



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

Galatians 6:14

MARCH 2015

Meditation

*Living with Purpose*.....1

Editorial

*God's Not Joking*.....2

Trusting God.....5

Cure for Cirrhosis of the Giver.....6

The Love of God.....7

Ministers' Meeting Announcement.....8

Ministers' Meeting Messages — 2014

*Teaching Sound Doctrine*.....9

Marriages.....14

Cradle Roll.....14

Ordinations.....16

Obituaries.....16

Observations.....20

What Moves Us?.....25

Mission Awareness

*Victorious Fathers and Mothers*.....27

Helpers at Home

*Springtime Cleaning*.....31

Junior Messages

*Three Widows*.....33

Youth Messages

*Loving God in a Parent Child Relationship — Part Two*..... 34

Thought Gems..... back cover

## Living with Purpose

*Susan Garcete, Hartley, DE*

A purpose true, a fixed heart,  
A line that you have placed,  
A settled resolution held  
That will not be erased.


The Bible—it's the law, the light,  
Gives purpose to your life.  
But still there's things you decide  
And things you sacrifice.

Oh, youth, stand tall, with purposed heart.  
There's things not really wrong.  
Look at them fairly, squarely, then  
Choose that which makes you strong.

True strength is oft unpopular.  
True freedom is disguised.  
Take time with God, with quiet mind.  
And you will be advised.

In prayer release, hand all to him  
Hold still; He'll speak to you.  
You'll know two-way connection made,  
Your purpose fresh and new.

Then hold the vision in your heart.  
Determine to live free.  
Be sure you "mind the checks\*" that come,  
The road to victory.

[\*conscience] 

## God's Not Joking

**A**bram's nephew, Lot, was in a tough spot when God told them to leave Sodom. Naturally, he wanted to keep his family with him. But when Lot told his two future sons-in-law they too needed to leave Sodom, they seemed to pay no attention, because they "thought he was joking" (Genesis 19:14 NIV). ("...he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons-in-law." KJV).

Disregarding God's commands and living a sinful lifestyle didn't stop at ancient Sodom. It is still with us. Faithful preachers who call for repentance and plead with men and women to leave their sins and find their Savior, are still given scant attention by many men and women who nestle deeper into their familiar sins.

Why was Lot scorned by the men who planned to marry his daughters? Had he registered no concern when his daughters were courted by unbelievers, so that when he tried to get them to change direction, they brushed him off?

Interestingly, at one point, when

Lot found himself in mortal danger, facing men so incensed they would have killed him, survival was his top priority! That's why in that situation when his life was in mortal danger, Lot even offered his virgin daughters to would-be fornicators (or rapists) when he could have been urging them to repent and call on God for mercy. But Peter writes that Lot was concerned about the lawlessness of the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah. He writes, "...if [God] rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the filthy lives of lawless men...the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment..." (2 Peter 2:7-9 NIV). Were it not for these positive words of Peter, I would see little to commend Lot as an example of steadfast faith in God.

We're doing much better than Lot, aren't we? We live in a day when men turn the truth of God into a lie by insisting that alcoholism is a disease and that same-sex attraction is natural and genetic. These strange

labels makes those activities seem alright. I think those dodges are “science falsely so called” (1 Tim. 6:20). They simply do not measure up to God’s holy standards.

### Changing the Labels Today

Why do men want to make allowance for drunkenness and the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah? Let us consider some New Testament Scriptures that speak to these issues. Here are three: (1) Galatians 5:19-21), **“Now the works of the flesh are these, adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness...of the which I tell you before, as I have also in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”** (“the acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery... drunkenness, orgies, and such like” NIV). (2) Revelation 21:8, **“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers and whoremongers...shall have their part in the lake of fire...which is the second death.”** (“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral...” NIV). (3) 1 Cor. 6:9, **“Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind...nor drunkards...shall inherit the kingdom of God.”** (“Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually

immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes or homosexual offenders...nor drunkards...will inherit the kingdom of God.” NIV)

God does not change His laws to accommodate people who are guilty of the sins listed in these New Testament Scriptures. They are not listed as mere sickness or genetic endowment! Consider also this question: Is there any scriptural indication that someone with pneumonia or diabetes or other physical illness faces God’s judgment on sin because of it? Surely not!

God wants us to stand with Him by acknowledging that His judgment rests on those who continue impenitently in wickedness. Furthermore, this searching question remains: How shall we escape if we do not make ourselves clear to those who persist in these things?

First, we must get over needing to be well-liked. While one pitfall is the fear of man, and a second pitfall is a pendulum swing away--hatred for persons so ensnared. These degradations certainly do not justify the judgmental attitude of some professing Christians (and many Moslems) against drunkenness and homosexuality. Disapproval does not need to be violent. Why not? Because **“...the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but (they are) mighty**

**through God to the pulling down of strongholds”** (2 Cor. 10:4). Christians need to be engaged in pulling down strongholds.

### **The Christian’s Tools**

**Persistent Prayer.** We enter the battle for souls by first preparing ourselves with prayer and also by venturing out with that power. How shall we use the power of prayer? By **“casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ”** (2 Cor. 10:5). Yes, Jesus’ presence and power still overcome evil.

**Persuasive Love.** **“Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord** (‘fear of God,’ say other translations), **we persuade men”** (2 Cor. 5:11). Calvary love is both mannerly and merciful. While Calvary love is not impatient, it is willing to persist. Most people, especially adults, do not accept Christ when they are first introduced to Him. After hearing more about Him, and seeing His life in others, they may decide (after a number of opportunities to do so) to change their loyalties and their lifestyle. Then, **“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold,**

**all things are become new”** (2 Cor. 5:17).

Let’s not lose sight of the fact that a trapped sinner can become a saint. When people come to God on His terms, His miracle power makes what was impossible—gloriously possible! For that reason, beloved brothers and sisters, **“...let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season, we shall reap if we faint not”** (Gal. 6:9).

• • • • •

In 1991, the annual ministers’ meeting was held at Wellesley, Ontario. One of the messages there was given by the late Menno B. Kuhns, who made this observation, “Liberal theology does not begin with theology at all; it begins with liberal practice.” Menno made this statement before his marriage to Esther Hershberger. Esther, his widow, is deeply interested in getting a tape of that sermon. She believes they may have had a copy of it at one time, but that she apparently gave it to someone and would like any help that can be given her to get another one.

If you can help her, please get in touch with Esther Kuhns at

217-543-2930.

Mailing Address: 1550 CR 1900 N. Cadwell, Illinois 61911. Thank you!

—PLM 

# Trusting God

Timothy J. Myers, Keysville, GA

**C**rucify all the earthly within me....” We often sing those words in connection with revival meetings. Good words they are, asking God to root out all that doesn’t fit in with His image that He is recreating within us.

This is a request to God, not to give us the fortitude and insight necessary to do it ourselves, but for Him to step into our lives and work there without our specific permission for each detail. It is saying, “I’m all yours, Lord. Do what You want.”

Are we willing to make such a commitment? Does it sound a bit frightening? What might God do? What if He were having a conversation about us as He had about Job?

On the other hand, what reason would we have for not trusting God? Do we know him? We must not know Him well enough if we cannot rest comfortably in His hand. “*What then shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*” (Romans 8:31-32).

On what would you base your doubt of God?

•Do you doubt *His knowledge*? That He doesn’t know what is best? He dwells in the midst of eternity, and the extremes of both the past and the future are as clear to Him as your hand in the daylight is to you.

•Do you doubt *His heart*? That He doesn’t care, or that He is too preoccupied to arrange our affairs wisely? That would be out of character for One who demonstrated His love so radically in the sacrifice of His only Son.

•Do you doubt *His power*? That He isn’t able to enact what He knows would be best? Of course not. This is the God who spoke the universe, in all its immensity and all its minutia, into existence.

Then *why* would you doubt Him? Let Him have it all!

That kind of trust might seem like that of a skydiver who jumps out of a perfectly good airplane and trusts his parachute to bring him safely to the ground. There is a great difference, however. “*Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown [reward]; but we an incorruptible.*” (1 Corinthians 9:25).



Those folks do it for the thrill, for the personal satisfaction they may get from it. So skydiving is not on a list of things I want to accomplish.

We have better things to do. The reason we commit our lives to our heavenly Father is for Him to work out His eternal purposes in us, to make us, to use us, for purposes

that may be clear only in eternity — great and marvelous plans. Are you available?

“Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him  
How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er.  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus,  
Oh, for grace to trust Him more.”

[From *Life Lines*, Nov-Dec, 2014.

Used by permission.]



## *Cure for Cirrhosis of the Giver*

*Author unknown*

**T**he disease *cirrhosis of the giver* was discovered in A.D. 34 by the husband-wife team of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). It is an acute condition that renders the patient’s hands immobile when he is called upon to move them in the direction of his wallet or her purse, and from thence to the offering plate. This strange malady is clinically unobservable in such surroundings as the golf club, supermarket, clothing store, or restaurant.

Some try to use a fake remedy, pointing out to the patients that

income tax deductions can be claimed for giving. The best therapy, and that which leads to a sure and lasting cure, is to get the individual’s heart right with God. This affliction is actually a symptom of a more basic need of the soul.

Prescribed medication: frequent doses of Romans 12:1 and Luke 9:23, accompanied by a dash of 2 Corinthians 9:7. This dosage will become quite pleasant if swallowed with a heaping tablespoon of Philippians 4:19.

[From *Midwest Mennonite Focus*, Nov-Dec, 2014. Used by permission.]



*The careless soul cannot keep in touch with the Lord.*

*- George R. Brunk I*

# The Love of God

*(1 John 4:18-19)*

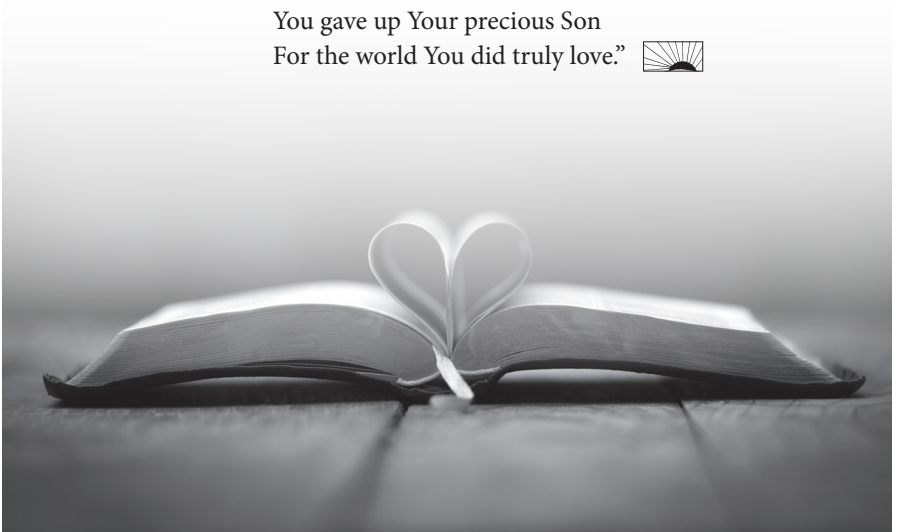
*Elaine Ulrich, age 14,  
Grandview, TX*

There is no fear in love  
For love comes from up above.  
And if you have perfect love,  
It's 'cause of our God's great love!

Perfect love casts out fear,  
For Jesus' love is so near.  
'Cause he that hath fear in love  
Cannot move by Jesus' love.

But if we love Jesus Christ,  
We know that He's paid the price.  
'Cause He gave up His own life  
For those in pain or strife.

"Oh, perfect love from above,  
Descend on us like a dove.  
You gave up Your precious Son  
For the world You did truly love."





## *Ministers' Meeting Announcement*

The annual Beachy Amish Minister's meetings are scheduled for April 7-9, 2015, to be held at the Fair Haven A. M. Church, east of Goshen, IN, hosted by the Clay Street, Maple Lawn, Fellowship Haven, and Christian Mission congregations.

The theme of these meetings is "The Kingdom of God in 2015," from Jesus' teachings in the Gospels.

•To request time in a business session, contact Thomas Mast: [thomas@mailjmc.com](mailto:thomas@mailjmc.com) or 574-536-4214.

•To request display tables or booth space, contact David Raber: [david@fourway.net](mailto:david@fourway.net) or 574-354-7905.

•If you plan to attend and have not yet received an invitation, contact Roman Miller: [rdmiller89@agapemail.net](mailto:rdmiller89@agapemail.net) or 260-645-1041.

Thank you,

Aaron Yoder, Clay Street Church 

*As dear as my life is in the bosom of my family, I should rather have a bayonet thrust through my vitals than to lift my hand against the life of my fellowman. Shall we sit like blocks and stones with no rebuke for war's inhuman butchery?*

*- George R. Brunk I*

# MINISTERS' MEETING

## MESSAGES – 2014

*The following is a condensation of the fifth message given at the annual ministers' meetings, held on April 8-10, 2014, at Journey Mennonite Church, Yoder, KS. These meetings were hosted by the three Amish Mennonite churches of Reno County, Kansas. Sets of 10 CD's are available from Victory Music Services, P.O. Box 1498, North Highlands, CA, 95660, for \$50, postpaid. Telephone: 443-4870-1489.*

*Email: [victorymusicservices@gmail.com](mailto:victorymusicservices@gmail.com).*

### **Teaching Sound Doctrine**

*Nathan Yoder*

*Free Union, VA*

This topic is based on 2 Timothy 4:2-4. This Scripture gives both positive and negative instruction, telling us that the time comes when men will reject sound doctrine. They will throw it out and lay it aside. There are things they will take instead of sound doctrine. When is that time? We are not told when that time is. When we look around, we see some of it. It seems to me that that time is now.

In Chapter Three, Paul mentions that perilous times are coming. One of the things that characterize this time is that people will have "a form of godliness but deny the power thereof." He gives a number of other symptoms of these perilous times, including this one, "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." So

there's a learning process that is going on, but it isn't resulting in sound doctrine. Paul follows these warnings with this, "But thou hast fully known my doctrine," and so on. I hope that each of us pastors would be able to say that at home and anywhere we go.

In Chapter Four, he says the time will come when *they* will not endure sound doctrine. Who is "they"? Does that leave us in safety? The time will come when the pressures of ungodliness will be such that people will turn away from the truth. Then he also says that "after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears." The use of "lusts" here is simply what you like to go after and what you look for. So it's because of unholy desires that men turn away from sound doctrine. They may turn to things they enjoy reading and follow that.

What is sound doctrine? I have divided this into four sections.

## **Doctrine defined**

It simply means teaching or instruction or the content of what is taught. When a teacher teaches, what he teaches is doctrine. When Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount, the people were astonished at His doctrine. Luke explains that it was because Jesus' word was with power. In Romans 12, it mentions that he that teaches, should wait on his teaching (or he that indoctrinates should wait on his doctrine.)

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine. Doctrine is what is right. It is to be given for reproof. What is reproof? That is speaking against what is not right. It is given for correction. That is how to get it right. It is also given for instruction in righteousness. That's how to keep it right.

In Acts 5 an interesting example of this is given. When the Word of God was having a wonderful effect, the magistrates decided to stop it and put the apostles into prison. "Let's see now how this teaching goes," they seemed to say. That night the angel of the Lord came and brought them forth and said, "Go, stand, speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life." Go preach doctrine!

They did that. Before they were to be brought before the authorities, they put them into prison. When they tried to find them, the prison

was empty. Then they found the apostles preaching in the temple again. The authorities said, "We've got to stop this." They pulled them out of the temple without violence and brought them before the council and laid the charge on them. They asked, "Did not we straitly command you that you should not teach in this name? Behold, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine and intend to bring this man's blood upon us."

I wonder if we'd go into Hutchinson tonight and ask the police what they think of these Mennonites, would they give us this injunction? Would they say, "We can hardly stand those fellows. They have filled Hutch with their doctrine." Or if we'd go to Lancaster, or to Middlebury, or to Mission Home, would they say? "These people have filled this county with their doctrine." We might hear things like, "These people are good craftsmen; they're good, honest people." Their teaching? "No, they don't say much." Have you studied the doctrines enough to know what they are? Are you settled on this Word of God? Have you processed enough that you're not easily swayed away from it?

## **Doctrine Determined**

In times past believers have seen the need to formulate their beliefs, especially with regard to some

doctrine that was losing out at that time. For example, when the Schleithem Confession was written in February, 1527, the first item was baptism. Why baptism? At that time baptism was a huge issue in the church. They struggled with it, yes, they shed blood over it. They said we must band together as a brotherhood and crystalize some of these doctrines we are in danger of losing. The second one in the Schleithem Confession was the ban or excommunication. Why? Those were the days of a state church. Then some people professed to be Anabaptist who were not sincere. The reformers said that where Scripture is being violated, we must be able to make a division. The third one was on communion. The fourth was one was on separation. There were seven points in that early Anabaptist confession.

What are the doctrines in question that we face? What are some doctrinal positions that need bolstering in our time? [audience response] 1) Non-resistance. This would be Number One in Ukraine right now. The brothers there are looking at the state of affairs and asking what they must do. They have no alternative provisions for those who cannot conscientiously bear arms. 2) Inspiration of Scripture. Good! Seeking first the Kingdom

of God. 3) Morality. 4) Separation and holiness. 5) Six-day creation. 6) Repentance for salvation. In Ukraine, they don't just, "Accept Christ," they "Repent." 7) The Kingdom of Christ versus the political kingdoms of earth. 8) Marriage between a man and a woman for life. 9) Headship. 10) Love in the Brotherhood. These are all things that we should study and live by from the Word of God.

I have a book here from which I shall read a bit of the introduction. "In this critical age of liberalistic and modernistic tendencies and positions that characterize so many theologians and institutions of learning, it is very essential indeed that the church have a work of vital doctrine that rings clear and is free from the blasting influence of these false teachings. It is highly necessary that Christians know what are the teachings of the inspired word of God and that they make these doctrines a part of their faith and life. It makes a difference what we believe. It makes a difference as to what is our attitude toward the full inspiration of the Bible. It makes a difference in what we think of the sonship of Christ, His virgin birth, His vicarious suffering, His atonement for sin, His bodily resurrection, His victorious ascension, His place at the right hand of the Father, His glorious coming again, the judgments he will measure

out to the disobedient and the eternal rewards He will give to the faithful.” You should have this book. Before you all get up and run for this book at the Choice Books stand, I shall introduce it further. It is *Doctrines of the Bible*, edited by Daniel Kauffman. That part of the introduction I just read was not written in 2014. It was written in 1928.

### **Detestable Doctrine**

In 2 Timothy 4:3, he tells us about detestable doctrine. In Revelation 2, the church of Pergamos was charged with holding the doctrine of Balaam, who caused Balak to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel and to eat things sacrificed unto idols and to commit fornication. “So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes. which thing I hate.” While we don’t know all about this situation, we know that Balaam loved money and wanted to please Balak. He twisted theology. I think he knew better than what he was doing but there was a motivation there strong enough that he kept on. Balaam was instrumental in getting the children of Israel involved in immorality in a terrible way.

Romans 16:17 says, “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.” If there are those in your midst who buck the doctrine

that you are preaching, what is your response to that? Here he said that we should not let them spread that doctrine. Why? Notice Matthew 16:5-12. In verse 6, Jesus said to them, “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.” Jesus took this opportunity to correct some misinterpretations among His disciples about the feeding of the 5,000 and the 4,000. He explained that He wasn’t speaking about physical bread but about false doctrine. Like just a little bit of yeast makes a large batch of dough rise, so a little bit of false doctrine can affect the church. There can be so much going right, but with a bit of false doctrine, it can cause serious problems. At first, you couldn’t tell that it was in there. But if it is given time, it will permeate the whole batch of dough. It is very hard to miss. The leaven did it.

There are also winds of doctrine. False doctrine works like wind. At first the wind may blow gently, but it can also reach tornado force. Things we thought were secure can be knocked over and destroyed. Protestant theology is a wind of doctrine. [audience response] 1) “Faith only” doctrine. 2) Emergent church. 3) “Jesus only” doctrine. 4) “No fear” doctrine. 5) Dualism of life. 6) Pluralism: all roads lead to God. 7) The word of faith doctrine: name it and claim it. 8) Prosperity

gospel. 9) Easy believism. 10) No accountability to the brotherhood. 11) A loving God without a hell. 12) Theistic evolution. 13) The gospel of tolerance. 14) Unconditional eternal security. 15) Calvinism, Mormonism, and Seventh-day Adventism. Are those winds of doctrine in our brotherhoods?

### **The Disciplines of Doctrine**

**Obedience.** Jesus said, “My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God or whether I speak of myself” (John 7:16,17). It is the person who is listening to what God wants, it is he that shall know true doctrine. It is time that we are committed to acting on doctrine. Doctrine demands radical attention.

**Commitment to submission.** If we guard this so we don't have to submit to each other, we miss this blessing. The concept of submission is not a gender-specific concept. It is for all of us. I believe an area of need in our churches that we're not doing well is at laying down our preferences. God would have us learn to submit to one another in the fear of God. We seem to say, “We have done our homework and we are right and it's time that you agree with me!”

**Commitment to the authoritative Word of God.** I understand that

the rabbis of Jesus were very careful about what they applied the Torah to. We must be willing to take the principles of the Word of God and apply them to the things we face today. Some people demand a “Thus saith the Lord.” If I try to tell them how to use their cell phone, they might take their smart phone out and see if there's a specific reference to it in the Bible. Since there is not, they may say, “You can't tell me what to do with my cell phone.” Jesus took the Word of God and applied it to the situation at hand. Of course, that doesn't give us the right to take our whims and impose them on others. But we must take the Word of God and make interpretation that honors it, as our marching orders. Go with a patient heart. Then use doctrine to reprove and exhort.

**Commitment to transformation.** When the form of doctrine becomes a part of our life, that causes indoctrination. When there is true indoctrination, it develops a way of lifestyle, a culture. For those who believe they should not preach doctrine is like marketing nice, brown eggs which have no yolks and the white is mostly gone. That's what preaching is, brethren, it's teaching of the Word of God. Preach the Word. Brethren, let's feed the flock of God. Nothing feeds and transforms like nutrient-rich, fresh, sound doctrine!



## marriages

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

### **Beachy-Miller**

Bro. Judah, son of Roy and Elsie Beachy, Nappanee, IN, and Sis. Melessa, daughter of Leroy and Judy Miller, Shipshewana, IN, at Fair Haven A.M. Church, on Jan. 3, 2015, by LaVern Miller.

### **Eicher-Mast**

Bro. Levi, son of Alva and Rosanna Eicher, Russellville, KY, and Sis. Lillian, daughter of Darrell and Debbie Mast, Russellville, KY, at Franklin Mennonite Church for Providence Mennonite Fellowship, on Nov. 14, 2014, by David Yoder, Jr.

### **Garber-Yoder**

Bro. Verlin, son of Harlan and Linda Garber, Deer Lodge, TN, and Sis. Larissa, daughter of Leon and Anita Yoder, Quenomo, KS, at Lyndon Amish Mennonite Church on Oct. 3, 2014, by Rudy Overholt.

### **Lehman-Kratzer**

Bro. Clifton, son of Jason and Eunice Anne Lehman, Aaronsburg, PA, and Sis. Denizli, daughter of Ken and Rosie Kratzer, Richfield, PA, at Richfield Mennonite Church for Shekinah Christian Fellowship, on Jan. 10, 2015, by Dave Beiler.

### **Miller-Bates**

Bro. Ezra, son of Paul and Fannie Miller, Goodspring, TN, and Sis. Martha Joy, daughter of Philip and Martha Bates, Goodspring, TN, at Wales Baptist Church for Goodspring Mennonite Church, on Jan. 2, 2015, by Perry Miller.

### **Miller-Schrock**

Bro. Nathan, son of Paul J. and Savannah Miller, Shreve, OH, and Sis. Mary Beth, daughter of Ervin and Alma Schrock, Wilmot, OH, at Maranatha Fellowship Church on Jan. 10, 2015, by Paul M. Miller.

### **Sommers-Mast**

Bro. Jeffrey, son of Edwin and Elsie Sommers, Newcomerstown, OH, and Sis. Cynthia, daughter of Ernest and Helen Mast, Melvern, KS, at Grace Community Church for Lyndon Amish Mennonite Church on Dec. 12, 2014, by Rudy Overholt.

## cradle roll

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

**Beachy**, John and Clara (Yoder), Auburn, KY, first child and son, Shawn Matthew, Oct. 9, 2014.

**Beiler**, Conrad and Lydia (Stoltzfus), Due West, SC, fourth child, first daughter, Kalea Charelle, Dec. 11, 2014.



**Chupp**, Levi and Malinda (Graber), Greentown, IN, first child and son, Rondall Lynn, Sept. 28, 2014.

**Eicher**, Philip and Velda (Stutzman), Rose Hill, VA, eighth child (one daughter deceased), fifth son, Kendall Stephen, Dec. 9, 2014.

**Fisher**, Marvin and Angela (Stoll), Due West, SC, third child, first daughter, Kaitlyn Rose, Nov. 6, 2014.

**Fisher**, Matthew and Violet (Overholt) Abbeville, SC, fourth child and daughter, Makayla Brooke, Jan. 8, 2015.

**Gerber**, Trevor and Kathryn (Schmidt), Brunner, ON, first child and daughter, Naamah Elizabeth, Dec. 28, 2014.

**Herschberger**, Wilbur and Krissa (Graber), Peru, IN, first child and daughter, Shanna Leigh, Jan. 17, 2015.

**Hochstetler**, Tyler and Heather (Riehl), Culpeper, VA, first child and daughter, Britton Raine, Jan. 13, 2015.

**Knox**, Cody and Michelle (Miller), Cable, OH, second child, first daughter, Tirzah Serenity, Sept. 4, 2014.

**Lapp**, Edward and Rita (Miller), Antrim, OH, fifth child, second son, Cameron Jade, Dec. 15, 2014.

**Mast**, Brian and Mary Jane (King), Goodspring, TN, sixth child, third son, Jairius Wade, Dec. 3, 2014.

**Mast**, Michael and Ruth Anne (Overholt), Auburn, KY, eighth child and daughter, Karla Ruth, Jan. 3, 2015.

**Nisly**, Brad and Rosa (King), Hutchinson, KS, fourth child, second son, Patrick Jon, Jan. 14, 2015.

**Overholt**, Lawrence and Bethanne (Blank), Lyndon, KS, ninth child, third son, Justus John, Jan. 3, 2015.

**Overholt**, Lewis and Marge (Wagler), Lyndon, KS, fifth child, third son, Ethan Rudy, Nov. 12, 2014.

**Overholt**, Nathan and Janet (Peaster), Sarasota, FL, sixth child, third son, Boaz Luke, Jan. 11, 2015.

**Schmidt**, James and Joanne (Gerber), Millbank, ON, first child and son, Landon James, Jan. 20, 2015.

**Schmidt**, Joshua and Estela (Morinigo), Crossville, TN, first child and son, Anthony Carson, Dec. 15, 2014.

**Swartzentruber**, Brian and Dorothy (Petersheim), Abbeville, SC, third child, second son, Collin Ray, Nov. 28, 2014.

**Troyer**, Joe and Sharon (Troyer), fourth child, third daughter, Rushylvania, OH, Josephine Grace, Oct. 24, 2014.

**Weaver**, Ben and Sheryl (Stutzman), Auburn, KY, fifth child, fourth daughter, Chloe Lynn, Sept. 11, 2014.

**Yoder**, Dave and Wanda (Weaver), Sarasota, FL, fifth child, second son, Patrick Ryan, Sept. 17, 2014.

**Yoder**, Douglas and Rita (Weaver), Plain City, OH, third child and daughter, Laila Joy, Jan. 8, 2015.

**Yoder**, Joseph and Martha (Yoder), Auburn, KY, fourth child, second son, Jedidiah Michael, Aug. 27, 2014.

## ordinations

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

### **Correction:**

**Bro. Daniel Byler**, 37, of Monkton, Ontario, was ordained as deacon at Fair Haven Amish Mennonite Church, Poole, ON, on Dec. 14, 2014. Pre-ordination messages were given by Nathan Yoder, Free Union, VA. The charge was given by Arnold Jantzi, assisted by Melvin Roes and Laverne Ropp. Jonathan Ropp and Derek Jantzi shared the lot.

**Bro. Arlen Mast**, 35, of Hutchinson, KS, was ordained bishop to serve at Arlington A.M. Church on Jan. 25, 2015. Preordination messages were given by Bobby Miller, Newcomerstown, Ohio. The charge was given by David Yoder, assisted by Bobby Miller. Freeman Yoder was also in the lot.

**Bro. James Weaver**, 46, of Lore City, OH, was ordained as minister at Antrim Mennonite Church, Freeport, OH, on Nov. 23, 2014. The charge was given by Jason Miller.

## obituaries

**Eicher**, Alma (Slabaugh), 86, of Fredericksburg, Ohio, died Dec. 21, 2014, at her home. She was born August 11, 1928, daughter of the late Moses and Anna (Stutzman) Slabaugh.

She was a member of Messiah Amish Mennonite Church. She was a homemaker who quilted and was a taxi driver for many years.

On Nov. 10, 1949, she was married to John Eicher, who died in 2005. Their five daughters are: Rose Ann Eicher, Holmesville; Lena Eicher, Nashville; Mary Sue Eicher, Apple Creek; Ruby (James) Mast, Fredericksburg; Naomi (Mahlon) Lapp, Lakeville; two sons: Elvin (Wilma) Eicher, Killbuck; and Marvin (Janice) Eicher, Freeport; 18 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, two brothers, Eli (Adeline) Slabaugh, Lancaster, PA, and Melvin (Carolyn) Slabaugh, Canton.

Alma was preceded in death by a daughter Sara, two sisters, Cora and Sarah, and a grandson-in-law, Rojo Guterrez.

The funeral was held on Dec. 23, with Bishop Philip Miller officiating. Burial followed in Shalom Cemetery near Fredericksburg.

**Gingerich**, Renita Faye (Miller), 50, of Plain City, Ohio, died at her home on Jan. 9, 2015. She was born June 26, 1964, daughter of Noah J. and Edna C. (Miller) Miller. The cause of death was hyperthyroidism and cancer.

She was a member of Bethesda A.M. Church.

On March 21, 1992, she was married to Jonathan Gingerich. He survives and children surviving are Jonita Nicole, Jolynn Daniel, and Micah Emerson, all of the home; her parents; siblings: Anna Marie, Josias (Sharon) Miller and three nephews: Lance, Jaden, and Kyle.

Preceding her in death were three infant siblings, Delilah, Jeffrey, and Jason.

The funeral was held on Jan. 12, at Untied Bethel Mennonite, with John Andrew Miller, Malta, OH; Dale Miller, John L. Gingerich, and Ray Stutzman serving, with burial at Bethesda Fellowship Cemetery.

**Jantzi**, Aaron L., 86, of Wellesley, ON, died at Guelph Hospital, Jan. 4, 2015. He was born Oct. 24, 1928, in Wellesley Twp., son of the late Noah and Mattie (Lichty) Jantzi.

He was a member of Cedar Grove A.M. Church, Wellesley.

On May 30, 1951, he was married to Katie Jantzi. She survives. Other survivors are daughters: Marilyn (David) Gerber, Millbank; Kathy (Mahlon) Gerber, Brunner, Sandra Erb, Wellesley; Susan (Larry) Ropp, Lucknow; sons: Bruce (Ruthann) Jantzi, Ukraine; Robert (Anne) Jantzi, Wellesley; 25 grandchildren, and

29 great grandchildren; sisters: Elmina (the late Elmer N.) Jantzi, Katie (the late Aaron Jantzi and the late Solomon Wagler); Nancy (Amos) Martin; Emma (Nick) Gerber; also sisters-in-law, Mary (the late Leonard Jantzi); and Laurene (Floyd) Keupfer.

The funeral was held at Cedar Grove Church on Jan. 8, with Arthur Gerber, Laverne Zehr, Vernon Jantzi, and Paul Jantzi serving. Burial was in the church cemetery.

**Jantzi**, Erma, 84, of Brunner, ON, died at Caressant Care Nursing Home, Listowel, ON, on Dec. 29, 2014. She was born Nov. 9, 1930, in Wilmor Twp., daughter of the late David and Annie (Gerber) Jantzi.

She was a member of Cedar Grove A.M. Church, Wellesley.

Surviving are sisters: Marion (the late Ernest) Roth and Emma (the late Emmanuel) Lichty, two nieces and three nephews.

The funeral was held at Cedar Grove Church on Jan. 3, with Arthur Gerber, John Gerber, Jeff Kuepfer, and Paul Jantzi serving. Burial was in the church cemetery. .

**Kuhns**, Menno B., 87, of Cadwell, Illinois died Jan. 4, 2015, at his home. He was born in Arcola, IL, Oct. 20, 1927, son of the late Ben and Sadie (Yoder) Kuhns.

He was a member of Trinity Christian Fellowship. He was ordained as deacon at 26 years of age and served in the ministry for 61 years. He had great joy in his

grandchildren and great grandchildren. Bible schools and young people were close to his heart. In a span of 40 years, he taught in various Bible schools. He especially enjoyed harvest time last fall working with his extended family. He desired to “wear out and not rust out.”

On Sept. 11, 1947, he was married to Alma Kauffman. She died on Jan. 17, 1990. On July 25, 1991, he was married to Esther Hershberger. She survives. Also surviving are daughter-in-law, Anna Kuhns, Belleville, PA; two daughters, Irene Kuhns, Arthur; and Edna Kuhns, Cadwell; two sons, Edwin (Leona) Kuhns, Sullivan; David (Dawn) Kuhns, Sullivan; 14 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren; five brothers, Jerry Kuhns, Arthur; Harvey (Verna) Kuhns, Tuscola; Abe (Dorothy) Kuhns, Omer (Barbara) Kuhns, Sullivan, and Henry Kuhns, Arthur; two sisters, Anna (Edward) Kauffman, Arthur; and Mary Miller, Arthur, and a sister-in-law, Georgia Kuhns, Fort Wayne, IN.

Menno was preceded in death by his first wife, Alma, one son, Willard, a brother, Levi, and brother-in-law, Harvey Miller and a sister-in-law, Ann Kuhns.

The funeral was held at Otto Center for Trinity Christian Fellowship on Jan. 8, with Wilbur Gingerich officiating. Burial was in the Pleasant View Cemetery, in rural Arcola.

**Lapp**, Mary Elizabeth (Yoder), 90, of Christiana, Pa., died Jan. 18, 2015, at Fairmount Home, Ephrata, PA. She was born to the late Samuel P. and

Arie (Peachey) Yoder, Dec. 5, 1924 at Allensville, PA.

She was a member of Mine Road A.M. Church, Gap, PA.

On Oct. 23, 1943, she was married to Benjamin F. Lapp. He survives. Other survivors include daughters, Velma (wife of LaVerne) Bontrager, Middlebury, IN; Gloria (wife of Thomas) Miller, Christiana, PA; Carol (wife of Steve) Stoltzfus, Prattsville, AL, daughter-in-law Barbara (wife of Val) Yoder, Chiang Mai, Thailand and earlier of Sanford Lapp; and son, Glenn (Naomi Stoltzfus) Lapp, Penn Yan, N.Y., 20 grandchildren, and 45 great grandchildren. A sister, Elsie (Sylvan) Smoker, Quarryville, PA, also survives.

Preceding her in death were three children, John Marlin, Anna Faye, and Sanford Lapp; three great grandchildren, and three siblings: Linda Zook, Crist Yoder and Paul Yoder.

The funeral was held at Weavertown Church on Jan. 25, with Alvin Stoltzfus, John Glick, and Daniel Lapp serving. Burial was in the Weavertown Cemetery.

**Miller**, Mary Elizabeth (Beachy), 86, of Partridge, Ks., died Jan. 11, 2015. She was born to the late Ananias J. and Ella (Shetler) Beachy at Kalona, Iowa, on June 2, 1928. Following a period of declining health, Mary was admitted to the hospital on Dec. 26. She had some days, in which she was alert and responsive, enjoying the company of her family around her. The family considers these days a gift, especially for

out-of-town family members who came to see her. The family's sorrow in her departure is tempered with the comfort of remembering her faith in her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

She was a devoted member of Center A.M. Church.

On August 12, 1950, she was married to David L. Miller. He survives. Other survivors include 12 children: Linda Rose, Partridge; Miriam (Hiromi) Iwashige, Partridge; Carol (Roberto) Hodgson, Shawnee, KS; Myron (Rhoda Hoover) Miller, Partridge; Caleb (Kara Haas) Miller, Mechanicsburg, PA; Lowell (Judy Yoder) Miller, Nickerson; Lois (Marvin) Mast, Nickerson; Dorcas (Bill) Byler, Brevard, NC; Clara (Matthew) Schrock, Columbus, OH; Ronald (Brenda Stutzman) Miller, Oswego, KS; Anthony Miller, Partridge; and Marcus Miller, Hutchinson, KS; 31 grandchildren and eight great grand children.

Mary was supportive of her husband's ministry and was grateful when her children were old enough that she could accompany him to the annual ministers' meetings. She was a gracious hostess, cooking and serving meals to a wide variety of guests. She enjoyed teaching ladies' Sunday school classes. When she no longer needed to plant large vegetable gardens, she began to grow more flowers. She learned how to make attractive bouquets, and cheered many friends with a gift of flowers.

The funeral was held on Jan. 17, with David Yoder, Dwight Miller and Gary Miller serving. Paul L. Miller conducted

the committal at West Center Cemetery.

**Stutzman**, Henry J., 82, of Plain City, Ohio, died on Jan. 2, 2015. He was born Oct. 16, 1932, son of the late Jonas and Lizzie (Beachy) Stutzman.

He was a member of Canaan A.M. Church, Plain City,

On Feb. 24, 1955, he was married to Mary Miller. She died in 2005. On May 3, 2008, he was married to Ada Miller. She survives. Other survivors include children: Barbara Stutzman, Andrew (Edna) Stutzman, Jonas (Renna) Stutzman, Noah Stutzman, and Reuben Stutzman; four grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, a brother, Daniel Stutzman and a sister, Ida Stutzman.

Preceding him death besides his parents and first wife, were a daughter, Rachel Stutzman, a brother, Daniel Stutzman, and sisters, Martha, Ella, and Barbara Stutzman.

The funeral was held on Jan. 4, at Canaan Fellowship Church, with burial in the church cemetery.

**Wagler**, Emma (Zehr), 94, of Millbank, ON, died at St. Mary's Memorial Hospital, St. Mary's, Ontario, on Dec. 28, 2014. She was born in Wilmot Twp, on July 29, 1920, daughter of the late Moses and Fannie (Lichty) Zehr.

She was a member of Cedar Grove A.M. Church, Wellesley.

On Jan. 7, 1941, she was married to Allan Wagler. He is deceased. To this union were born eight children: Ruth Wagler, Newton; Erma (Ervin)

Horst, Tavistock; Shirley (Wayne) Erb, Milverton; Elaine (Ronald) Gerber, Newton; Mervin (Wanda) Wagler, Wellesley; Murray (Hannah) Wagler, Crossville; Mark (June) Wagler, St. Charles; and Wayne (Dianne) Wagler, Millbank; Other survivors include daughter-in-law, Anna Mae Wagler, Millbank, 34 grandchildren, and 97 great grandchildren; sisters: Mary (the late Amos) Gerber; Laura (the late Elmer) Jantzi; Esther and Ohmer Jantzi; brothers: Norman (Amy) Wagler, Jacob

(Alma) Wagler, Elmer (Ethel) Wagler, and a sister-in-law, Mary (the late John) Zehr.

Preceding her in death were son, Melvin in 2009; daughter Laurene in 1951; daughter -in-law, Miriam Wagler in 2008, and brother John and (wife Esther) Zehr.

The funeral was held at Cedar Grove Church on Dec. 21, with Arthur Gerber, Jeff Kuepfer, Stephen Gerber, and Timothy Gerber serving. Burial was in the church cemetery.



## observations

The recent passing of a dear friend and brother, Menno Kuhns, is a fresh reminder that life is brief, in fact, terminal. Brother Menno's life and ministry touched and blessed many lives, not only in the Arthur, Illinois, community, but also through long-time leadership at Calvary Bible School.

His memorization of Scripture, his godly concern and ease of speaking were characteristics that made non-local requests commonplace well into his senior years. Clearly, being a faithful servant of the Lord was Number One on Menno's list of priorities.

While he was certainly serious-minded, he also had a pleasant sense of humor. With our birthdates

just two days apart, he frequently reminded me that he was not as old as I. My desire is to honor the memory of Menno Kuhns by being faithful to our Lord, whom he so earnestly served.

In 1981, a 19-year-old student included the following paragraph in a letter to his parents while attending Calvary Bible School: "Menno Kuhns has been giving an excellent, moving series of revival messages. He presents it in a very humble way. On Tuesday he mentioned that he felt a block which resulted in a soul-searching for many of us. Quite a few responses came the following night after a very real message on hell. I feel that the spiritual mood has changed dramatically from Monday to Friday."

• • • • •

Another milestone much closer to home was the passing of Mary, my dear companion of more than 64 years (see Obituaries). It is hard to know what should be shared with the readership of this very personal experience. It is, of course, another reminder that I do not have much time left. We were nearly the same age.

Reflections include:

- The Lord who led us together is still faithful.

- Mary’s firm commitment to be a faithful Christian companion, mother, and matriarch to the coming generation makes for blessed memories.

- I feel that my role as husband and father should have been better than it was. God’s grace and forgiveness is not only desirable but also essential.

- While death and funeral planning is a daily occurrence, for some in our family it was a new experience. There was very generous outpouring of care and support by the church family and some other neighbors.

Significant numbers of non-local friends attended the visitation and funeral service. But another funeral and a wedding affecting three of Mary’s brother’s families created conflicts that prevented some fairly close relatives from attending. We

are reminded that in our circles there is much activity, with many events both planned and unplanned, that conflict. All of this helps to make the church family and the biological family supremely important.

• • • • •

It seems to me that this is a vivid reminder that remaining time for me is short and makes it important to reconsider how to best use the time that is left. I think the Lord is nudging me to be a bit more candid and outspoken about issues that weigh on my mind.

Yes, I am aware that senior concerns may become tiresome “cracked records.” You should feel free to disregard whatever is not needed or unsound. But am I right that our busyness with things present can make it difficult to give needed attention to the bigger picture of the past and the future?

• • • • •

It occurs to me that there are several different responses to the fact that Amish Mennonites like us typically have not done well in maintaining long-term Christian identity under the influence of and indifference from rebellious society. There may be some among us who are favorable or indifferent to such an outcome. But I believe there are a far greater number who are very



concerned but are not sure what to do.

Surely, we do not mean that God is unable to do His will through His people. Surely, we are not helpless victims or pawns in the stream of history. If God is for us we need not fear the giants of opposition and indifference that stalk the land. The giants that we need to overcome are hesitation and lethargy within ourselves.

What can be done? Pray! Personal and corporate prayer. "If my people, which are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14). That's a ready-made promise to people who meet the conditions. These needs deserve mention at our prayer meetings.

The Lord may direct some of you to put your concerns into writing. This would undoubtedly encourage and bless others. If the outlook seems dismal, let us not be discouraged.

There is a constant turnover of generations. The rising generation can bring fresh energy and insight to the body. The awareness that truth is inter-generational is needful for stability.

• • • • •

My nephew, Eldon Wagler, regularly rides his bicycle to work. The nearly five-mile trip by leg power is good exercise. It is also a first-person exposure to Kansas weather. Often windy Kansas is just that.

Riding a bicycle makes a person very conscious of wind direction. When the direction is favorable to where you're going, it makes the going much easier. A calm atmosphere is also friendly to bicycle travel. But a strong head wind is a frequent unwelcome feature of biking. Sometimes the wind changes during the day so that Eldon faces the wind twice in the same day. Obviously, there are good reasons why Eldon should not let wind direction and ease of travel dictate direction and destination.

I think there are important life lessons to be learned from this observation. Life's journey is moving toward a destination. To reach our desired destination, we need to travel the right route. Ease of travel and cultural winds are often contrary to reaching a good and desirable destination. Jesus gave us good news when He said, "I am the way, the truth and the life."

• • • • •

This is being written on Friday, Jan.

30. This date marks the end of this year's first four-week CASP project in Hutchinson. This first group gave a very good account of themselves.

We are anticipating a second group and a second term, beginning on February 2. The two staff couples and volunteers and the CASP volunteers are housed in a two-story renovated dwelling (plus a basement) close to Interfaith Housing Services headquarters who provide the work projects for the CASP volunteers. IHS is very appreciative of the character and work ethic of these young men and their project leaders. They would be eager to provide additional work, if we could find more workers. Our census shows that some 800 Beachy young men would be eligible volunteers and that there are a large number of unaffiliated congregations, with similar ideals. This adds up to a large pool of potential manpower. But to find enough volunteers has not always been easy.

We are grateful that this year there are four non-Beachy volunteers who are taking part in the projects. Your awareness and prayerful interest is appreciated.

-DLM



God saves us individually, rather than in people groups, like families or churches. There are, however,

tremendous blessings and benefits that we realize as we walk together with other believers on life's journey. Church is a wonderful place to welcome our new babies, to celebrate weddings, and to stand together when someone dies.

A remarkable blessing of community during the time of a funeral was something I had the opportunity to experience after my mother died on January 12. I'm not quite 50 years old and this was the first funeral of anybody in my immediate family. Many of you have experienced such grief in this way at a much younger age than I. I was amazed again and again by the tremendous symphony of efforts by many people as the planning and this funeral unfolded.

A kind brother came and dug the grave; others set up a tent and made other preparations at the cemetery. Many people brought in a lot of food. Others organized the details of the visitation, as well as those who, on relatively short notice, shared in the funeral service. Someone gave considerable forethought regarding the songs that would be sung at the funeral and at the graveside service. As far as I know, none of these people got any pay for their efforts.

However, more remarkable than all the logistics of the funeral was

the dignity and grace of the whole process. Many friends and relatives came from near and far to honor the memory of Mom and to share in the pain of parting with our family. At different times, I was struck by how different this would all be if we were alone at this time.

It is healthy for God’s people to be reminded that death is as normal as birth. It does us all good from time to time to pause and consider the end of man’s days. What better way to do this than in the company of other believers? The blessing of a church is a treasure during good times and normal times. But, recently, I saw it shine extra brightly during the sobering mixture of sadness and joy of the passing of my mother.



It’s that time of year when we enjoy browsing various seed catalogs. The most unusual catalog we got this year

was from Bakers Creek Heirloom Seeds. We visited their farm and store several years ago in southern Missouri. Jere and Emilee Gettle and their young family own this enterprise. They are quite zealous about the necessity of preserving seeds to be used to grow food that are not genetically modified. The size and growth of their business seems to indicate that they are not alone in the way they think about these things. The topic of GMOs in our food chain has a good chance of generating a spirited discussion wherever it unfolds. There are those who point to the vast production increase and growing ability to feed people due to GMO technology. Others are quick to point out that “the jury is still out” with regard to how these organisms affect our health and that the early indications aren’t particularly encouraging.

—RJM 

***At last it will be seen that  
through the ages God’s ways are  
justified. A mole should not find  
fault with the shining of the sun.***

*- George R. Brunk I*

# What Moves Us?

*Marvin E. Yoder, Presently at Catlett, VA*

**A**s I sit down to write this, I see the world around us in great turmoil. Christians are being slaughtered in the Middle East and in Nigeria. Hamas have recently ended another war, but the hostilities continue. The conflict in Ukraine seems to defy solution. The civil war in Syria has displaced millions of people. Racially motivated riots and demonstrations are continuing in the United States. These are a few of the most prominent items in the news in recent months. How should a Kingdom Christian respond to these events?

A scriptural case can be made that Kingdom Christians need not be moved by these events. Our kingdom is not of this world, and our King is not threatened by this earthly turmoil. So as the nations rage and plot vain things (Psalm 2), we are confident that the Most High rules in the kingdoms of men to accomplish His divine purposes. For example, it is reported that in spite of conflicts in the Middle East, many Muslims are turning to Christ.

Let us notice several things from which and by which we should not be moved:

•**We should not be moved from**

**our faith and hope.** In his letter to the Colossians, Paul reminds them that they who were once enemies of God had been reconciled by Christ's death. Thus reconciled, they would be presented "holy, and blameless, and irreproachable in His sight—if indeed you continue in the faith,...and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard,..." (Col. 1:22, 23). This is our only hope in a culture that is in rapid moral and spiritual decline.

•**We should not be moved by affliction or persecution.** The Apostle Paul sent Timothy to encourage the Thessalonians "That no one should be shaken ["moved" ESV] by these afflictions, for yourselves know that we are appointed to this" (1 Thess. 3:3).

As Paul was traveling toward Jerusalem near the end of his third missionary trip, the Holy Spirit testified that chains and tribulations would be his lot. Paul's response is recorded in Acts 20:24, "But none of these things move me; neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I may finish my course with joy." We should embrace this attitude, because possible persecution of western Kingdom Christians looms on the horizon.

Then, as long as we continue on the straight and narrow way and give our supreme devotion to Jehovah God, WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED. "I have set the Lord always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved" (Psalm 16:8). "Cast your burden on the Lord, And He shall sustain you; He shall never permit the righteous to be moved" (Psalm 55:22). "He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved" (Psalm 62:6).

In this writing so far, I have attempted to support my thesis that the unrest in our world should not negatively affect our faith, hope, and trust in God, who is our Rock and Salvation. On the other hand, the Scriptures also suggest that Kingdom Christians should be deeply moved by the troublesome events around us and across the world.

*What then should move us?*

•**We should be moved with compassion.** Jesus was moved with compassion by the needs, conditions, and circumstances around Him. Admittedly, most of us will not be able to influence directly the situations mentioned earlier in this article. However, we can give financial support to organizations that use their resources wisely and are positioned to make a difference.

•**We should be moved to prayer.** This is possibly the most valuable contribution a Kingdom Christian

can make. We can "remember the [suffering and persecuted] as if [suffering and persecuted] with them" (Heb. 13:3). We can support in prayer those working on the front lines to bring help and hope to the suffering and persecuted. We should pray God to send revival to our own hearts and to The Church in the West.

We should also pray for deliverance from the evil that is determined against the United States, whether from God or from foreign powers. Even though the United States is considered the most powerful nation in the world, we will not escape the judgment of God unless we repent. Remember Babylon and Rome! Nevertheless, God has promised, "if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it" (Jer. 18:8). "Who can tell if God will turn and relent, and turn away from His fierce anger, so that we may not perish?" (Jonah 3:9).

•**We should be moved to witness** to the forgiveness that is available to all men through the death and resurrection of Jesus, the Christ. "There is no other name under heaven whereby we can be saved" (Acts 4:12). In addition to the Great Commission, there are at least two other reasons why we should renew our efforts in this area. Even though some professing Christians are promoting the idea that other


religious faiths can lead to salvation, Jesus is still the way, the truth, and the life—the only way to God! (John 14:6).

Furthermore, since evangelism is greatly restricted in many Asian and African countries, and many of these people groups have immigrated to the United States and Canada (currently more than six million Muslims have come to the United States alone), and many more are coming, could it be that God, Who is not willing that any should perish, is bringing them to us since we cannot freely go to them?

•Perhaps **we should be moved with anger** that motivates us to action. Consider Jesus' response recorded in Mark 3:1-6. He saw a need but observed the hard hearts

of those who should have shown compassion. Angered by this, He performed a miracle of healing despite their silent opposition. The thanks Jesus received was a plot to kill Him. If righteous anger motivates us to action, we may receive the same thanks.

Because of our position of security and immovable faith in Christ, let us be moved by the Holy Spirit to respond with compassion, prayer, and witness to individuals and situations in our communities and our world.

**“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”** (From 1 Cor. 15:58). 

## mission awareness

# Victorious Fathers and Mothers

*Floyd Stoltzfus, Belize City, Belize*

**L**ord, give us Christian homes.” This should be the heart cry of every servant of God at home and abroad. Despite eroding social values, Christian fathers and mothers can be victorious parents as they courageously apply God’s Word

to their responsibilities of being light bearers of truth. In the midst of the great confusion in our world about the home, God asks fathers to stand and be men of God—leaders in their homes. The world says homemaking and motherhood are

paths to misery. How sad! Children are an heritage of the Lord and are likened to those who will enter the Kingdom of God.

I dedicate this message to Ben and Marian Stoltzfus and family. This family served ten years in Cayo, Belize, as faithful light bearers of truth. Our family served at the Cayo mission for several years in the early 1990's. More than 20 years later, after Ben's witness there, I visited Cayo Christian Fellowship. My eyes flooded with tears as I heard the singing. One young man who was a student in the Christian school where some of our children taught is now a Sunday School teacher. A brother who earlier had wandered away from God is now a victorious Christian and teaches the Spanish Sunday School class. He has a lovely wife and family. I believe Brother Ben and Sister Marian and their family have contributed much to the growth and stability of Cayo Christian Fellowship.

We will consider four principles from 1 Peter 3:1-7 that are relevant to victorious, godly parenting. These will lead to bearing the light of truth.

**The Principle of Differentiation.** There are fundamental differences between men and women. We can value these differences because this is how God has created us.

For example, men generally tend to make quick decisions and take quick action while women tend to be more thoughtful. A woman has feelings that lie near the surface, while a man may keep his feelings hidden. Women tend to grieve over a disappointing situation while men tend to say, "Let's forget it." A husband needs to remember that his wife thrives on affirmation and affection. God specifically commands husbands to love their wives and be victorious light bearers of truth.

**The Principle of Submission.** "Wives, be in subjection" (V. 1). The principle of submission is foreign to the world around us, but God's word is clear. God asks the wife to submit to her husband's responsible authority and thus be a light bearer of truth.

Sarah's respectful submission (v. 6) included honoring and obeying Abraham. The submissive wife to God's headship order and her husband's leadership experiences freedom and security. Submitting joyfully yields an unparalleled sense of fulfillment and God's approval.

**The Principle of Ornamentation.** "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning...but of a meek and quiet spirit" (vv. 3,4). A godly



wife will cultivate inner beauty. She will be far more effective in retaining her husband's approval if she values what God values and adorns herself in modest apparel with the priceless ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. Precious to God are the hearts of husbands and wives devoted to walking in holiness with Him daily, repenting as needed and returning to God's order while being filled with His Spirit and a love for the Word of God. "That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation among whom ye shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:15).

**The Principle of Affection.** "Husbands...giving honor unto the wife..as being heirs together of the grace of life" (v. 7). The affection God intends for husbands and wives to express to each other is unselfish and sacrificial. A husband is instructed to be considerate of his wife's nature and her needs—emotional, social, spiritual and physical. Godly affection will be characterized by like-mindedness, compassion, kindness, agape love, respect, tenderheartedness, courtesy, forbearance, forgiveness, and humility. When these qualities abound in both father and mother, they contribute to answered prayers

and to harmony in the home.

We will now consider two Bible characters that demonstrate godly, victorious living and shining brightly as torch bearers of truth.

— *Abraham* —

### **Leaving idolatry**

In any culture God enables His trusting children to live victoriously. God called Abraham out of an idolatrous environment in Ur. He promised to make of Abraham a great nation, and promised to bless all the families of the earth through him. Although Abraham didn't understand how God's promise would be fulfilled, he obeyed God and journeyed toward an uncertain future.

### **Pilgrim Attitude**

Today God is still calling us to be a people separated to Himself. We are just passing through this world; we are not here to stay. Sometimes God leads us as parents through difficult experiences in our journey, but to be victorious we must obey Him as Abraham did.

### **Altars to God**

Altars were a beautiful part of Abraham's life. Fathers, have you built a family altar? Are you doing your part to keep family worship meaningful—a sacred time of worshipping God? During these times of family worship families

can become rooted and grounded in God's Word.

### **Faith**

Abraham had unswerving faith in God, and he was a man of godly character, two essentials for any victorious father. He was "fully persuaded that what God had promised, he was able to perform" (Romans 4:21). Because of his faith, God declared him righteous and called him "the friend of God" (James 2:23). God said of Abraham, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD" (Genesis 18:19).

— *Hannah* —

### **Self-denying**

Hannah was the barren wife of Elkanah. Elkanah's second wife, Peninnah, taunted Hannah because of her infertility. Hannah accepted her painful experiences, thus she became a godly, victorious light bearer. *"And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there*

*shall no razor come upon his head"* (1 Samuel 1:10, 11).

### **Prayerful**

Hannah knew about the sinful practices of Eli's sons in the sacred tabernacle. She poured out her heart to God and prayed for a son! While praying and fasting during her tearful affliction, Hannah vowed that if God would give her a son, she would give him back again. Perhaps she had in view that the abuses of the temple life and regulations would then be corrected.

Hannah praised and honored God as she experienced the joys of having a son and giving him back to God. Samuel became a prayerful man just as Hannah was a prayerful mother.

### **Influential**

Mothers, your influence will be a large factor in your children's future lives of service and work. Samuel seemed to be uncontaminated by the influence of the temple life. He was a faithful witness to the Lord and a servant of God to the end of his life.

In conclusion, both Abraham and Hannah were parents of undivided and self-sacrificing devotion. They unselfishly trusted God to supply the needs of their families. They are both truly victorious parents who shone as lights in this dark world—compelling examples for us to follow.



## Springtime Cleaning

*Mary June Glick, Seneca, SC*

Something about springtime tends to put women into a cleaning mode. When I was young, most people housecleaned every spring and fall. Houses back then were often not as easy to keep clean. Cleaning today is not as complicated with all our time and labor saving options. One survey I read recently stated that nearly half of all Americans predict they will spend less than four hours on this spring's house cleaning. I don't know where that figure stands with Mennonite or Amish women.

We have discovered that the statement, "Cleanliness is next to godliness" is not found in the Bible. Spring cleaning is not a ticket to heaven, however I'm old-fashioned enough to believe that a Christian woman should keep herself and her home both clean and attractive. Cleaning will vary with her situation in life. It definitely is not easy to keep the house clean when there are small children in the home. However, with discipline we can do our best.

A thorough house cleaning twice a year may be impossible at that stage in life (it is for me, too).

There are other ways to clean house. Take one of two rooms each week with your weekly cleaning and give them an extra good cleaning, such as cleaning the windows, dusting the furniture, and sweeping down cobwebs. Pronto, in a few weeks your house cleaning is finished. Weekly cleaning is a good habit for everyone. It does not need to happen at the end of the week. When you are waiting for your husband to show up for supper, you could clean the kitchen counters and appliances. Have an extra ten minutes? Clean the bathrooms. You get the idea: Practice having your house in order before you go to bed, dishes all washed (a good idea after every meal), toys, newspapers, coffee cups all picked up and put away. Teach your children to help you with picking up and cleaning. Small children can learn to dust and sweep the floor, and other such things.

Clean up the clutter. Recently I went through some of my closets. After throwing away and taking things to the thrift store, it was such fun to have organized closets-with space left over. Organizing the children's toys, art supplies, Legos, etc., in baskets or plastic containers makes life easier for you. Teach the children to put toys away before they begin something else. I enjoy keeping my office supplies, hobbies, etc., in order. It is easier to pick up a project for a few minutes if our supplies are in order. I believe a dirty or cluttered house can cause frustration to a woman. At the same time, the drive for perfection causes frustration. Find the path that works best for you without becoming frustrated.

Now that the house is clean, let's take a glimpse at our heart. Is it in need of an old-fashioned house cleaning? Jesus tells us that it is not those things on the outside that corrupt a person, but that which is in the heart. Our cleaning begins with the mind. Let's look at a few mind cleaners.

**Accept responsibility for your actions and responses.**

It is easy to blame others for our

unhappiness or our anger or jealousy. We make our own choices. Until we accept responsibility for our actions or for our response to a situation, we will remain unhappy. Choose to be cheerful. Create a happy atmosphere for your family.

**Focus on the good.**

The Apostle Paul reminds us to think on that which is good, pure, just, and lovely. Don't you just love the thought of thinking on lovely things and of good report? The mind controls who we are. Let us refuse to dwell on unhappy, unkind, or negative things.

**Get rid of excess baggage; clean out the closets.**

Are you carrying baggage from your past? Do you have hurts, pain, abuse that hinders you from being all that God intends you to be? Pray. Ask God for healing. Find someone with whom you can share. Forgive the persons that hurt you. Give your pain to God.

**Cleaning rejuvenates, whether it is your house or your mind.**

**God wants us to be women of joy, living stress-free as much as possible.**



***Cultivate a taste for good, wholesome literature  
and a conscience against the popular trash.***

*- George R. Brunk I*

## Three Widows

*Mary Ellen Beachy, Kisumu, Kenya*

Sophia lives in a small mud hut with a tin roof built by Agape Kind and Good. She faithfully walks miles and miles to church and Bible Study wherever it is held.

Yesterday when we visited her she was wearing a wrinkled purple dress and fancy bright green sandals.

She borrowed chairs from her neighbors for us to sit on.

Her life has made a big change since Jesus came into her heart. She had six children and remains with two. She said, “I used to drink and fight so much. I would get drunk and spend the night sleeping in the bush (or wherever she fell down). My husband would come to look for me in the morning. I was not happy to see him and would quarrel and even throw stones at him. If someone followed me on the road, I would throw stones at them and ask, ‘Why are you following me?’ If they continued on the same road, I would throw stones at them, too. It was a work of the devil; I was a bad woman.”

Sophia is following God’s path. She loves church and the people of God. Her testimony is, “I see good in

church. I go to look for the Word of God and His Son; they are the keeper of my heart and soul. God continues to help me onward. During the night, I pray to God.”

She shared about the riot at church on June 1, 2014. “I escaped in a small place. I told the men I want a place to pass.”

They said, “Go, old lady. Do not talk with us.”

“Nick, he is not on the right road. If you chase the people of God, you won’t have any blessing. Jesu orita (Jesus keeps me); I focus on Jesus. If I don’t have enough food, someone gives me. I love Jehovah God. I am walking for God. I give God thanks that you came today.”

Sophia is happy in her poor little hut. She does not even have a chair—just a broken two-legged stool that she leans against the wall and sits on.

She served us fluffy, white bread, cut in huge chunks and was it tea that came out of the granite tea kettle? It looked like muddy water. Markus thought it had a hint of cocoa in it.

Today, instead of drinking and fighting, she has a peaceful smile on

her toothless face. I believe she is ready to meet God.

• • • • •

Rose is much younger. What I liked best in her simple mud hut was what was written on her wall in beautiful big letters, with a vine drawn around it: YESU NENI, meaning Jesus sees you. God is in the business of changing lives. That is a wonderful miracle of the power of God.

Rose had nine children and seven are still living. The oldest three have homes of their own.

“Before salvation, I was very bad,” Rose stated, “I had great anger and held grudges. I danced in the disco and I drank. Those things are not good. Jesus changed me. He cleaned me and now I follow Him.”

“My 15-year-old son, Victor, troubles me,” Rose shared. “He does not want to go to school. Sometimes he hides in the bush and I do not know where he is. When he goes back to school, the teacher beats him for being absent.”

We asked if Victor is a good worker. She said that Victor helps her well in the shamba (fields). Mark encouraged that it may be best to let him stay out of school and work on a good relationship with him.

Before we left, Rose brought us a big plate of white rice and a lentil soup to eat with it.

• • • • •

One day at Bible study, I saw

Philistia, an elderly widow, holding her song book upside down. I decided that she is one of the widows who cannot read. She told us that when she was a girl, her job was to look after the cattle in the fields. In those days, the Luo boys were the only ones fortunate enough to go to school.

Philistia cannot read but she can craft lovely clay pots that hold water. I told her I would be happy to have some of her pots. She wants to make a small one and some plates for me. She was all excited that some of her pots would go to America.

Philistia and her husband had thirteen children. Very matter-of-factly, she told me that ten of them have died.

She talked about the day in June when Christians were chased out of church. They beat Dick with a stick and then turned on Morris. “You are one of them,” they taunted. When Philistia wanted to go out the church gate, she was slapped in the face.

“I believe (A yie),” she told us. “I feel I am fed with the Word of God in church.”

Africans are so hospitable and sharing. Before we left she served us white bread, noyo (a corn and bean mixture) and chai. She was delighted that we came to visit her.

James 1:27 NLT, **“Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for widows and orphans in their distress.”**



## Loving God in a Parent-Child Relationship—Part Two

*Ernest Eby, State College, PA*

Let us suppose that little Fran did all of these nice things for her mother because it made her feel like she was better than her siblings. Perhaps her motivation sprang from thoughts like: “I help Mother with her work. John and Nell just play. I’m better than they are!” Have you been around children like this? Have you been around adults like this? What is their motivation? Is it not pride?

Let’s suppose that little Fran did all of these nice things for her mother because she was afraid her mother might get angry with her if she didn’t volunteer. All day long as she helped her mother, she would be watching her mother’s face to see if she was pleased or angry. What motivates this kind of service? Is it not fear?

Let’s suppose that little Fran was feeling inferior and worthless. Let’s also suppose that she did all of these nice things for her mother because she knew it would help to boost her self-esteem if she could spend a whole day cheerfully helping her

mother. Have you ever been around those who are serving because of what it does for their sense of self-worth? Can you put words into what it is like to work with someone who is serving because it helps to boost their self-esteem? Have you served for this reason? If you have, you may know the emptiness that comes with such a pursuit of self-worth.

As we think about loving God as a parent/child relationship, the first question we might ask is, “**Why are we doing what God wants us to be doing?**”

If we are serving God out of duty, pride, fear, or pursuit of self-worth, then we are still aiming at satisfying our own pleasures, rather than aiming at satisfying God’s pleasures. We may have even fooled ourselves into thinking that we love God when we really love ourselves. We who grew up in a Christian environment, have had incredible advantages toward learning to pursue God and love God. One disadvantage of growing up in a Christian environment is



that we might equate service with love. We might think we are loving Christ when we really are not. Service and love are not synonymous terms. Lots of service is being done that it is not motivated by love. It might look like love at first, but upon closer inspection, it is obvious that something else was the motivation. Service should be the *product* of love for our Heavenly Father.

Now let's think about this parent/child relationship from a different angle.

Imagine growing up in a home where your father gave you nearly everything you could want. There was lots of candy, gourmet desserts, arcade games, swimming pools, boats, electronics of all sorts, plush new furniture, and lots of books. Every day your father drove you to school and every evening he drove you to the movies. Every weekend you went vacationing in the best resorts.

However, your father's goal in all of this was to pervert you and teach you to hate. He wanted you to hate your mother. He wanted you to hate men of faith. He taught you to distrust people. He taught you to lie, to cheat, and to exploit other people. He hoped that you would grow up to love what is sensual and evil, (if this seems unimaginable, just remember that there are children who grow up

in homes like this.) What I've just described is what it's like to have Satan as your father. When Jesus told the Pharisees that they were of their father the devil, this is the parent/child relationship the Pharisees had with Satan. [Did not the Pharisees have more respectable forms of sin that paraded as righteousness? Is it not true that when men cultivate every evil, they displease practically everyone, not just those living by God's laws?-Ed.]

A child growing up with such a father would probably like all the nice things that his father gave to him, but even if he couldn't put it into words, what his heart really craved is a father who loves him. Now imagine talking to an eight-year-old from a home like this and offering him the privilege of being adopted into a home where parents would love him. Do you think he would go for it? What if you would tell him that there won't be a lot of candy, no going to the movies, there will be lots of chores, and only wholesome reading material. How many children do you think would be glad to make the trade? Probably very few. Why? Most children don't know what love is. They think love means being given everything they want. The only way they would be willing to trade parents is if they could first experience love and learn to respond to love.

Some time ago, I met a young man who came from a very abusive home. When someone asked him questions, he mumbled his answers. His feelings about himself made it very difficult for him to hold a conversation. After a couple of weeks of being around people who loved him, he wanted to go back to his abusive home. My friends and I wondered why. Our conclusion was that love was so unfamiliar to him that he couldn't even appreciate being around people who love him. Such people may be unsure whether they even like being loved.

Could something similar be the case as people relate to God and Satan? Can people get so accustomed to living for Satan that they aren't sure they want God? Can some people become so familiar with depression, anxiety, relationship troubles, anger, bitterness, temporal values, hypocrisy, and so on, that they are uncomfortable when they get near people who love God and trust Him with all their heart? I believe the answer is Yes. Some of us may have had Satan as our father for a period of time before we gave our hearts to God. If so, it may take some time to learn what love truly is. All of us were born into this world with God as our Father, but were destined to have Satan become our father unless we put our faith and trust in Christ.

Finally, let's think specifically about what it means to have God as our Father. To understand what it is like to have a loving Father, we can think of things that loving parents do for their children. Loving parents teach their children the truth, chasten them, sacrifice for them, hold them, talk to them, give them good gifts, play with them, provide for them, intercede for them, protect them, and forgive them. Does God do all these things for us? He does. You might consider taking some time to think about or discuss with others how God does all these things for you.

Do you think understanding God's love for us as sons and daughters could have the potential of making us into little Frans? Could it make us into little Frans who serve God joyfully all day, every day? Jesus tells us that those who have been forgiven much will love much. If we could somehow perceive how much God has forgiven us, will this not make a difference in how much we pursue God and love Him?

It is an unspeakable privilege to be a child of God. This truth is especially overwhelming when we reflect on the mercy God showed us in giving us a second chance to be His children and calling Him, "Abba Father." The only reasonable response to such love is to love and serve Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.



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

Periodicals

## THOUGHT GEMS

We need more soil conservation and less soiled conversation.

• • • • •

Contentment depends a lot on whether our earning power matches our yearning power.

• • • • •

A new malady has been found in humans: It's called "Costrophobia":  
The fear of rising prices.

• • • • •

Keep your chin up and your knees down.

• • • • •

Gratitude is the most exquisite form of courtesy.

• • • • •

Criticism from a friend is better than flattery from an enemy.

• • • • •

How beautiful the day that is touched by human kindness!

• • • • •

No one needs to go on in doubt if he has prayed in faith.

• • • • •

We would be better off with fewer economists and more economizers.

• • • • •

The mind is like the stomach: It's not how much you put in it that counts, but how much it digests.