



# CALVARY MESSENGER

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

Galatians 6:14

**FEBRUARY 2013**

Meditation

*If You Believe, You Will See* ..... 1

Editorial

*Husbands — Take Heed to Your Spirit* ..... 2

The Bottom Line

*That is Just Your Interpretation* ..... 5

Evangelism Training Announcement ..... 7

Book Review ..... 8

Ministry Convention Announcement ..... 9

The Preposterous Proposition ..... 10

My Testimony ..... 12

Marriages ..... 14

Cradle Roll ..... 14

Obituaries ..... 16

Observations ..... 19

Annual Beachy Ministers' Meeting Announcement ..... 22

Ministers' Meeting Messages — 2012

*Leading our Flock into Missions* ..... 23

Mission Awareness

*Where Shall We Give?* ..... 27

Helpers at Home

*The Greatest of These is Love* ..... 30

Junior Messages

*Potatoes—Morning, Noon, and Night* ..... 32

Youth Messages

*Hardship in Marriage* ..... 34

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.

Calvary Publications, Inc., is a non-profit organization, incorporated in the State of Ohio, for the purpose of sponsoring, publishing, and distributing Christian literature. The board is elected, one member annually, by the ministers of the Beachy Amish Mennonite Churches, at their annual spring meeting.

#### **Board of Directors**

(*Calvary Publications, Inc.*)

Nathan Yoder, Chairman  
 Elmer Glick, Vice-Chairman  
 Enos D. Stutzman, Secretary  
 Ralph Miller  
 Manfred McGrath  
 David L. Miller

Material for *Calvary Messenger*, marriages, births, ordinations, obituaries, and general articles—send to the *Editor*. Other Material—mail to their respective *Editors*.

**Subscriptions**, renewals, changes of address, etc.—mail to **Circulation Manager**. **When you move**, please notify the Circulation Manager one month in advance, giving your old and new address in full, so that your mailing label can be properly corrected and your credit be kept in order.

**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@icloud.com | 330-852-2982

Calvary Messenger (USPS 767-160) is published monthly by Calvary Publications, 2673 TR 421, Sugarcreek, Ohio 44681. Subscription rates are: 1 year (U.S.) \$8.50, 3 years (U.S.) \$24.00. For congregations using the every-home-plan, \$7.00 per year to individual addresses. Renewal \$4.25 when you also give a 1-year gift subscription at \$4.25. Second class postage at Sugarcreek, Ohio. Postmaster: Send address changes to Calvary Publications, Inc., 11095 Pleasant Hill Rd. NW, Dundee, OH 44624.

## If You Believe, You Will See\*

*Susan Garcete, Hartley, DE*

I bring all praise to God for blessings of this day;  
My heart beats high in awe of God's abounding grace.  
In spite of foolish failures, falterings, and mistakes,  
God, in His own way, put things right in their place.

In John 11:40—a favorite verse of mine,  
When reasoning has failed, blind faith can bring relief.  
“If you would but believe, God's glory you will see.”  
Were Jesus' words to Martha, who sought Him in her grief.

God's glory! I have seen it! His promise is fulfilled.  
A little bit of heaven now spreads His joy all around.  
There's more, I know, to come in the land of living here.  
And fullest glory only then, as we are heaven-bound.

Let Jesus be your heart throb, you soldiers of the cross.  
If pace be brisk and glad—or slow and shuffle-plod.  
The watch-word ever, “Onward!” Hold the fort for Truth!  
And may your life's adventure lead many souls to our God.

[\*Thoughts of my heart on the day of our son's baptism]



## Husbands—Take Heed to Your Spirit

**T**he Prophet Malachi brought strong warning to husbands, “Take heed to your spirit and let none deal treacherously with the wife of his youth” (Mal. 2:15b). *Teachery* springs from disloyalty. It often uses partial truth to put a better but false spin on the facts.

Some things obviously tear down good faith in marriage. The Good News of the Gospel provides that we face the truth about ourselves, even though we are disappointed. When we wish the facts were different, we still cannot afford to interpret them by what we wish them to be.

Who has ever heard of immorality occurring in marriage without some very careful reporting by the one who strayed? Probably their reporting left out anything that might raise questions about integrity—but was given with definite intent to deceive.

Marriage thrives only with true singleness of heart. This goes well beyond subscribing to upright behavior because it is “low class” not to. Also, God-honoring marriage is more than keeping ourselves to the one we promised simply because

we vowed it. Furthermore, it exceeds strong will power that says, “Lord, I thank thee that I am not as other men are.” True singleness of heart is using God’s power to give my unselfish attention and affection to my spouse—God’s gift to me.

### **Hazards in the Environment**

How shall we foster and retain honor and fidelity in marriage? How can we have a marriage that really flourishes? And how shall we provide a haven for our children? If these things are to abound, here are some things that are needed:

- A man should avoid working *closely alone* with another woman. Rather change jobs than to place oneself in a compromising situation!
- Avoid over-familiarity. Keep your conversation with all others free of double meanings. Give the devil no room by shady comments or suggestive interchange.
- Plan times of meaningful, personal conversation with your wife to keep the glow in your marriage. If your situation does not allow significant time alone with your wife, plan time together away from

home. Only that which is cultivated produces a desirable harvest; weeds and brambles grow profusely from neglect.

• “A three-fold cord is not quickly broken” (Ecclesiastes 4:12). If we think to have a God-honoring marriage without God, we will be disappointed. Such a marriage has only two cords. The three cords of a godly marriage are: 1) the husband 2) the wife, and 3) the Designer of Marriage—GOD!

• If you regret any past behavior, don’t try to simply push it out of your mind. Such unrest won’t go away by itself. Nor will God’s peace be yours if you fail to confess your sin. Confess sin to your partner and to God. God will surely forgive you. Your spouse will probably do so, too, but even if not, you still have earned the right to a clear conscience.

There is even wisdom in what someone once humorously said, “Men should keep their eyes wide open before marriage and half closed afterward.” No one else should get such close attention as that person with whom we share life.

### **Hazards in Marriage**

• A tyrannical husband may get prompt obedience, but not respect. If his goal is merely for his wife to submit to him, she will be starved for love. If he thinks the children deserve only the attention that his strict

orders and strong discipline provide, they will not feel that he loves them.

• A complaining husband is no joy to live with. He apparently expects things to go badly. He likes to say “I told you so,” but that boosts nothing but his ego.

• An impatient husband creates tension for everyone, including himself. No one is perfect. Happy homes use building blocks of patience, mortared with understanding love.

• A lazy husband is a serious burden to his family. While indolence is sometimes mistaken for patience, they are vastly different: Indolence serves self; patience serves God and others. Anyone who merely waits for “his ship to come in,” can expect to wait for a very long time.

• A gossiping husband inspires no courage, only self-righteous implications for himself. Our hands don’t stay clean from the mud we throw at others.

• A boasting husband is tiresome to live with. Since we’re all made of the same stuff; why try to impress others with our superiority? Those who might have a right to boast don’t need to. “He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord” (1 Cor. 1:31b).

• A self-appointed, critical husband is annoying or worse to his wife and children. Constant critical comment indicates weakness of character—not unusual insight.



• An indulgent or inconsistent or harsh husband makes life hard for the children and his wife. Order and beauty can come if the husband humbly, yet decisively leads out, thus allowing the wife to take a place of honor and support for him. Parents that are low in both love and discipline produce a wild child. If they are high in love and low in discipline, they can expect a spoiled child. If they are low in love and high in discipline, it discourages a child. In homes that are high in love and high in discipline we find children that are eager for life and secure in heart.

**Forgiven, Contented and Blessed**

“Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth” (Proverbs 5:18). There is nothing like mutual enjoyment to bond two souls in marriage. It is really hard for a wife to be joyful if it’s all up to her to make the home atmosphere positive and joyful.

It is a tremendous blessing for a wife to live with a husband who speaks wholesome words of encouragement first, then when necessary, also gives words of concern to her and correction to the children. Only the grateful husband who lives in God’s grace is able to rise gracefully above the ego-boosting tendencies of human nature. In thoughtful consideration and gratitude, he can give courage to his wife and children.

His expectations will be attainable.

Isaiah 51:11 speaks of Israelite exiles returning from Babylon to Jerusalem, “Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion and everlasting joy shall be upon their head: They shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.” Forgiven sinners have experienced God’s grace and are forsaking lives of serving self and Satan. Our experience parallels those grateful exiles of Babylon. As we proceed toward our Heavenly Jerusalem, let us ask God for an atmosphere of positive words and deeds in marriage that glorify Him and that bless our wives and children!

• • • • •

Reader responses to published material are invited. We would like to have them kept brief and to the point. I prefer the right to condense such material, if I see the need to do so. Thank you and God bless you.

• • • • •

I feel constrained to explain that in Matthew Earl’s article, “A Call to Consistency,” Jan., 2013, he was not asking for *greater tolerance* for radio and TV, but for a response that is consistent with our stand *against* radio and TV by how the Internet is used. I have checked with Bro. Matthew and was assured that this is his concern.

-PLM 

## *That is Just Your Interpretation*

*Aaron Lapp, Kinzers, PA*

Visiting with a Protestant minister friend recently, he said the deterioration of respect for God, or reserved reverence, and even the loss of a basic fear of God is measurable in our land. But what is even more alarming, he said, is those very things are fast being lost in the church bodies he has worked with and represented over the years. My friend says he has been “kicked on the shins” so often that “callouses” have dulled the pain.

Representation by all so that all have an equal voice has been mandated for over a generation. Consequently, fact-finding committees and policy-establishing boards have the broadest possible input. This includes a fixed percentage of women, minorities, young people, the aged, and finally a few middle-aged men with insight and leadership experience.

It used to be that these very committees and boards were made up of older men who provided a high degree of wisdom, insight and continuity. These were augmented with middle-aged men who had proven themselves with faithfulness to God’s Word, a vision for doctrinal

integrity, and a measure of zeal and strength for practical application.

My friend is understandably grieved. Early on, the variables of divorce and remarriage were discussed from all possible angles to determine what passes under the circumstances, considering who is the innocent party, and other mitigating factors in an attempt to be “fair,” sympathetic, and well, “brotherly.” But now, there are so many people in the church who are divorced and remarried that they just drop the bar and let them all in. Now they can comfort themselves in their own nest however they please!

My friend looked at me and said, “Do you have men and women in your church who co-habit as though they were husband and wife?” In my spirit I was aghast and shocked—what is this? He said in his denomination this goes on as though it were normal. Besides, he said, when it comes to abortion, we just look the other way.

After another “shin-barking” board meeting, he spoke to a woman on the board and gave her a few Scripture verses to refute some of the board’s

permissive actions. With arms upraised, she said, “Mr. Protestant, that is just your interpretation. The Apostle Paul does not speak with authority in our day.”

To this my friend said, “Do you realize that with a mere sweep of your hand, you have voided nearly one-half of the New Testament?” Not only that, he said, they used to concern themselves with situations where active gays and lesbians were excluded as church members. As they got over that hurdle, immediately the issue came up about having such serve on church boards, or being elders, and, of course, preaching in their pulpits. He said moral erosion in our country is not far removed from what is practiced and defended and justified in many churches today.

From what are people to be saved? He said legal polygamy may not be far behind. The age of enlightenment of 100 years ago was replaced with the age of academic freedom of 50 years ago. Academic freedom cast down the restraint of absolutes, including the verities of God’s holy and eternal Word. The inerrancy of Scripture was batted back and forth like a tennis match without rules now for 50 years.

A well-known and respected Protestant author wrote a book in the 1960s, entitled, *Battle for the Bible*. In it, he stood for the inerrancy and trustworthiness of

the Bible. Many relentless voices kept attacking the uplifting of the Scriptures on various fronts, even in churches and so-called church schools. Some of the institutions that had been founded for systematic and serious Bible study with a literal interpretation have turned full circle in our time to scoff at such an idea. With allegorical interpretation they can make Bible doctrine say whatever their preferences dictate.

But we have a generation of conservative Anabaptists who have been doing similarly in recent years. Our variation in the understanding of certain Bible doctrines is glibly put off as “just being that brother’s interpretation.” This kind of response by church leaders will spawn/has spawned indifference to what the Bible does say in plain words.

If the Bible is not reliable in the words it uses at any one place, including prophecy, it eventually will become theological cancer. It will go on to other parts of the body of Christ, and produce other unwanted malignancies. The larger, nominal worldly church has graphically shown us how this works. The list of sins becomes shorter, and the list of what passes for church gets longer. The doctrinal errors become bolder and more shameless in each new generation.

Anything other than a standard, literal interpretation of the Scriptures



has a distinct way of watering down the meaning of any given passage. That same deviation applied anywhere else in the Bible has the same effect. If it is used at one place—or two, or three, or four—it can be used with impunity at eight other places. The permeation of the leaven of allegorical interpretation has infiltrated much Bible doctrine in many Anabaptist churches. It is bearing fruit far and wide.

They have what could be called the distinction of doctrinal extinction. Biblical authority is limited, in such cases, to personal preferences of interpretation. What if some one

should disagree, for after all, that is “just his interpretation!” But then, that is how it is among us, too, at times.

*The Bottom Line* is that the implication for our plain Mennonite churches is larger than is generally recognized right now—today. Spiritual and biblical deterioration will surely result from a two-tiered interpretation of God’s Word. It depends on which doctrine one is referring to as to which system of interpretation we will use. The harvest for this discrepancy will not be good. It will not save people from their sins. Nor will the Lord of Glory be lifted up!



## SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS

**Do you find yourself wanting to share your faith, but you’re not sure of what to say? Are you hesitant to talk to people about your faith for fear that you will be asked questions that you don’t know how to answer? Do you feel a desire to have your faith strengthened—to be stretched, revived, and challenged in your walk with God? Here’s an opportunity that could help you.**

**You are invited to a week of evangelism teaching and training especially for youth, followed by going out into the community and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. This seminar will be held in Holmes County, Ohio, from May 10 to 19, 2013.**

**For more information or a brochure, call Jay Stoltzfus (330-473-5145), or e-mail [jaystoltz@emypeople.net](mailto:jaystoltz@emypeople.net).**

**This event is being sponsored by Maranatha Fellowship.  
Minister Paul Leroy Miller (330-852-2807)**



## BOOK REVIEW

Eli's Still Waters Devotionals is a compilation of 320 devotional meditations. Published by Yoder's Select Books, Union, WV. \$8.95, with bulk prices available. Reviewed by Paul E. Yoder, son of Eli A. Yoder.

Many people are familiar with *Beside the Still Waters* devotional booklets, and appreciate the daily devotionals there. Many say they look through a new issue and see who wrote the different ones. Some say they like the interesting, easy-to-understand lessons in the writings of Eli A. Yoder of Stuarts Draft, Virginia.

Here's your opportunity to read and reread all of his writings in recent years (through mid-2011) and some that were not published. This book has 320 daily devotionals, plus two indexes.

One example, on page 46: *Be Not Discouraged*: A very busy woman said, 'One day, a long time ago, I said, 'Lord, I'll do the work and you do the worrying,' and I have not had to worry since.'

Another, on page 96: A mother told her small son that it was God who made people good. The little boy said, "Yes, I know, but mothers help a lot."

And one more, on page 98: A neighbor once told me how a highway patrolman stopped him. The patrolman asked him, "Didn't you see that stop sign?" The neighbor said, "I nearly about stopped." The patrolman said, "That 'nearly about' is going to cost you twenty dollars." Isn't that the way it is with many so-called Christians today? They "nearly about" surrender their lives to the Lord, but that "nearly about" is going to cost them not twenty dollars, but eternity in hell.

There is a challenging quote at the end of each one. A few examples: "You can do anything you want to if you want to do what you ought to do." "Train up a child in the way he should go and walk there yourself." "Conscience warns us as a friend before it punishes us as a judge."

Check your local bookstore or order from Yoder's Select Books, HC 83, Box 39-A, Union, WV, 24983. Phone: 304-772-4494. Price is \$8.95; shipping - \$3.50 per order of up to 5; over 5, free shipping.



## *Ministry Convention Announcement*

**Faith Builders Educational Programs is hosting a ministry convention at Manor Church in Lancaster, PA. Forty-one ministries are currently registered to attend.**

**March 14, 2013, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM: Seminar for non-profit organizations. A full day of workshops, fellowship, and inspiration.**

**March 15, 2013, 9:00 – 5:00 PM: a day of workshops, ministry presentations, and inspirational assemblies to equip communities for ministry.**

**March 14 & 15, 7:00 PM: Times of worship, inspiration, and information to cultivate a vision for ministry.**

**The public is welcome to attend any component of the convention. Registration is requested for the workshop portions of this event.**

**More information and event registration is available online at [www.fbep.org/reach-2013](http://www.fbep.org/reach-2013). You may also request information or register by contacting Matthew Mast:**

**FBEP  
ATTN: Matthew Mast  
28500 Guys Mills Road  
Guys Mills, PA 16327  
(814) 789-4518 ext. 403  
[matthewm@fbep.org](mailto:matthewm@fbep.org)**



# *The Preposterous Proposition*

*Gary Miller, Pantego, SC*

Hark we back to the scene, when the earth was pristine  
And man's generations were few.  
No creature was mean, and all nature was clean  
For all was well-watered with dew.

Then the hearts of mankind turned deceitful and blind,  
And desperately wicked and vile;  
And the thoughts of his mind were with evil entwined,  
Imagining vice all the while.

God looked down and saw the results of the fall,  
And His heart was then darkened with grief.  
For none heeded God's call; evil giants stood tall,  
Knowing not that their time would be brief.

But Noah found grace in that awful place,  
God chose him to stand in between  
The doomed of man's race, felled by God's holy face,  
And the righteous line: faithful, serene.

God outlined His plan to destroy every man  
With a flood that would cover the earth.  
But Noah and clan heeded God and began  
To build a huge ark of great worth.

Prepost'rous it seemed, and with laughter men screamed  
At the thought of a boat on dry land.  
But by faith Noah deemed best to obey, so he teamed  
With his sons who each gave him a hand.

Folks hooted with mirth as the ark came to birth.  
Noah preached as his hammer he swung;  
He expounded the worth of the souls of the earth  
With passionate, eloquent tongue.

But men jeered at the boat: "Tell us how will it float  
Astranded up there on the hill!  
Will you dig a long moat? Or your edifice tote  
To the sea, or some river or rill?"

Then one day came the rain against window pane.  
With fists people beat on closed gate.  
Now Noah looked sane, and as time did wane,  
They realized that it was too late.

Come we now to a scene; earth is far from pristine,  
In full measure God's judgment is due.  
For today men are mean and their hands are unclean;  
The world is corrupt through and through.

God is building an Ark in this circumstance dark;  
'Tis the church; you may freely come in.  
But sin's deadly mark with its consequence stark  
Just reward will undoubtedly win.

Critics look at the church from their cynical perch,  
"It never will work in our day!"  
So they jeer as they lurch in their wandering search  
For meaning along the broad way.

Like the ark on high ground with no water around,  
The church might seem rather absurd  
But, with trumpets full sound the Truth will abound,  
And none will be doubting God's Word.



# *My Testimony*

*Abraham Mose Orr, Hutchinson, KS*

**C**asting the whole of your care (all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all) on Him, for He cares for you affectionately, and cares for you watchfully” (1 Peter 5:7 AMP). Casting our cares on God sounds simple. Some make it out to be the easiest thing to do, but it really isn’t, especially when you harbor unforgiveness.

I struggled with forgiving a man who killed my brother for all of 16-17 years. I refused to let go of what I felt was rightfully mine. I believed, thought, and truly felt I had every right to harden my heart and not let go.

I lived this way and it made me a bitter and angry man. The unforgiveness festered into a destructive force. It got to the point that I didn’t care if I lived or died. The time came when I didn’t want to face another day, when I was ready “to throw in the towel.” I ran out of hope.

It was then that the Lord spoke to me. He said, “Try me one more time.” This is the first time out of the 20 years I have been saved that the Lord spoke to me so vividly. I won’t ever forget hearing the Lord’s voice.

I took God at His word and I opened my Bible. The Holy Spirit directed me right to Matthew 11:28-30, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

I literally took God at His Word. I went to Him and yielded to the Holy Spirit and He directed me through the Word of God. He helped me find the Scriptures that I needed to give me strength day by day. There would be times I would spend anywhere from two to eight hours reading and writing. I found solace in God’s Word.

But when I began to learn about Jesus, not what He did for the world, but what He did for me, then I took His love personally and started to learn more about Him, and I found the peace and rest He said I would find.

It wasn’t until Jesus became real to me (in my heart, in my mind, to the inner core of my soul) that I was able to yield and allow the Lord to work on me with my unforgiveness.



There is something about the blood of Jesus that can transform a man. Don't get me wrong, there have been some days and nights I spent crying to the Lord asking Why? and How? It didn't happen overnight. I fought and wrestled with the Lord. But the more I kept learning and growing in Jesus, the more the burdens and the hardened shell around my heart began to chip away. It took me more than 17 years after my first encounter with Jesus to finally let go and forgive.


When I tell people today that I forgive the man who killed my brother, they question me and have doubts. They ask, Why? And How? Am I only saying this now because I haven't come face to face with the murderer. They say these things not knowing the tears and struggles that I wrestled with in bringing it to God.

All I can say is, "With men it is impossible, but not with God, for with God all things are possible." By and through the grace, mercy, and

love of God, I have forgiven him. It took years for the love of God to come to me and finally to break through the barriers I had put up.

I was asked how it feels to let go, have that weight and burden lifted off of you. I hear some say it's like having a ton of bricks lifted off your shoulders. I can't begin to put into words how it feels. Words are not adequate for what the Lord has done for me. If it came down to one word, I would have to say it is "Forgiven." It's like the feeling you get when you realize that you have been forgiven.

John 8:36 says, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed."

*[This testimony has been witnessed on July 12, 2012, by the following inmates: Matthew Noland, Virgil Fox, William Thornton, and Charlie Williams. Eli Yoder, who ministers to us at Hutchinson Correctional Facility, is given permission to publish this in his church newspaper.]* 

***It's better to be a struggling sinner (saved by grace) than to be a strong sinner (who acknowledges no need for a Savior).***

## marriages

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

### **Eby-Beachy**

Bro. Ryan, son of Dale and Alma Eby, Dundee, NY, and Sis. Lynita, daughter of Mark and Mary Ellen Beachy, Dundee, OH, at Maranatha Fellowship Church, Sugarcreek, OH, Dec. 8, 2012, by Paul Leroy Miller.

### **Lapp-Bontrager**

Bro. Timothy, son of Floyd and Wilma Lapp, Quaker City, OH, and Sis. Janell, daughter of Delbert and Rosemary Bontrager, Ligonier, IN, at Griner Mennonite Church, Goshen, IN, on Sept. 15, 2012, by Robert Riegsecker.

### **Miller-Yoder**

Bro. Caleb, son of David and Effie Miller, Shreve, OH, and Sis. Juanita Sue, daughter of Nathan and Elsie Yoder, Fredericksburg, OH, at Messiah Christian Fellowship for Peniel Christian Fellowship on Dec. 8, 2012, by Nathan Yoder.

### **Weaver-Miller**

Bro. Gerald, son of Vera and the late Carl Weaver, Beaver Springs, PA, and Sis. Rebekah, daughter of Jason and Ruth Miller, Concord, AR, at Floral Baptist Church for Shady Lawn Mennonite Church, Mtn. View, AR, by Elmer Gingerich.

### **Yoder-Good**

Bro. Justin, son of D. Timothy and Arlene Yoder, Mannsville, NY, and Sis. Melissa, daughter of Jay and Janet Good, Myerstown, PA, at Fairview Reception Center, Myerstown, PA, Dec. 1, 2012, by Jonathan Yoder.

### **Yoder-Yoder**

Bro. Adam, son of Stanley and Pauline Yoder, Montezuma, GA, and Sis. Christina, daughter of Elmer and Rosanna Yoder, Montezuma, GA, at Montezuma Mennonite Church on Dec. 1, 2012, by Donny Swartzentruber.

## cradle roll

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

**Beachy**, Brian and Valerie (Stoltzfus), Auburn, KY, fourth and fifth children, third and fourth sons, twins, Samuel Mark and Solomon James, Nov. 21, 2012.

**Byler**, David and Esther (Hershberger), Hartley, DE, fourth child, third dau., Rebecca Abigail, Sept. 14, 2012.

**Dyck**, Abe and Beulah (Swartzentruber), Montezuma, GA, second child, first son, Donny Andre`, Oct. 20, 2012.

**Eash**, Lyndon and Melody (Kurtz), Belleville, NY, second child, first son, Jadon Lavon, Nov. 2, 2012.

**Galdonik**, Michael and Courtney (Forbes), Sarasota, FL, second child, first son, Malachi John, Nov. 26, 2012.

**Hershberger**, Titus and Ella Mae (Frey), LaGrange, IN, fourth child, second dau., Abigail Mae, Dec. 5, 2012.

**Hershberger**, Titus and Evelyn (Summy), Thailand, first child and son, Elliot Glen, Dec. 1, 2012.

**Hostetler**, Carlton and Lillian (Esh), Warsaw, IN, third child, second son, Clark Andrew, Dec. 14, 2012.

**Kauffman**, Ervin and Edna (Yoder), Mannsville, NY, third child, second dau., Megan Lashae, Nov. 7, 2012.

**King**, Eldon and Monica (Beachy), Harrison, AR, third child, second dau., Emily Marie, Nov. 6, 2012.

**Knepp**, Jerald and Jennifer (Stoltzfus), Middleburg, PA, second child and dau., Olivia Jade, Dec. 16, 2012.

**Kratzer**, Kenny and Becky (Stoltzfus), Dundee, OH, fourth child and son, Sean Taylor, Oct. 26, 2012.

**Lapp**, Curtis and Ella (Wagler), Kinzers, PA, third child, first dau., Diana Elaine, Oct. 26, 2012.

**Lehman**, Christopher and Shari (Stoltzfus), Woodward, PA, first child and dau., Mariah Kate, Dec. 17, 2012.

**Lengacher**, Caleb and LaRhonda (Wingard), Montezuma, GA, third child, second dau., Brooklyn Jewel, Oct. 7, 2012.

**Martin**, Joel and Kelsey (Hobbs), Mifflin, PA, second child, first son, Matthias Johann, Nov. 25, 2012.

**Miller**, Anthony and Sherri (Chupp), Stuarts Draft, VA, first child and dau., Mikaya Sinead, Nov. 29, 2012.

**Miller**, Luke and Elizabeth (Overholt), Provo, UT, fourth child, third dau., Lianna Faith, Nov. 26, 2012.

**Miller**, Steven and Melissa (Yoder), Auburn, KY, seventh child, sixth son, Jackson Todd, Oct. 15, 2012.

**Nisly**, Matthew and Andrea (Mast), Partridge, KS, first child and son, Jamien Alejandro, Dec. 13, 2012.

**Overholt**, Benny and Beth (Yoder), Marshallville, GA, second child and son, Calvin Brock, Nov. 13, 2012.

**Peachey**, James and Rachel (Kauffman), Pierpont Manor, NY, second child, first son, Marcus Kore, Oct. 15, 2012.

**Raber**, Matthew and Leona (Lapp), Kimbolton, OH, sixth child, fourth son, Jeremiah David, Nov. 28, 2012.

**Raber**, Timothy and Glorianna (Helmuth), Antrim, OH, fourth child, second son, Elliot Courage, Sept. 28, 2012.

**Stoltzfus**, Lamar and Marcia (Yutzy), Kennedyville, MD, second child, first dau., Taylor Grace, Aug. 7, 2012.

**Stutzman**, Brian and Loretta (Beachy), Leon, IA, second child, first dau., Kylie Larea, Nov. 1, 2012.

**Troyer**, Rodney and Faith (Helmuth), Antrim, OH, fifth child, fourth son, Theodore Jackson, Aug. 22, 2012.

**Wagler**, Virgil and Rebekah (Peterseim), Leon, IA, third child, second son, Leife Miguel, Oct. 6, 2012.

**Weaver**, Ben and Sheryl (Stutzman), Auburn, KY, fourth child, third dau., Allison Brooke, Oct. 8, 2012.

**Weaver**, Levi, Jr., and Glenda (Stutzman), Auburn, KY, fifth child, second dau., Jill Cheyenne, Oct.. 27, 2012.

**Yoder**, David and Wanda (Weaver), Sarasota, FL, fourth child, third dau., Kaitlyn Dawn, Dec. 18, 2012.

**Yoder**, Randall and Cynda (Weaver), Montezuma, GA, first child and son, Stetson Lee, Oct. 24, 2012.

**Zook**, Darvin and Rosina (Fisher), Mifflin, PA, first child and son, Damien Matthew, Dec. 10, 2012.



**Hershberger**, Elizabeth (Wengerd), 95, of Abbeville, SC, died of congestive heart failure Dec. 7, 2012. She was born Feb. 7, 1917, daughter of the late John and Lydia (Beachy) Wengerd.

Elizabeth was a member of Cold Spring Mennonite Church.

On March 24, 1942, she was married to Andrew Hershberger, who preceded her in death in 2002. Surviving are children: Martha (Robert) Overholt, Auburn, KY; Ellen (Titus) Overholt, Abbeville, SC; Wayne (Naomi) Hershberger, North Canton, OH; Ivan (Treva) Hershberger, Due West, SC; Edward (Sheryl) Hershberger, Hartwell, GA; Joanne (David) Good, South Boston, VA; and Joseph Hershberger; 35 grandchildren; 88 great grandchildren, and two great great grandchildren. Other survivors are two sisters-in-law: Mrs. Fannie Overholt and Mrs. Katie Stoll.

She was preceded in death by one infant daughter, Lois Ann, and one great grandson, Lane Alex, also two sisters Sadie Hershberger and Annie Petersheim and one brother, Allen Wengerd.

The funeral was held on Dec, 10, 2012, with Merl Beiler and Ernest Hochstetler serving. Burial was in the church cemetery.

**King**, Christ K., 79, of Gap, PA, was under doctor's care and died Nov. 25, 2012, at his home. He was born May 26, 1933, son of the late John and Lydia

(Kauffman) King.

He was a member of West Haven A. M. Church, New Holland, PA. He was a retired farmer and metal worker. He came from a singing family and loved to sing and play his harmonica as long as he was able.

On Nov. 9, 1954, he was married to Susie Stoltzfus, who survives. Also surviving are sons: David (Linda Fisher) King, Parkesburg; Ivan King, at home; a daughter, Verna King, Kinzers; 11 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Surviving siblings are Rebecca Zook, Katie Esh, Mary (Levi) Fisher, Sadie Stoltzfus, Elizabeth (Joe) Beiler, Lydia Stoltzfus, John (Sara Dienner) King, Aaron (Barbara Allgyer) King, Fannie (Ira) Stoltzfus, Anna (Sam) Stoltzfus, Linda (Edward) Glick, and Levi (Ruth Burky) King.

He was preceded in death by twin sons: Mervin and Marvin; a daughter, Hanna (Alvin) Stoltzfus; brothers Amos and Jacob King, and a sister, Naomi (King) Fisher.

The funeral was held at West Haven church on Nov. 27, with a nephew, John Lee Stoltzfus and the home ministers, Lee Stoltzfus, Ivan Stoltzfus, and Jay Ivan Stoltzfus serving. Burial was at Millwood Cemetery with Jonathan Lantz serving.

**Peachey**, Kore J., 82, died at McVeytown, PA, Dec. 2, 2012. He was born Jan. 6, 1930, son of the late Jonas J. and Annie (Yoder) Peachey at Belleville, PA.

He was a loyal member of Valley View

A.M. Church. He was a farmer until 1994, then served as administrator at Penn Valley Christian Retreat for five years. After that, he served as principal of Valley View School for five years. Most recently, he was employed as a forester at Big Valley Hardwoods.

On Dec. 7, 1950, he was married to Sadie A. Zook. She survives. Other survivors include four children: Earl D. (Edna) Peachey, Mattawana; Anna E. Kuhns, Belleville; Julia A. (Marlin) Yoder, McVeytown; Glen R. (Beverly) Peachey, Mifflintown, 17 grandchildren, and 20 great grandchildren; a sister, Lomie Zook and husband Mose of Honey Grove.

Preceding him in death were sisters: Annie Peachey, Rhoda Peachey, and Nancy Peachey; a brother, Alvin Peachey, a son-in-law, Willard Kuhns, and a great granddaughter, Sierra Marie Yoder.

The funeral was held at Valley View Church on Dec. 5, with Leroy Yoder, Ray Stutzman, and Eli B. King, Jr. serving. Burial was in the Locust Grove Cemetery.

**Stoltzfus**, Benuel F., 70, died at his home on Honey Brook, PA, on Oct. 11, 2012, due to cancer. He was born July 15, 1942, son of the late John F. and Mary (Kauffman) Stoltzfus.

He was a member of Bethel Christian Fellowship, Morgantown, PA.

On Nov. 17, 1964, he was married to Katie Stoltzfus. She survives. He is also survived by six children: David, husband of Leah Ruth, Honey Brook; Vernon, husband of Rosie, Morgantown;

Marian, wife of Naaman Stoltzfus, Honey Brook; John Richard, husband of Heidi, Shipshewana, IN; Linda, wife of Jonathan Hostetler, Plain City, OH; and Mahlon, at home; 26 grandchildren; five brothers; Henry U., Madison, NY; Jacob K., Oxford; John U., Morgantown; Aaron K. (Susie), Dundee, NY; David K. (Priscilla), Morgantown; six sisters: Anna, Honey Brook; Mary (Sam Ebersol), Chambersburg; Lydia, Honey Brook; Malinda (Jonas B. Stoltzfus) Morgantown; Priscilla (Christ Stoltzfus), Millmont; and Sara (Eli King), New Holland.

He was preceded in death by a son, Mark; a brother, Amos Stoltzfus, and a sister, Katie Smucker.

The funeral was held on Oct. 14, at Ridgeview Mennonite Church at Gordonville, PA, with Jonas Lapp, Alvin Stoltzfus, and John U. Lapp serving. Burial was in the Summitview Christian Fellowship cemetery.


**Stoltzfus**, Naomi K., 82, of Dundee, OH, died Nov. 5, 2012 at her residence. She was born May 12, 1930, in Elverson, PA, daughter of the late Stephen R. and

Lydia (Petersehim) Stoltzfus. She was a homemaker and wife of a farmer.

She was a member of Harmony Christian Fellowship in Millington, MD.

On Nov. 7, 1950, she was married to John Z. Stoltzfus. He died August 11, 2004. She is survived by her children: Samuel Stoltzfus, Chestertown, MD; Lydia (Leroy) Nissley, Catlett, VA; Anna (Douglas) Hodgins, Milverton, ON; Jonas (Ruth) Stoltzfus, Millington, MD; Mary Ellen (Mark) Beachy, Dundee, OH; Paul (Janette) Stoltzfus, Newberg, OR, Timothy Stoltzfus, Magalia, CA, and John (Malinda) Stoltzfus, Richmond, IN; 22 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Other survivors include her brother Stephen (Ginger) Stoltzfus, of South America.

She was preceded in death by three sisters: Rebecca, Barbara, and Lydia and five brothers: Christian, John, Urie, Ammon, and Jonas.

The funeral was held on Nov. 14, at Harmony Christian Fellowship with Steve Stoltzfus and Mahlon Stoltzfus serving. Graveside services were by Randy Bridge. Burial was in Harmony Christian Fellowship Church Cemetery. 

*The world at its worst needs  
the church at its best.*



John Evans, 68, succumbed to his cancer recently. I mentioned him earlier in this column. His doctors had given him from 12 to 18 months with possibly some extension, if he would receive chemotherapy. He explored and chose alternative treatment options and handed out two such books to many different people, including myself. I believe he lived about twice as long as was medically predicted. But many treatment possibilities were no match for this dread disease.

A recent report says that in this country one in three persons has or will have cancer. Cancer, diabetes, and heart disease are considered three increasing major health problems in this country. There is increasing opinion that this increase may be related to lifestyle, especially diet and the resulting obesity.

• • • • •

Ohio has 88 counties. Holmes County has the lowest unemployment rate in Ohio. This area is home to the largest Amish settlement in the country, as well as many related church groups. What are the factors that weigh into this report? It is not

because of scholastic training. It is not because of their racial or genetic superiority. I wonder if our Holmes County readers would agree that this is traceable to solid work habits and a common sense approach to business ventures.

I assume that there would be similar conditions in other smaller settlements. This is noteworthy and thankworthy, but should not be mistaken for spiritual health. A proper acceptance of God's ownership is a reliable safeguard against material success becoming a distraction and a hindrance to God's scale of priorities.

• • • • •

Chuck Sanborn from Bluffton, Ohio, is quoted as follows: "My wife and I are not abnormally good, but we know the path of forgiveness can take ordinary people like us on an extraordinary journey."

In 2009, Michael Ayers was drunk and angry when he hit Chuck Sanborn in the face sending his head into a brick wall. His nose was broken, two teeth were knocked out and there was very serious brain injury. He almost choked on his own blood. He was in

a coma for six weeks. His wife cared for him 24 hours a day. He says, "Our hearts were broken wide open with our need of God." Furthermore, they realized that Ayers and his wife were also suffering. They have ongoing correspondence with the imprisoned assailant and are helping his young son.

Sanborn says, "Most people see my injury as a tragedy for my wife and me. It has created an opportunity to love more deeply." (MWR, 12-24)



In an earlier column I mentioned that in 1750 a family of orphans came to Philadelphia. An uncle named Mast paid their passage. One of those orphans became the first Amish bishop in Berks County, PA.

The transatlantic voyage also brought a young man named Michael Troyer. It is assumed that on the journey he was attracted to one of the Mast orphans, Magdalena, who eventually became his wife and the mother of their 14 children. The family later moved to Somerset County, PA, where Michael died in 1807.

In 1812, the widow accompanied family members in a move to Holmes County, Ohio. She is the matriarch of a large majority of the Troyers living throughout the states. She lived to be 91 years old. In 2011, I was with

brother-in-law, Ollie Troyer when he visited this grave site near Walnut Creek of his "four-times-great" grandmother. Brothers Leroy Beachy and Ollie provided information for this item.



After I pieced together the above information, Ollie told me that Magdalena is also my "four-times-great" grandmother. One of her daughters married my ancestor, Jacob Miller, grandson of John Miller, who is considered the original Amish Miller immigrant.

I do not have plans to make genealogy a regular feature of this column, but it is sometimes interesting to know something about our forbears. Occasionally there are exemplary things to be learned from such a study. But without exception, they were all human, with right or wrong choices that can affect many generations that follow.



We all know that good health is a gift from God that should not be taken for granted. The sudden discovery of a major problem makes me wonder if more careful health habits would have prevented a given problem. Of course, we will never know for sure. Several years ago, a non-local friend and brother was having some troublesome symptoms.

The most obvious was that he was 45 pounds overweight. Other symptoms included chest pains. He discovered a book entitled, *Eat to Live*, by Joel Fuhrman, M.D. The contents of the book seemed to be well-researched and supported by favorable results of many patients. It was also a major challenge to many weight loss diet plans. What would affect more of us is the challenge it gives to many very deeply ingrained eating habits.

My friend decided to make a firm commitment to a diet that had reportedly helped many with weight loss, diabetes, and various heart problems. He has the advantage of having a wife that fully supported his decisions. He acknowledges that she has creative food preparation skills. At this time, the brother feels very positive about how this diet has affected his weight loss and his well being.

Dr. Fuhrman has a thriving medical practice. He believes good results are more important than medical orthodoxy. He believes that food addiction, wrong eating habits are the cause of obesity and related problems so common today. My friend tells me that his diet is not really a hardship. The new diet seems to have “re-wired” his taste so that he no longer craves forbidden food. He is encouraged to eat liberal quantities

of healthful food and has jokingly told his wife that he is now deprived of a prominent mid-section that is common among his peers.

I shared the above lines with this non-local friend, he suggests that I add a note about another book, *The China Study*, by T. Colin Campbell, Ph.D., which he co-authored with his son, Thomas M. Campbell, M.D. Author Campbell, raised on a dairy farm, was the first of his family to attend college. He is widely respected by his peers because he has the courage to speak out when honest research reaches conclusions that are different from commonly held positions. *The China Study* was arranged through Cornell University, Oxford University, and China Academy of Preventive Medicine. Dr. Fuhrman gives the first of a number of strong endorsements of this book. Both of the above authors have written remarkable books. It is not surprising that not every review is altogether favorable. A person who has access to the internet tells me that Weston A. Price Foundation offers a pertinent critique of Campbell’s study. My preliminary impression is that this well-educated man can communicate well with ordinary persons.

• • • • •

Verlynn Yoder, Grove City, Minnesota, sent me some figures presented at a meeting he attended.

In an effort to better understand government economics, the speaker listed five categories: Tax Revenue (income), Federal Budget, New Debt, National Debt and Recent Budget Cuts.

The presenter then deleted six zeroes from every category and presented this as a household situation:

Annual Family Income .....	217,000
Annual Money Spent .....	382,000
New Credit Card Debt.....	165,000
Balance on Credit Card Debt....	1,847,100
Household Budget Cuts.....	5,850

As we study this, it helps us see why the current national debt is a very serious hurdle to good fiscal health. Our God who is sovereign in the affairs of the nations, knows the future of this country, but it does not take special education or superior intelligence to see that such a pattern cannot continue indefinitely. And let us not forget that personal or national sins do have consequences. Our gracious God is also a just God.

—DLM 

*ANNUAL BEACHY MINISTERS MEETING — 2013*

**The date for this year’s Ministers Meeting is April 2-4, 2013. It is to be held in Holmes County, Ohio.**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- **For those wanting time during business sessions, contact Phil Miller (330-495-9704) or by e-mail: pamiller@truevine.net.**
- **For those needing areas for displays and books sales, contact Joe Miller (330-495-2152) or by e-mail: southforklimousinjuno.com. Committees that will be meeting on Monday and Tuesday, also contact Joe Miller.**
- **Speakers wishing to have their material displayed on an overhead screen should have their information loaded on a flash drive. Submit to Philip Beachy (330-204-5133). E-mail: philipbeachy@juno.com**

**Let us seek the Lord together!  
Philip Beachy | Messiah Fellowship Church**



# Ministers' Meeting Messages – 2012

*This is a condensation of a message given at the annual ministers' meetings held at United Bethel Mennonite Church, Plain City, OH, on April 3-5, 2012. The complete set of nine CD's (five sermons and four women's sessions) may be ordered from Victory Music Services, P. O. Box 1498, North Highlands, CA, 95660. (Phone: 443-480-1489) for \$50, postpaid.*

## 4. Leading our Flock into Missions

*Merl Beiler, Abbeville, SC*

I wonder what you would say to this question: "What is the greatest sin of the Beachy constituency?" "What is the greatest need our Good Shepherd sees?" What would He say? He has a message for our church. He has spoken to me. I believe the greatest sin of my heart has been the lack of a God-given, Holy Spirit-anointed passion and love for lost souls.

We can have our services in a nice way. Everything can seem to be in order, and yet, I repent before God and before you, my brothers, that lack of burden. In Matthew 4:18-20, Jesus called men as He began His public ministry. In Matthew 28:18-20, we have His mission statement for us, given at the end of His earthly ministry. Mark 16:14-16 gives the terms of salvation very succinctly. "He that believeth not shall be damned." Let this truth echo in every

fiber of our being.

In Abbeville, South Carolina, we have an annual spring tour of homes. It's beautiful. The yards are manicured and it's nice. The tour I want you to take is not a nice tour. It is a tour of hell. If that were just right here, and we stood next to a soul that we had witnessed to and would hear the screams of desperation as they are cast into outer darkness, I wonder what it would do for you and me.

I believe the burden of this assembly is to experience what God wants us to experience. Hearing the cry of the lost and sharing the greatest news on earth, do you believe that Jesus Christ is the only way and we have that sacred privilege of offering Him to others? What great revival would break out in our churches, if we were totally sold out to God—110%?

What if we were more focused on the Lord Jesus—the one our Anabaptist forefathers focused on—rather than trying to duplicate their lives? We have the saving knowledge, the light of the glorious Gospel in

our hands and we're heaping it to ourselves and failing to proclaim the message to many.

What major lesson do men need to learn before they can lead? They need to learn to follow. To go is the privilege of each one of us. I ask not what your sermons say, but what does your life say? Does your life proclaim Jesus to be the Messiah?

We can do church all we want to, and have our committees and our meetings, but it can still be a lifeless thing—merely a religious exercise. What does God want to have happen in this house today? Jesus said in Matthew 16:24, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Let a new life be born in the heart, not just a fascination with historical facts back then. How fresh is your communion with the One who invites you to die to self?

My prayer over the last several years has been, "Lord, show us; guide us and set the church on fire to share the message of Jesus Christ effectively." He asks us to follow Him in death, humility and brokenness.

Robert Morrison, a Scottish pastor, one of the first missionaries to China, in the early 1800's served in China for 27 years. As he got off the ship in China, the captain said with a sneer, "So you think you're going to impress China with your views!"

Morrison said quietly, "No, it's

God that's going to impress China." Hallelujah! Death to self in humility and brokenness can hardly be overemphasized.

We're strong on preaching it. That's good, but I need to be just as strong in living it, following closely and equipping others to share the Good News, following, leading, and seeking Him! The church is strengthened and motivated to share the Gospel as they see your ministerial team unified and "sold out" to do it. As a team we're able to reach further by working together, speaking the truth in love and living it out in "shoe leather."

"I am my Beloved's and my Beloved is mine!" Is that real to you today? Are you living under the fear of man and what man will say and do? I pray that God will set you free from the fear of man and that you'll walk in the fear of God with reverence. Too often without that intimate connection, we toil all night and catch no fish. Fishermen catch fish. When was the last time you led a soul to Jesus Christ?

When I speak to you, I'm repenting and speaking to myself. Are you truly fishing for men or are you just riding the boat? Most of us servant leaders are called to serve the local body. It is a sacred privilege, but we thus have less flexibility to go out to other places than we did earlier, especially is this true for lead pastors. But it is our calling and commission to lead



our flock by vision and equipping Christian workers. Paul modeled this. He said, in Romans 1:1, that he was separated unto the Gospel.

Nehemiah gives us a good example. He prayed and fasted. Why isn't there more fire in the heart and in the church to share Jesus Christ? Perhaps we depend too much on programs and organizational methods.

Nehemiah was committed to the task because he was called by God. Furthermore, Nehemiah took risks for the Kingdom of God. It was not his personal agenda. He took the risk of being ridiculed by his own people.

Nehemiah was a leader that delegated. He also got the facts first-hand. Servant leaders make more mistakes than someone that's doing hardly anything. How does that make you feel? I say, embrace it and move forward when God speaks! Seize the opportunity!

We need a vision and a commitment to carry out the vision. An illustration of this is how John F. Kennedy inspired a nation by stating a big goal and attaching a deadline to it when he said (in 1961) "Our nation should commit itself before the end of this decade is out to land a man on the moon and return him safely to earth." Many scientists scoffed and ridiculed John F. Kennedy. In fact, there were preachers who said things like, "It's not going to happen. The Lord didn't allow the Tower of

Babel to be finished and He will not allow this to continue, either." Oh, really? JFK inspired our nation in 1961. On November 22, 1963, he was assassinated, but on July 20, 1969, Apollo landed on the moon, piloted by Neil Armstrong. He also returned safely to earth.

What would you say is the greatest hindrance to missions? It was said of the Apostle Paul that wherever he went either revival or a riot broke out. The fire of God was in his heart. Romans 10:13 says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Further, it says, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach except they be sent?" We are responsible for how we *motivate* or *stifle* our congregations into living out the Great Commission.

I recently read about a pastor who was preaching revival in South Africa. After the last meeting, a man came to him who wanted to make a fresh start. The pastor was so tired that he declined to see him. He went on to the house where he was staying, which was the house of a sister of the man who was seeking help. About a month later, he was coming through that place again and stopped in to see this sister. She said, "I don't know if I want to see you, Pastor. My brother was ready to commit his life to the

Lord Jesus, but you were too busy. He was in such anguish of spirit and in a drunken stupor he was smoking in bed. His bed caught fire and so did the house and he perished. I don't know if I want to see you, Pastor."

Does it mean anything to us that within the last 24 hours, approximately 150,000 souls went to meet God? Will we equip the church to reach the lost or will we have our religious activity of building walls to keep our people in, rather than sending them out? If today two of our families were in a middle eastern country, would we pray any differently? Or would we cry out to God in repentance for our lukewarmness...for having left our first love? Would we repent for doing church without being broken before God because we want to make sure that everything is taken care of right here?

Are we like the merchant who wanted to keep the store so clean that he failed to unlock the front door?

The real reason for his store was to have customers, but he kept polishing it, because he wanted it to look good.

Will we be real with each other as we lead our flock into missions? Nathan Mast, writing in *Cheap Grace*, writes: "Can we claim to be a full-Gospel church and to be spiritually minded if there are twenty times more hours spent in deer hunting than in soul winning? We have more

casualties and injuries from men falling out of tree stands than from spreading the Gospel."

Are we teaching the Gospel as a cultural way to live rather than the Gospel for all cultures? I believe in avoiding the appearance of evil, but I ask, "Has too much of our energy gone into 'don't do this and don't do that'?" If our focus is on Jesus and in sharing the Good News, and our young people catch that vision, and they see that with you and me, it's real, we might have less reason to say, "Should you do this or that?" "Put the brakes on here." When their heart is totally sold out to the greatest news of all time, and they are filled with the passion of the Lord Jesus, it makes a difference.

Someone in one of our service units, writes: "We have youth coming here from our churches that are excelling here like they did at home and doing things in their own strength, and when they hit the wall, it is more than they can handle. It is good for them to learn how they could be contributing if they would arrive ready to work in the streams of living water already flowing. The weaker ones get there much sooner, and are looked on with, 'What's wrong with you?' Could it be that this is the reason that no program is going to cut it? Could it be that this is the reason that we have such a difference between church and missions? Do we model or resemble what our missionaries are expected to

carry out in the field? We have lots of good people, but how many of them are truly filled and overflowing with the Holy Spirit? We may be good at trying to imitate the early Anabaptists, but I'm convinced that until we are filled with the Spirit, all the rest is fluff."

Here are some practical things to help in leading the flock into missions:

- It is just as important to share the Gospel at work around home as in another country. The important thing is to be where God has called us to be.

- Challenge your youth to serve in long-term and short-term mission projects. Pastors, teach a missions class to your high school students once a week. Jesus invites us to feel the urgency that He feels.

- Compare the time you've spent sitting in stuffy meetings where the only things being discussed were problems of procedure and method, not of souls at stake. Lift up your eyes unto the harvest. Follow Him and lead your flock into the saving of souls.



## mission awareness

### *Where shall we give?*

The question is asked sincerely: "How can we know that our tithes and offerings are being used for the purpose intended and stated? How can we be sure it is not wasted?" While we may not know all the result of, outcome or fruit of our giving here in this world, yet we are told, "God loveth a cheerful giver." Only eternity may reveal much of what was given in the name of the Lord.

Personally, I feel it is important to give to organizations that embrace biblical, Anabaptist values. Where we give is where our heart will be.

Eventually, we might also become like the group we give to. This year Marilyn and I again attended the Christian Aid Ministries (CAM) annual open house held in Ephrata, PA. I deeply appreciate the intelligence, humility, and integrity of those responsible for this program. One can hardly keep from coming away from the slide presentation with an aching heart for the great spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the people of this planet. The balanced emphasis of CAM's vision of meeting these necessities is to be commended.

Following are two articles of CAM

addressing two urgencies: The first one meets physical needs. How dreadful it would be to lack food in a cold winter with very little heat! The second meets spiritual needs. Can you imagine the stack of paper required to print 200,000 magazines about the size of *Calvary Messenger*?

-FS

### **1. Firewood, Warmth, and Winter Blessings**

This summer's drought brought new stresses to the people of Eastern Europe. Fuel and food costs have soared while salaries remain very low. As winter approaches, needy families worry about how they will stay warm when they earn barely enough to cover food, medical and school expenses. To save on fuel costs, some families make a fire only for cooking and during the rest of the day, they bundle up to try to stay warm. Many families have to borrow money for fuel.

To help ease the hardships brought on by the long, bitterly-cold winters, CAM operates a **Warm-A-Family** program in the Eastern European countries of Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine. This program provides either stoves or funding to cover heating bills. In Romania, our distribution director, Ellis Schrock says, "Most of the families we help do not have regular jobs but live off the land. This year's drought has put

many families into a serious bind. They do not have food for their animals, and they have very little saved up for the winter. When they receive money for heating, they are so thankful!" Although the program cannot help everyone, it encourages many needy families and warms many homes on cold winter days.

Radu Burduja, father of 11, is fortunate to have a job, but he earns only \$175 (USD) a month. Even with the children's government pension, this Romanian family's income is not enough to cover their basic needs. They live with Radu's parents in a small house, while hoping to some day finish the house they started building four years ago. Occasionally they receive a CAM food parcel, but perhaps their biggest blessing this year has been the wood stove they received through the **Warm-A-Family** program. Their son, Isaac, excitedly says, "We will all help keep the fire going!"

In southern Ukraine, Nina Katchkivsky, widowed for twelve years, has a very small income. At the church where she attends, the pastor brought a truckload of wood supplied by CAM supporters, and each widow received a quarter cord of wood to burn in her stove. The widows will need to buy the rest of their winter's supply of wood.

Although the **Warm-A-Family** program cannot cover all of a family's winter needs, it certainly helps ease their burden., Aleksei and Nadezhda Ivlya in Ukraine wrote this after receiving aid through the Warm-A-Family program: "We sincerely think you, sponsors, for the help according to God's mercy. We thank you for our warm house and for the warmth of your hearts in taking care of us."

## 2. Small Magazines With Big Potential

What had a very humble beginning in 1987 is now a thriving publishing house called Publicadora La Merced (PLM). When PLM first published the Spanish magazine *La Antorcha de la Verdad* (The Torch of Truth), they printed around 1,500 magazines. Today, this conservative Mennonite publisher in Costa Rica prints over 200,000 *Antorcha* magazines every other month and sends them to 48 countries around the world, including the United States.

Thousands of people searching for sound, biblical teaching in

their homes and churches have found the stories and articles in the *Antorcha* to be life-changing. An inmate in Florida wrote, "Before I was incarcerated I did not know the love of God who gave His beloved Son for the salvation of mankind. I have so much to learn, and I discovered even more when I read the small magazine, 'La Antorcha de la Verdad.' I give God much thanks for making me a new creature."

One Cuban recipient of *La Antorcha* stated, "When the magazine arrives, it is not unusual to have a line of people asking to borrow it next." After several years of reading the *La Antorcha* and other Anabaptist literature, a Cuban man accepted the biblical principles and practices taught in its pages. He is now the bishop of several conservative Mennonite churches. It is amazing how God can use something as simple as a small magazine like *La Antorcha* to bring hundreds to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Publicadora La Merced is supported by Christian Aid Ministries and is in need of funding.



*An open mind may be too porous  
to hold a biblical conviction.*

## *The Greatest of These is Love*

*Mary June Glick, Seneca, SC*

**W**e know that faith and hope are essentials for the Christian faith, and yet the Bible tells us that even greater than these is love. Love is spoken of very lightly in our world today. The dictionary defines love as a deep affection, attraction, attachment, devotion, and adoration. There are many forms of love. We recognize God's love for mankind, love between husband and wife, love of a mother for her child, family love, love for a friend, and brotherly love within the church family. We also use it as a term of affection for things, such as a love for gardening or other interests dear to our hearts.

I want to look at love between husband and wife. In a world where divorce and remarriage have become the norm, we must re-evaluate the definition of love in our own homes and marriages. Christians are to be examples to the world

of godly, stable marriage. I enjoy telling people that we have been married 48 years. Many people in our world today long for this kind of stability in their homes. I notice this particularly in younger people such as waitresses or store clerks. They seem to long for the answer or key to security or trust in marriage. We have a responsibility to encourage good marriage to others and do all we can to strengthen our marriages.

True love is unconditional. It does not depend on the way a person acts, thinks or looks. People change but love does not change. This is a challenge because we are human and our emotions—our feelings—change. However, love is not just an emotion, a feeling. Love is from God and God does not change. When we take our marriage vows, we promise to love “until death do us part.” However, most young couples are not prepared for the

adjustments and struggles they will experience in the marriage. Because they may feel disappointed or frustrated with some aspect of their partner, they begin to question their love. Yet, marriage is built on commitment. Love is a decision. It is built on a covenant we make with God and each other. Jealousy is not love. Lust is not love. Fear is not love. Controlling others is not love. Neither is expecting too much of someone else. Love is unconditional; it gives without expecting something in return. Love does not keep a record of wrongs—it forgives.

Wives, here are a few suggestions for making your marriage last a lifetime. I am thankful that God has forgiven and even redeemed the many mistakes I have made in our marriage and continues to do so for me even after 48 years of marriage. I have a patient husband and together we are secure in our mutual love and trust.

### **Display Confidence and Trust in Your Partner**

Trust your husband to be the leader in your marriage; show confidence in his decisions. Don't question his authority or belittle his leadership role. Express confidence in his ability to meet and supply

your own needs and the needs of your family. Appreciate his work ethic and the ability and desire to provide financially. Never compare his job or income with someone else. Do all you can to live within those boundaries.

### **Respect and Submit to your Husband**

Respect is probably one of a man's greatest needs. We should respect his personality traits, his spiritual leadership, his physical and mental abilities. Respect is displayed by submission. A meek and quiet spirit is of great price to God, according to 1 Peter 3:4.

### **Take an Interest in his Likes and Interests**

Our interests may be totally different but the more we become involved in the things he enjoys, the happier we will be. Go with him to places he likes to go; find common activities both spiritually and socially. Mel and I have traveled much because of his interest and responsibilities in missions. Many times it would have been much easier to stay at home (and at times I needed to stay at home), however, I think of all I would have missed in friendships and acquainting myself with other parts of the world if I had not gone with him. These common



interests have strengthened our marriage. There are various types of interests you can enjoy with your husband; you need to choose what is best for your marriage.

### **Choose to be Loyal to Him**

Remember that he always comes first in your loyalty, even before your children. Never discuss or belittle him to your friends. Let him know he is first in your life. Well, of course, God is always first. Balance your

time wisely so he does not feel left out. I know this is difficult for young mothers because children demand our time. However, try to schedule your life so that you can freely share yourself with your husband. Protect him from gossip or malice, but if he is wrong, kindly show him. Stand by him, always!

**February, with Valentine's Day, is a good month to demonstrate love to your husband.**



## junior messages

# *Potatoes—Morning, Noon, and Night*

*Mary Ellen Beachy*

Every time you sit down at the table you have more than one delicious food in front of you to enjoy. But what if your mother served only potatoes—morning, noon and night?

As Pavel scraped clean his supper plate, he looked at his mother and questioned, “What are we going to eat tomorrow?” Pavel knew there was no more food in their house. His mother’s faith in God was strong. Courageously she responded, “God will provide us with food to eat.”

The young lad went to bed and

slept the sweet, innocent sleep of childhood. But his mother tossed and turned. *Why did I tell Pavel that?* She worried. *What if we have nothing to eat tomorrow? Pavel could lose his faith in God.* Finally she prayed and cast her burden for bread on her Heavenly Father and fell into a restless sleep.

Pavel’s father had died when Pavel was a young boy. His mother worked hard. Yet, it was difficult to have enough food for her family to eat in the 1950’s. They lived in Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic, a country between Russia and Iran.

The very next morning Pavel's uncle Dimitry woke up at four o'clock, well ahead of this usual time of getting up. *Why am I awake so early?* He wondered. He decided he was awake so he had more time to read the precious Word of God. He got up and read the Bible. He read a long while and went back to bed. Still he could not fall asleep. He tossed and turned. The thought came to him that he could get up and dig some new potatoes in the early morning and surprise his wife with fresh potatoes. He got up and went out to the garden.

It was a lovely morning. He praised the Lord as he worked. He pushed his shovel into the ground and the first clump of white potatoes came bursting up through the soil. He rejoiced that the potatoes were doing well. God blessed our crop. We will have plenty to eat.

As he dug more potatoes the thought came to his mind, *How is my sister-in-law doing?* With every push of the shovel the thought came to his mind again: *How is my sister-in-law?* Finally, he just knew that God wanted him to take potatoes over to her house; it would help her feed her family.

That same morning Pavel's mother arose after her night in bed. While she was praying—earnestly praying for food—she heard a knock at the door. She opened the door and was

surprised to see her brother-in-law with a whole sack of potatoes. She told him how just the evening before she had told Pavel that God would provide them with something to eat. Uncle Dimitry told her how he could not sleep and God impressed on his mind to bring her potatoes. Right then and there they knelt down and thanked the Lord together for the wonderful answer to her prayers.

Pavel had delicious cooked potatoes that day for breakfast, potatoes for dinner, and potatoes for supper. It was so wonderful to have his stomach full of nourishing food."How great God is!" he thought. It did not even occur to him to grumble about the plain fare of potatoes. Oh, he was thankful for food—good hot food!

He never forgot how the Lord sent potatoes at just the right time. He remembered this throughout life and it gave him great confidence in his Heavenly Father who cared about a little fatherless boy.

Today Pavel has a large family of his own. They have lived through many hardships including hunger and war in the early 1990's. He fondly recalls the time some Christians brought a load of food from Poland for them when they were hungry. Pavel faithfully serves as a bishop over churches in his land. His testimony continues. **How Great God Is!**

(From *Grace Press News*, June, 2012, with permission.)



## *Hardship in Marriage*

*Name Withheld*

I feel I ought to share a bit from my experiences. If it saves even one searching soul from the tensions I live with, I shall be grateful.

I was a very conscientious youth. I accepted Christ into my life at a young age. I knew it was real and I took it seriously. My family spent a lot of time together. I was quiet with very few other friends. Although I was normal, I had my own set of weaknesses and inner struggles. I was not involved in open rebellion or challenging authority. Our youth group faced some of that, but I was seen as more of a “goody-goody.”

In my lower teen years there was one boy that I admired very much, but he seemingly lost out in his Christian life, giving up under wrong pressure. I often prayed for him, but he faded out of my life and there was no one else to take his place in my heart for years. Once at another church, where some of us were privileged to attend a series of special meetings, a young man from

a distance was there who stood out to me as possessing the qualities of my high ideals. But it was only a dream; I never saw him again.

I wanted God’s way and will for my life and as I got older, I often wondered what and where that was to be. I heard about a place that needed workers—a Christian organization and I rather secretly wished to go there. I’m not sure if I ever openly talked about it to my parents. If I did, nothing happened and I probably felt that nothing that good or notable would ever happen to me. I did spend a little time teaching in the school room, which was sort of a bitter-sweet experience. I never really felt that I was cut out to be a school teacher. Being rather laid back, I found it difficult to command order. I wished for a leader to go ahead and make decisions and handle things. Children beyond the easily-influenced, innocent stage scared and flustered me.

Then one day a completely

unexpected letter came from a young man whom I had not even seriously considered. I was taken aback at first, but nonetheless, was impressed and wondered if this was the Lord directing my way in life. One of the first things I did was to show the letter to my parents, who told me to take some time before giving an answer.

I figure they thought I was anxious to accept, but deep down inside, I really wanted to know their opinion. It was hard for me to make decisions and feel sure about them. I do remember being caught up in dreams of a wedding day while on my knees trying to pray about it. Almost surprisingly, they gave me their go-ahead, although it seemed that they had some reluctance on one point. I have often thought that if they would have asked me to quit some time—any time—throughout our courtship, I honestly believe I would have. Several weeks after he asked me, I accepted and so began a courtship in which I had many, many misgivings. It often seemed that something was not quite satisfactory, just not quite right. I prayed much, but it seemed I could not get hold of anything—nothing to point to and say, “This isn’t right; I need to quit.”

I enjoyed our time together somewhat, but was full of unrest—no deep, inner peace about spending the rest of my life with him. He

began talking about marriage and I felt almost panicky when he did. Why could I not be decided? What did God want me to do? Is this just the way I would always be? Could it be alright later? If we went ahead, I was for sure going to do my very best. Finally, I got to the point of being ready to quit, no matter what people thought or said. No matter if I really wanted to get married; no matter if he was really a pleasant person and he made me feel very special. But I felt I needed support, so I decided to ask counsel. I shared with a relative that I trusted, trying to tell how I was feeling. She listened, and encouraged me very heartily to go on, so I took that as God’s answer, but my confidence was boosted for only a short time. It seems to me now that by not giving me peace, God was telling me that this wasn’t His best for me. One time, while asking God for direction, I read Lamentations 3:40, a verse about trying our ways and turning again to the Lord. I puzzled over that verse a lot. Was God telling me to stop? I knew I was easily confused. Surely, I hadn’t turned away from the Lord. I wasn’t going against my parents’ wishes or the church, either. But yes, there were a few things about him that I wasn’t quite happy with. Was it serious? I’m not perfect either. We continued on. I tried to trust God. On our wedding day, I was exceedingly nervous.

Where was the joy I was supposed to feel? I felt uncertain.

Within the first week or so, I discovered rapid mood changes in my husband and I was lost as to what was wrong or what had triggered it. I tried to do my part, but it seemed I needed to feel things out before speaking to or even touching him, because a snappy response or a cold shoulder was a real possibility. I tried to figure out what to do and what not to do. I learned much about secret heartache. With others, he was just as I had known him before. When we were alone, it was sometimes good, but I was wary of sudden temper blowups. I learned to shut up. I tried reasoning with him, simply to get him to see another side or view and to be a help to him. But, apparently that was manipulating or challenging a superior authority, or not being a submissive wife. I often got harsh and ugly statements and accusations thrown at me. What is the definition of a tyrant, anyway? I admit I fought a lot of self-pity during those years. I concluded that he was a selfish man, governed by his own nature, his own affairs being too important to waste time on the children's or my stupid issues.

The years passed. A wall of self-protection grew, even subconsciously, although time and again I reached out with fresh hope. In between the angry times, we also had good times

together, although not the sharing and caring that my heart hungered for. I prayed and tried to keep home difficulties to myself, believing that God could work and change things for the better. Yet, it became more and more difficult to build up hope for a good marriage after it had been dashed to pieces time and again. When one takes special time and prayer for another person, and then that person shows himself even more ornery and spiteful, what do you conclude? It can be very hard to keep on praying, keep on living right, not retaliating; yet that is the Bible way, the only life worth living.

There were periods of hopelessness, gloom and just wanting out! It seemed such a senseless life! But I needed to make a life for the children, at least to some extent, of normal happiness. I now believe that the children suffered more emotionally than I realized at the time of their growing up. The scars are there and I feel responsible. I can tell you that hidden pain can be so real and deep that it is actually hurts physically.

I tried to be there for the children when and how I could, and we do share a bond that I cherish. Although they were taught obedience, it was coupled too much with fear and all too often they were moved around as pieces of something, instead of respectful involvement in their lives. Looking back, it seems to me we

made a point of avoiding criticism and scorn and that way probably got sidetracked in rightly dividing right and wrong. As the children grew up, instead of things becoming easier as I thought they would, they seemed even more complicated.

I need to add that my beloved husband has grown in some areas and daily life is usually more bearable, for which I am thankful. The Lord is faithful to give strength, but the fact remains that life must be lived and you can't just give up and lie down and die.


I need to acknowledge my foolishness in not taking seriously the fear "checks" I received. I should have shared more with others. How blind can we be? May God have mercy on us! Believe me, I now understand what it can be like to have one's hands tied. Note the following quote:

"Taking a life companion is a very serious thing. One point of great importance is that the two know beforehand that beliefs and convictions are the same. If a man has some material possessions and he sees that they will be a hindrance to him spiritually or to his spiritual labors, he can sell out or such like. But if he has a wife who he realizes does not have the same convictions

as he does, what will he do? There is no way he can take to honorably dispose of her. How will he pass on to his children the things he believes to be right? Will he be able to hold to them himself with a companion such as her? The same is true of a woman who has a husband with lesser convictions than her own. Their hands are possibly tied for life."

In closing, to you youth contemplating courtship, or already courting and not sure, I say, when in doubt, don't! I don't mean to disturb anyone that struggles with confidence. Rest assured, God deceives no one. You can trust Him. It's simply this: If you honestly seek and God doesn't give you the calm assurance that you are asking for, that in itself is enough grounds to bring that matter to an end.

Isaiah 48:18 says, "O, that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea."

*[Editor's comment: For obvious reasons, this writer wishes to remain anonymous. Clearly, her comments are directed mostly to young people considering a romantic relationship. Would anyone be willing to offer comment in Reader Response that would help her—even now?]* 



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

Periodicals

## THOUGHT GEMS

A child prodigy may simply be the offspring of highly imaginative parents.

• • • • •

A switch in time saves crime.

• • • • •

Be careful in choosing friends and just as careful in changing friends.

• • • • •

The church needs *workers*, not *wreckers*.

• • • • •

Walking a mile for a cigarette is healthier than smoking one.

• • • • •

Possibly life's greatest paradox is the term "civilized warfare."

• • • • •

Gossip tends to brew naturally at coffee break.

• • • • •

Socialism steals your pot to cook your goose in.

• • • • •

No person is so tongue-tied as he who will make no positive comment.

• • • • •

Pat others on the back, not yourself.

• • • • •

Conscience does not get safe counsel from a Gallup poll.