  
Make me feel lost somewhere.

Our evil foe is contrary  
To notes of victory.  
Repeat attacks roll in. Remind me,  
Christ's name and power set free!

While life's cares, heartaches and troubles  
Join hands to bog me down.  
My pilgrimage hears singing  
God's Word points to the crown.

I take my harp down from the willow,  
There's a song even for the night.  
"New strength, O Father, for the weary!"  
My God has made it right.



## *A Life of Mission Endeavor*

**C**hristian “Chris” and Emma Swartzentruber were born and raised in Kalona, Iowa. This story reveals the movement of the Holy Spirit among our plain people toward mission work in the mid-twentieth century. Many lessons can be drawn from this couple’s pursuit of God’s will.

In 1959, some of our family went from Harrison, Arkansas, to Mountain View and the Shady Lawn Church. Crossing on the water-current propelled ferry on the White River at Calico Rock was indeed a memorable event for this curious fifteen-year-old boy.

Route 5 was a gravel road. We visited Manassas Bontrager’s church and stayed in their home overnight. I was fascinated with the simple lifestyle of the rural Ozark residents. Other things I noticed were the beauty of the rocks behind the house, a milk cow, chickens, and cooked oatmeal for breakfast. The oats had been grown and prepared on their farm.

But the highlight of the trip was the visit with Chris and Emma Swartzentruber and their family. We were warmly welcomed into their home. I sensed a deep love for God from this family. It was clear that they were willing to make sacrifices for Christ and others. It was said that Chris’ spiritual influence set off revival in some people and churches in the community.

Bro. Chris died in Costa Rica on May 14, 2012. (See Obituaries, August, 2012)) His sweet-seasoned testimony for his Redeemer and his love for missions live on. Here are some of his memoirs:

-FS

### **Memoirs of Chris and Emma Swartzentruber**

Chris Swartzentruber (1924-2012)

As an Amish man my interest was stirred toward missions by often reading *Martyr’s Mirror* and also a booklet by Harold S. Bender, entitled, *The Anabaptist Vision*. Other writings that influenced me

were the periodicals my parents subscribed to, such as *Gospel Herald*, *Youth Christian Companion*, and *Herold der Wahrheit*. Reading about the Mennonites' first foreign mission effort in India and hearing about experiences of Civilian Public Service (CPS) men also broadened my vision of missions.

In the summer of 1945, while working in the oat harvest for a Mennonite man, I read an article which greatly touched my heart. A young boy sensed a call to the mission field but was advised not to waste his musical abilities in heathen lands, so he studied and practiced and was just ready to begin his career as a popular musician. Then in an art gallery, he saw a beautiful picture with shocks of golden wheat in even rows. As the words of Jesus came to his mind from John 12:24, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." He was moved to offer himself as a missionary, after all.

I, too, felt moved as I worked in the harvest field and pondered the words of Jesus. However, I felt so ignorant, thinking I would probably need to leave the Amish church in order to attend college in preparation for the mission field. This would surely mean termination

of my courtship with Emma Miller and grieve my parents. I dropped those feeling and thoughts and we were married in 1946.

We felt led to sign up for Voluntary Service under Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) in March, 1949. Although our parents were quite opposed, we suggested that if there was an opening for us in the March 1<sup>st</sup> group, we would take that as the Lord's leading for us to go. If MCC would place us in the next group (they had orientation every two months), we would take that as a negative from the Lord. Everything was lined up for us to come on March 1<sup>st</sup>. But the day we were planning to store our furniture, news came that they had postponed this group for one month, but wanted us to work at the clothing center until the April 1<sup>st</sup> orientation. However, facing opposition, we just asked to be excused.

As I observed those who returned from CPS and others who volunteered under MCC, I became aware that our plain lifestyle need not be a hindrance. Several of us younger couples appealed to our sympathetic bishop to see if he could help us if we would move out in a new area to start a mission. He did not think he should help us, but several weeks later, he assured us that he wouldn't want to

discourage such a move.

When the first Amish mission conference was held in Kalona, Iowa, in 1951, I felt hopeful that a mission movement would begin among the Amish like the early Anabaptists. Those of us who showed this interest were accused of only wanting material things such as cars, electricity, and so on. In 1952, tent revival meetings were held in Kalona with a powerful speaker, Howard Hammer, as evangelist. Many of us attended. During those two weeks, 25 couples (mostly Mennonites) responded to a call for dedication to mission work. Two years later, the Mennonite churches again had tent meetings with many receiving the Lord and making commitments to Him. By this time, the other Amish couples who shared our convictions felt they couldn't move out because of financial obligations. One evening after the service at the revival meetings, I shared with Howard Hammer personally about our desire to move into a needy mission field, but that no one was willing to go along. Brother Hammer said, "Go alone! The Lord will send others eventually."

The work at Hillcrest Home in Harrison, Arkansas, was operating by this time and some of our close kin were serving there. Our thoughts

naturally went in that direction.

After hearing about the drought in the Ozarks in 1954, Harley Miller agreed to go with me, using his pickup to take oats and canned food to share with several mission stations. We drove to Mountain Home, Arkansas, where Clarence Horst was pastoring a Mennonite mission. We unloaded part of our cargo there. In talking with Clarence about our desire to move into some needy area where there is no church, he wondered under what mission board we would be serving. He was surprised when I explained that we were planning to go on our own. He said that would be impossible financially. That night I stayed on my knees for a long time, praying, "Lord, is this foolish? Shouldn't we think of making such a move?"

The next day we drove on to Calico Rock, crossed the White River on a ferry, and arrived at the Manassas Bontrager home. Manassas' response was quite different when I shared the purpose of our trip. He said, "Yes, there are areas where they need a witness. I'll go with you to look for a community." The Lord led us south of Mountain View to Ben, Arkansas. Here we discovered the former Ben Store and Post Office, with 20 acres for sale by Willie Bonds, who had moved out of the community

because he was separated from his wife. The house was empty. No one was around. So we drove to another nearby town and walked into the office of a telephone company to inquire where Mrs. Bonds lived.

The receptionist answered, “That is Mrs. Bonds who is just now walking out the door.” She called her to come back. After explaining our purpose for being there, she said, “Yes, Willie wants to sell and the price is \$1800. I’ll need to write and find out whether he has sold it yet.” Manassas gave his address and offered to make the transaction. He felt it would be ideal to begin a mission in the Ben area.

Harley and I returned to Iowa. Our prayer was, “Lord, if we should not make such a move, let this property be unavailable.” About six weeks later, Manassas wrote to tell us the property was still available and the price was now \$1200. We moved in February, 1955.

The people in Arkansas were very friendly as we settled in our new home. We raised broilers and had several milk cows so we could sell cream. We visited local churches in the community and taught Sunday

School at one of those churches for several years. Later we saw the need to establish a Mennonite church in the area and asked for support and direction for Missions Interest Committee (MIC). They sent people to assist us, namely, Abe and Lydia Schwartz, from Indiana (later Michigan) and David and Mary King and family, from Pennsylvania. Summer Bible School was started. A church house was erected. The witness in the Ozarks was going—and still goes on.

We have precious memories of those approximately ten years in the Ozarks, especially those first years: with the rough roads, no electricity or telephone, and so on.

In thinking of our experiences now, I do not feel that I could encourage someone to go out in mission work alone as we did, and not be sent by a church, but we had many interested brethren who supported us in prayer.

*[These memoirs were read at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion held at Shady Lawn, in Arkansas, in the absence of Bro. Chris. They are used by permission and are edited and abridged by the Missions Editor.]*



***Nothing wins more friends than courtesy.***



## *Keep It Simple*

Mary June Glick, Seneca, SC

**W**e make life more complex than God intended it to be. Often, I find myself thinking about all the things I need to do, planning for special events and wondering how it will all work out. I am reminded of a Dutch phrase that my mother frequently used, “Es macht sich,” simply translated, “It will work out.” Amazingly, it usually does if I just relax and let it happen. Another thought that has blessed me much in recent years is this, “Does it really matter?” Isn’t it sad, how many things we fret and stew about that when put in their proper perspective, *really don’t matter*. Life is meant to be enjoyed. However, mankind seems to be in a constant search for something bigger and better, when it is often the simple things in life that bring the most pleasure.

### • A Simple Schedule

Do you feel overwhelmed with everything you are required to do and be? Perhaps you need to take a look at your daily schedule and ask yourself some questions. Have I over-committed myself; should I say no to certain activities or commitments? Does my busyness affect my family negatively? Does it glorify God? If

your answer to any of these indicates a problem, you should sit down and decide what you could do differently. Be honest with yourself. Take an honest look at your schedule.

### • A Simple House

We referred to our homes last month. Our homes are an important part of our lives. They do take work. What about my daily and weekly cleaning? Perhaps we can change our methods of cleaning to a simpler way. I have learned that I don’t need many different cleaners. Find a few that work for you. Cleaning doesn’t all have to be done at one time. When you are preparing a meal, clean the counter tops. Mop up the floor one day; clean the bathrooms another time. Find what works best for you. Decorate your house according to your interests and pleasure. Be creative; we don’t need expensive décor. We are all different; appreciate each other’s differences. If someone walks into your home, will they know by your décor that you love the Lord? Is it written on the walls of your house?

### • A Simple Meal

Food is another area that depends on our culture, our family traditions,

our heredity, etc. Women are unique in their cooking abilities. Some people use cooking as a gift to share with others. I think of various women who have blessed me through the years with their delightful and unusual meals. Some women are most comfortable with good home style cooking. Others enjoy the creativity of serving attractive food and table decorations. A meal is a lovely gift of hospitality, regardless of the kinds of food that are prepared and served. My concern in simple cooking is mainly that we don't go beyond our means or feel we need to keep up with the Joneses. While many people in the world do not have enough to eat, we must remember we are to be stewards of all that God gives us. Recently, I was reminded of the rich tastes of our Mennonite and Amish cookbooks. We use many foods our mothers did not know about, such as creamed soups, cream cheese, sour cream, etc. While there is nothing wrong with those foods, maybe we could get back to simpler desserts and healthier eating.

### •Simple Technology

Does today's technology affect women? It probably will not affect every woman that reads this, but it does affect many of us. It can affect us for good or bad. We make that choice. Is technology our servant, or

are we a servant to technology? Take for instance, the cell phone. Do you feel frustrated when you see and hear people who are constantly talking on their cell phones in public? Perhaps you are talking to a person and they are texting someone else at the same time. Mothers, are you aware of all the things your child can do with a cell phone? How much unnecessary time are you spending on the computer, your Facebook, blogs, etc.? I am not against these things; I am just concerned that mothers use technology wisely. Did you know that pictures you or your children put on you Facebook belong to Facebook and can be used by them? (If I am wrong on that point, I want to be corrected.) Is it good to share your family problems freely with others, realizing many people are reading it? Do you know who your children are friends with on Facebook? On the positive side, technology does allow communication with friends and family that was unheard of years ago. There are many good things we can do with technology which can be wonderful time savers. Let us discern what is good and use it for that purpose.

A simple life covers many other areas of our lives. Search your life and ask God to give you joy and contentment in the simple pleasures of life. Keep it simple!



## *The Miracle Well!*

### *Part One*

*Mary Ellen Beachy, Dundee, OH*

**T**he Strong Tower Children's Home in El Salvador has a story to tell of how the Lord answered their prayer for water. The home needed more water. During the rainy season, water was no problem. They had a large cistern that caught water from the roofs during the time of much rain. But, halfway through the six-month dry season, they would run out of water.

Now just imagine if your mom did not have enough water to wash all the laundry. She would not be happy. At the Home they tried to save water. The rinse water from one load of laundry was saved and used to wash the next load. That water was then used a third time to water plants.

Just how would you like to have to go out and use the outhouse because water was scarce? That is what the boys at the Home had to do during the dry season. They were also allowed a bath only every other day.

When you are thirsty, you just open

the water spigot and get all the good clean water you want, or you open the refrigerator and get a cool drink of sweet tea or maybe even pop. But what if you would run out of water? That's what kept happening at the Children's Home in dry season. A child would go for a drink and find the water jugs empty. Oops, someone forgot to fill all the drinking jugs, so they just had to be thirsty until someone went to buy water or took the pickup truck with a big tank and brought it back up to the Home. On some days they had to drive down the mountain road for five loads of water. It took an hour to get one load. If the red pickup truck broke down, it took even longer.

When you are hot and dirty, you can take a nice, long shower and be all clean and refreshed. Imagine that you were in the shower, all soaped up and suddenly the water stopped coming. What would you do? That too happened at the

Children's Home.

Oh yes, it took a lot of water hauling for the Home. The two church families who live on the property and help with the work needed water and all the animals needed water, too. There were thirsty cows, pigs, rabbits, and 500 laying hens, as well. How much water do you think a thirsty cow might drink in one day? How much water do you think the pigs would slurp up? But rabbits drink nicely, right? Hens always appear to be thanking the Lord when they take a drink and then look upward!

What if one spring your dad would say, "No garden this year; our well is dry." At the Home they had no way to have a garden. It took too much time to get water for the plants with all their other needs. There were other self-help projects like raising fish, or extra vegetables to sell that were not possible because of the water shortage.

So the staff and children prayed for a well. They prayed for more water. They prayed for money to dig a well.

How could they know where the best spot was to dig a well? Arthur Nisly, missionary pastor shared, "We were not about to use occult practices like water witching to try to figure

out where to dig, We got together for a prayer meeting and asked God to show us where to dig. We reminded ourselves that God has lots of practice doing miracles with water. He made water flow from a rock. He made bitter water sweet. He made a stream flow in a dry, barren desert."

They got up from their knees and together they chose a spot where Philip Glick would drill for water. They chose the spot close to the front of the orphanage where they got together for their midweek open-air prayer meetings.

The neighbors were watching and watching. They asked if we had studied the water supply. We said we prayed and asked our God to show us where to dig. They scoffed and said we would never find water.

The children were all excited when one day the strange looking well-drilling rig pulled into their driveway. They could hardly wait for the water—lots of pure, clean water. This was so exciting they wanted to watch and see everything. The machine made lots of noise and belched out fumes, too. They found it hard to concentrate on their school work. Just how long will it take till they get water?

*To be continued...*



## *The Fear of Man and How to Overcome It*

Matthew Beachy, London, OH

I believe the fear of man is something every person faces in some form or another. We have accepted it as normal. It is the way society around us lives. So what is the fear of man, how does it affect our lives, and what can help us overcome it?

The type of fear being discussed here is the kind of fear that produces a respectful dread, awe or reverence that we might have when thinking about or interacting with someone. The people or situations that cause this kind of fear in us control us. By fearing someone, we put ourselves under their control.

So why do we fear people? Aren't they just like us? One of the reasons the fear of man exists, is that people are our equal. As Edward Welch says in *When People Are Big and God is Small*, people have the power to expose and humiliate us, to reject, ridicule, or despise us, and to attack, oppress, or threaten us. When we live and interact with this on a daily basis, it becomes very natural to fear people. The fear of being shamed, hurt, or looked down upon often

controls our actions and words.

The fear of man affects us in many ways. It can affect the clothes we choose, the things we own, even our financial decisions. It affects our relationship with God, as well. We might not be willing to put God first, as in not being willing to do personal evangelism, or to arrange our schedule to spend enough time for meaningful daily Bible reading and prayer, because of *what they will think*. We might be ridiculed or rejected for taking such radical steps. Welch observes, "Sometimes we would prefer to die for Jesus rather than to live for Him...In other words, kill me, but don't keep me from being liked, appreciated, or respected."

The fear of man is so ingrained in us that it is nearly part of our anatomy. How then do we conquer this crippling force that works in our lives and relationships? The answer is simple: the fear of the Lord.

The fear of man stems from one basic issue, which is holding people as more important than God. We do not have the ability to serve two masters at the same time. If people

and what they think are too big to us, God will be crowded out. If God and what He thinks of us is greater than people's opinions, the fear of people and their opinions will lose out.

It is important what we mean by the term, "fearing the Lord." There are several types of fears we may have regarding Him. On one hand, we have "terror-fear," the kind that comes from realizing that we are sinful and standing before The Perfect One, the standard of right and wrong. For unforgiven sinners, this fear is ever present, but for those who have committed their lives to Christ, this is a fear that is felt or experienced less and less, as time goes on, because their understanding of God changes. On the other hand, there is a "reverence-fear" that causes us to worship Him because of the redemptive plan of salvation. We are still aware of our sin, and a more accurate picture of His holiness, justice, and judgment, but we also know and have experienced God's forgiveness. Christ's work on the cross for us causes us to respond with adoration and praise. This kind of fear of the Lord can be defined as *reverent submission that leads to obedience*.

We have several things working against us in our pursuit of the fear of the Lord. The first opponent is self, also known as our flesh. Others are the world and Satan actively

working to feed our flesh. But one of the greatest hindrances to growing in the fear of the Lord is delayed or half-hearted obedience. When we begin to practice this, our standard begins to shift as well. God is no longer the only one to be feared and we tell ourselves that we are actually pretty good. We perceive ourselves as being mostly good, with a few minor flaws. (Which is okay, because, after all, we're human, right? No one else is perfect,...), but when this happens, we become dependent on our evaluation of ourselves and diminish God's evaluation of our lives. It is nearly impossible to grow in the fear of the Lord when we are in such a state.

In order to grow in the fear of the Lord, we must make a daily effort to know Him. This effort should stem from a desire to understand the knowledge of the Holy. Trying to force ourselves to do it will likely produce frustration, because we are simply going through the form and not getting any benefit. A good way to do this is getting into the Scriptures. God's power can readily be seen in such accounts as the story of Job. Make a study of God's power, strength, or love. Learn who He is and who you are in relation to Him.


Another aspect of growing in the fear of the Lord that has been briefly mentioned is obedience. The fear of the Lord is departing from evil. It is

hating sin. What would happen if you had an absolute hatred for sin in your life and the lives of others? Wouldn't "wars and fightings" greatly diminish or cease? The fear of the Lord is probably the most important thing (other than the forgiveness and removal of sins through Jesus' blood) that we can obtain during our life. Scripture often calls the fear of the Lord "the beginning of wisdom," and says that hatred for evil is the beginning of understanding. It is one thing that will guide us straight and true, and never fail us.

One more thing the fear of the Lord does in our lives: it causes us to get our priorities straight. When we are consistently spending time in the presence of God, we learn what is truly important for us to do. When God becomes the supreme Focus and final Authority of our life, we will be about His business. This kind of mindset empowers us to choose correctly in difficult circumstances. When we are living before an Audience of One (God), our priorities and decisions will be

much more simplified than if we are living before an audience of many (fear of people).

In conclusion, one of the most important decisions we make on a daily basis is deciding whom we will fear. Will we go throughout our day aware of the awesome greatness of God and be obedient to His commands? Will we live life with the constant realization that God, our Righteous Judge, is witness to our actions, words, and attitudes? Or will we allow this truth to slip into the back of our mind somewhere, content to allow people and desires to be bigger than God, and make Him of little effect in our life? The choice is ours and I believe it must be made daily, even if some days the decisions are less dramatic than other days. Success is generally only the result of small "best" choices made consistently over a period of time.

[This article was submitted at Calvary Bible School in a class on *Interpersonal Relationships*. Used by permission.] 

***Whether something is a stepping stone or a stumbling block, may depend on how carefully we walk.***

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## THOUGHT GEMS

The Bible was not written to teach science, but it is scientifically correct.

• • • • •

Every child comprises a bundle of potential.

• • • • •

Lukewarm people probably dislike sincere Christians because it shows their own commitment to preference over commitment.

• • • • •

God's Word is meant to be our daily bread, not just cake for special occasions.

• • • • •

The fellow looking down his nose at others gets the wrong slant on things.

• • • • •

The world will not be evangelized by Christians who compromise.

• • • • •

A slanderer is a person trying to play God.

• • • • •

We can live on less if we have more to live for.

• • • • •

When traveling the second mile, the traffic is lighter but the blessings are greater.

• • • • •

Rumor is one thing that gets thicker when it is spread.

• • • • •

Bad habits are not known to take holidays.