

“...And he said unto me...worship God: for...

THE TESTIMONY

...of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Revelation 19:10

VERSE OF THE MONTH

“...then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, *Death is swallowed up in victory.*
O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” I Cor. 15:54–55

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*“See the leaves around us falling,
dry and withered to the ground.”*

**Among the seasons, Autumn can represent
the season of death for nature.
But for the saints...**

IF TO DIE

If to die is to rise in power from the husk of the earth-sown wheat;

If to die is to rise in glory from the dust of the incomplete;

If death fills the hand with fresh cunning and fits it with perfect tool,

And grants to the mind full power for the tasks of its greatest school;

If death gives new breath to the runner and wings to the imprisoned soul,
To mount with a song of the morning toward the limitless reach of its goal;

If to die is to throb with the urges of life that eternal abides,

And to thrill with the inflowing currents of infinite love’s great tides;

If to die is to see with clear vision all mysteries revealed,

All beauty to sense unfolded, and the essence of joy unsealed;

If death is the end to all sorrow and crying and anxious care;

If death gives fullness for longing, and the answer to every prayer;

If to die is to greet all the martyrs and prophets and sages of old,

And to walk again by still waters with the flock of His own little fold;

If to die is to join in hosannas to a risen and reigning Lord,

And to feast with Him at His table on the bread and wine of His board;

If to die is to enter a city and be hailed as a child of its King—

O grave, where soundeth thy triumph?

O death, where hideth thy sting?

— Author Unknown

THE TESTIMONY

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EDITORIAL

**ALL THIS
AND CHRIST TOO**

I have heard of some good old woman in a cottage, who had nothing but a piece of bread and a little water, and lifting up her hands, she said, as a blessing, "What! All this, and Christ too?" (Charles Spurgeon)

We see the widow of Zarephath as an example of "giving all," the last "handful of meal in a barrel and a little oil in a cruse" (I Kings 17:12). Because of her giving, "the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail..." See I Kings 17:8-16.

Noteworthy also is the unnamed widow casting two mites (about 50 cents?) into the treasury. Others had "cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all she had, even all her living." See Mark 12:42-44.

Lessons from these simple biblical accounts are many. God uses people and common things to bless others. There is great value in kindness, hospitality, and generosity toward others. The God who blessed the widow of Zarephath through Elijah still has the same power in our day. The temple treasury widow had much sacrifice in her motive of giving. No doubt she did it in faith believing her Heavenly Father would supply all her need. An unselfish spirit and childlike faith did not go unnoticed by Jesus.

The examples of these unnamed widows are primarily summed up in these five areas.

- They love and honor God.

- They possess and show strong faith in God.

- They exemplify dedication and commitment.

- They demonstrate trust and dependence on God.

- They exhibited a sacrificial life.

Could we be extra thankful for our widows, widowers, single brothers and sisters at this Thanksgiving season? Theirs is a quiet ministry of encouragement, prayers, and examples of continued faithfulness.

We have more than a piece of bread and a little water. In fact we have extra abundance in comparison! Moses instructs God's chosen people to not forget their God in prosperity. We are blessed with prosperity and the responsibility of good stewardship and management. The Bible instructs to seek first (primarily) the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.

In our abundance and prosperity we should abound with thankfulness and blessing toward others. Paul, in his letter to Romans, reveals the beginning downward journey of men. Romans 1:21 says, "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." Thanksgiving is one indication of a true and vital relationship with God and is basic in our communication with HIM.

Four methods of expressing our thankfulness to our God:

Obedying His Word in heartfelt thankfulness is a witness that Jesus is indeed our Lord and Master.

Give Him offerings. "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40).

Communicate your thankfulness in prayer to Him, both privately and publicly. A portion of the chorus of "Count Your Blessings" express this thought well. "Count your many blessings: name them one by one."

Verbally thank God for people He has brought into your life. Many times God uses the human and warm touch of others to bless us, and correct us.

In conclusion, we again offer this: I have heard of some good old woman in a cottage, who had nothing but a piece of bread and a little water, and lifting up her hands, she said as a blessing, "What! All this, and Christ too?" (Charles Spurgeon)

May we always be known for our praying hands and bowed heads as we are thankful for all this and Jesus also.

Dean Kinsley

SEASONAL

TRUE THANKSGIVING

Leslie Cover

"We have so much to be thankful for." We hear and say it often, and it is true. But I suspect that our thankfulness would be greater if we had fewer material things. To prove this, may we consider three areas: the responses of children, the expressions of those who were less favored than we are, and some statements of Paul the great apostle.

Children's responses are usually in harmony with their human nature, without pretense, but that which they genuinely feel. The fact that they must be taught to say "thank you" demonstrates the selfishness of this nature. The old nature does not reach out in love or appreciation. It tells us that we

deserve to be favored. So why would we need to be thankful?

Picture a child surrounded by expensive toys. He's delighted with each new one added to the collection, but it does not occur to him to be thankful. He only wants more. And often something very ordinary, like wrapping paper, attracts him most. Children with remote control cars are no happier or more thankful than those in past days who played with spool and blocks.

Christians of the past produced beautiful expressions of thanksgiving and praise. A famous picture shows a man giving humble thanks for a very simple meal, a loaf of bread. Many of our hymns of thanksgiving came from the 1800's, and one in the tenth century wrote:

*Jesus, the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see,
And in Thy presence rest.*

The martyr hymns are expressions of praise and deliverance—outright thanksgiving. I'm sure they weren't thankful for their pain, separation from family and friends, or the hostility of their persecutors, but for the hope, peace and forgiveness in Christ. Consider these words by George Wagner (martyred at the stake in 1527) and translated by John Overholt in *The Christian Hymnary*:

*The Father we will ever praise,
Who us redemption brought;
In heaven high our thanks we'll raise.
Through Christ's death we are bought,
Whom God hath us in mercy given
From sin to reconcile:
That we by faith should live in Him
As His obedient child.*

We know thanksgiving is present today; it was not an exclusive feature of any age. But those thankful ones of the past knew nothing of automatic washing machines, micro-wave ovens, copiers, airplane travel, sergers, or chain-saws, not to mention computers and email. Thankfulness is not dependent on earthly comforts but is fruit of a grateful heart, no matter what the condition of the body might be. We could speak of hope from hospital beds and joy in the deepest sorrow, thanksgiving in

poverty, and praise in presence of danger.

Paul wrote a principle, sad but all too true. II Corinthians 12:15: "And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved." Is this our response to the countless comforts and conveniences God gives? One way we can show our thankfulness is by using the resources God gives us without wasting them.

Paul gave us a classic expression of thanksgiving, again to the Corinthian Christians: "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." Paul's thanks for Jesus and His grace came from a life of severe suffering and sacrifice. We only cite a couple verses from his list: "Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep." One could complain, but not Paul. We can be thankful in our time of abundance, but it will likely not come because of cars and computers. It will come in sincerity because of Jesus' love and sacrifice for us. Around our lavish feast of thanksgiving this year, let us remember that if we were to lose all material blessings, we are still rich if our names are written in heaven.

Selected from

The Pilgrim, Nov. 2000

GENERAL

TWO KINGDOMS

Continued from the October issue...

Kingdom Allegiance

A foundation has now been laid to establish the reason why separation from this world is necessary and required for a true believer. Anything else is compromise. Anything other than separation from the kingdom we have forsaken causes confusion in ourselves, to our fellow ambassadors, and to the citizens of this world. It should be evident that the doctrine of separation is firmly grounded in a single, rudimentary, yet majestic principle. It is founded upon the principle of proper allegiance to our King.

This principle is vital and decisive. Separation is the doctrine of allegiance to a Righteous King, a Righteous Realm, and the One who has a Righteous Purpose that benefits us as His citizens. Separation is not defined personally by “who I am,” or collectively by “what we stand for,” but is founded entirely upon the scriptural revelation of “Who He is”! When we arrive in heaven, the land of our citizenship, we will have no reason to need separation from others. The entire Kingdom of This World is on the outside of that border and we will be within.

While separated unto such a glorious King, His loyal followers also discern three basic principles

of faith that spring from a correct view of separation. They are familiar to us: non-conformity, non-swearing, and non-resistance. These complementary fundamentals of faith obtain their whole source and impact from the fact that our allegiance is to the Righteous King.

The doctrine of non-conformity is really the positive doctrine of allegiance to the Righteous King in total conformity to His person and His government. The question can never be, “To what ‘things’ are we not conformed?” Instead it must always be, “Which king do we serve?” We are not conformed to This World because we are conformed to the One who said, “I am The Way.” We do not fly the flag of our nativity because our standard is now the blood-stained banner of King Emanuel. We are citizens and representatives of His Kingdom. While we live in a foreign realm and function as an ambassador for Him, we can not think or live like the citizens of the land around us, nor participate in the administration of their kingdom. To do otherwise is to give up our diplomatic immunity, and This World can then require of us the same things it requires of its own citizens.

The doctrine of non-swearing is the positive doctrine of allegiance to the person of the King in all of His moral integrity. He is the One who said, “I am The Truth.” Since

we speak and work for the King of Truth, and since we represent His character to all the world, we can behave in no other way than in complete honesty and truthfulness. Any hint of untruthfulness in us compromises our place in His work. Our moral integrity is not our own, it belongs to Him, and it is necessary that it be maintained as something of utmost purity.

The doctrine of non-resistance is the positive doctrine of allegiance to our King in defense of His Righteous Kingdom. He is the One who said, "I am The Life." We have no reason to defend ourselves or the land of our nativity. He is our Defense and He is our Life. We have no reason to join those among whom we live to defend their land. Our King will own us only in defense of His Kingdom. We owe all of our allegiance to the King of the Kingdom of Heaven. We must never forget that we represent our King as His personal ambassadors. Any action that is taken in defense is only to be taken in defense of His assertions, His actions, His truth, His honor, His glory, or His person, and He alone is the One who will vindicate us.

These truths are vitally important, even crucial to our faith, and it is imperative that we actively teach them to our children. Our children need to understand the difference between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of This World. There are many bright lights around us, and they are attractive. It is apparent that

carnal entertainment and sensual pleasure are available on every hand, and we are greatly concerned with the enticement. But our concern is much deeper than that. Our concern is that each one thoroughly understands that This World and all of its attractions are devices of its evil king, who, along with all of his subjects, is destined for an eternal hell. We must be committed to following a different King if we desire a different end.

So then, who do we serve? For those of us who have chosen to serve the Great King and become citizens of His Kingdom of Heaven, we are assured of an eternal victory. It is a joy to serve Him as ambassadors wherever we go, in everything we say, and in everything we do. We are confident of His support and defense as long as we live in faithful allegiance to Him.

For those who have not yet chosen to follow the King of the Kingdom of Heaven, why not serve Him now? There is a process available that will allow you to change your allegiance. It is up to you to take advantage of the way provided by the Savior Who died that men might experience true freedom.

"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen" (I Tim. 1:17).

David Rumble

REFLECTIONS UPON THE LOVE FEAST

When Jesus spoke to His disciples in the upper room the night before He was glorified, He did something very special. The apostle Paul records this in his first letter to Corinth.

“For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat

this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come” (I Cor. 11:23–26).

These precious instructions have blessed the Christian church over the centuries since that sacred night. Countless times the church around the world has assembled in various manners to keep that simple feast, and many times accompanied with the common meal, after the original pattern given that evening in the upper room.

In our own setting, we recently held that love feast in our local congregation, also enjoying the company of visitors which came from various places—some from many miles away.

In preparation for this feast, (as our custom is) we had sent breth-



ren to each home in our congregation, visiting each family and making inquiry concerning the faith and peace of each one. This is a special time to us and to all, when we can share in the things of God, praying together and giving consolation to each other as we face the issues of life together.

As the love feast approached, we thought more and more about the great blessing it is to assemble at this special meeting, remembering (as the Lord instructed) His great sacrifice for us all, and also just remembering HIM. Jesus said, "...this do in remembrance of me."

As this meeting began for us, the opening thoughts centered around "Our great need." What a fitting thought to meditate upon as we approach the table of the Lord! Our need for the Lord! Our need for His saving power and cleansing grace! Our need to assemble and remember together the blessings of the Cross!

The reading of the old prophecy in Isaiah is a great inspiration, as we consider words like these:

"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like

sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:4-6).

The blessing of entering into a renewed consideration of Who the Lamb of God is! And the great love that moved Him to come down and to save!

With each meeting throughout the weekend, more details emerge, and more thoughts are stirred up, as we each give deeper thought to the rich blessings of the Lord Jesus!

As we came to the table on Saturday afternoon, we were blessed to behold the sacred and quiet scene. The tables all prepared. The saints and small children finding a place where they can meditate and commune together.

This communion we hold to be a communion with God, and also with each other.

*In weakness, Lord, we come,
To have our strength renewed,
That we may do our Master's will
With heart and will subdued.*

Self-Examination

The apostle says, "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup." This examination can include a consideration of our respectful manner of keeping the ordinances. ("Worthily," or in a worthy and respectful manner.) It

can also be a consideration of our faith. “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith...” (II Cor. 13:5). It can also be an examination of life. “Consider your ways.” (Hag. 1:7).

We make an attempt to be free from known and willful sin, and when there are those who are willfully engaging in sinful and careless lives, the Apostle Jude says, “These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you...” We know we are not sinless, and our great desire is to be always free from sin, and walking “worthy of the vocation wherewith [we] are called.” Before we enter further into the keeping of this pure feast of love, we seek the Lord’s cleansing through repentance, confession, and all through His shed blood.

*Try us, O, God, and search the ground
Of every sinful heart,
Whate’er of sin in us is found,
O, bid it all depart.*

Feetwashing

We engage in literal “feetwashing” during this sacred love feast. The lessons and symbols of this service are so many, and we desire to receive every intended blessing that the Lord has designed for us. Lessons of love, humility, cleansing, and service are taught here as we wash each other’s feet. Jesus said, “If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you” (John 13:14–15). It is a beautiful scene and blesses both young





and old as we engage in this together. We always intend to both preserve the literal practice, and also preserve the “real life lessons” that this service teaches. As we move through these steps prior to partaking of the emblems themselves, there is a striking similarity between this service, and the sequence of steps that we see in the arrangement of the old tabernacle (Exod. 30:18–21). As the priests entered into the tabernacle to do their service, they washed both their hands and their feet, and then entered in. (We are not saying this is a New Testament requirement.) But in a fitting figure, before our people commune at our Love Feast, they have washed both their hands and their feet.

*Oh, may my lot be cast with these,
The least of Jesus’ witnesses,
Oh, that my Lord may count me meet,
To wash His dear disciples’ feet.*

The Lord’s Supper

The evening of the Love Feast also includes a simple meal which the Bible calls the Lord’s Supper. It is a sweet time of both eating together as they did in the upper room, and also of reflecting on scriptural themes that emphasize both our life in the church in this age, and also the great marriage feast which is to come. We rejoice as we eat, that we are included among the saints, are partaking of all of the Lord’s provisions, and that we have the promise of being around the table of the Lord in our Father’s Kingdom yet in the future. In the final chapters of the Revelation, we read these words, “And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb” (Rev. 19:9). What a wonderful time that will be! We long for that day! And we are given the privilege of keeping a supper that

points forward to that great event. We rejoice in the meditation. This supper is attended with singing, as the saints around the table lift their voices in sweet refrain, looking forward to the promise that has been given.

*Be present at this table, Lord,
Be here and everywhere adored,
Thy people bless, and grant that we
May feast in Paradise with Thee.*

Christ's Suffering and Death

As the bread and cup are placed on the table, our thoughts turn to the terrible suffering, and the atoning death, of the Savior. The bread is parted into strips that can be easily broken, and one of the ministers rises and speaks in earnest tones on the suffering of the Lord. As he speaks, the people listen. Some with tender looks, some with tears. The moment is a most sober one. The death of Jesus is a willing sacrifice. His death is substitutionary. It is atoning. He was offered for all. Surely not a soul can escape the sober, rich, and thankful thoughts that can arise from this time of reflection! We ponder together, as we listen to one of the brethren speak.

The Holy Kiss

In the midst of this part of the meeting, having just heard about the great suffering of Jesus upon the cross of Calvary, we pause. As the disciples in the Garden of

Gethsemane became aware that Jesus was going to allow Himself to be taken and actually slain, they scattered into the surrounding woods and left Jesus alone. And we, as we have heard again of all that He suffered, pass between us a kiss of charity, pledging that we will be faithful to our Lord, and to each other. We will not scatter. We will not forsake each other or our Lord but we will stand together in love and faithfulness. A precious token, in the midst of a solemn remembrance.

This portion of the meeting, though it may appear to have little meaning to an observer, is very special to us. As we look about, and as the kiss is passed (brother to brother and sister to sister), something seems to stir in the hearts, emotions, and the affections of us all. This brings to the surface the central theme of the Gospel. It is expressed the clearest in I John 4:11, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

*Heirs of the same immortal bliss,
Our hopes and fears the same,
With bonds of love our hearts unite,
With mutual love inflame.*

The Broken Bread

The unleavened bread that has now been prepared is blessed and then broken. One brother breaks bread to the brother beside him,

and the officiating brother breaks bread to the sisters. A quiet moment as each communicant receives the broken bread and ponders suffering and brokenness as he waits until all have received their portion. Then all partake together.

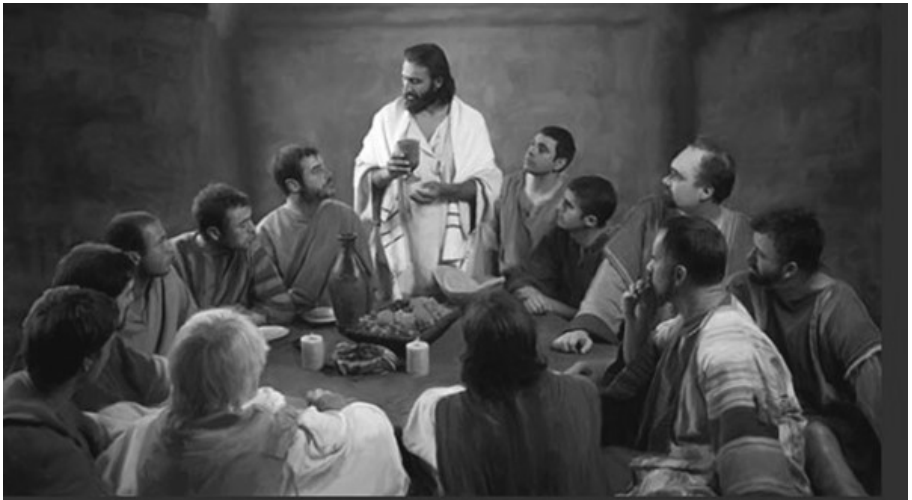
The early church, soon after the ascension of Christ, believed that this was not only a means by which we would remember, but that the broken bread was also a source of spiritual strength for the saints. They craved the love feast and longed for it. As we also partake, we often pray that the Lord will grant unto us spiritual strength by this partaking. His flesh is meat indeed! (John 6:55)

Taking the Cup

“Likewise also the cup after supper...” the apostle Luke says

(22:20). After the bread is broken and eaten in silence, the cup is also blessed and passed to each one. There is new meaning now in the taking of the cup! This represents the shedding of His precious blood for our sins! This speaks of the Lamb that has been slain for us, and the ransomed price that has been paid! This is a moment of rejoicing! It is finished! The Lamb has been slain, and the ransomed price paid! As the cup is passed to each communicant, songs arise around the table, and fill the place where we are assembled. There are tears of rejoicing and songs of praise.

*It is finished! O, what pleasure
Do these charming words afford;
Heavenly blessings without measure
Flow to us from Christ the Lord,
It is finished!
Saints the dying words record.*



*Tune your hearts anew, ye seraphs,
Join to sing the pleasing theme;
All on earth, and all in heaven,
Join to praise Immanuel's name,*

Hallelujah!

Glory to the bleeding Lamb!

Methinks there is a reason our *devious foe* makes every attempt to keep us from the table of the Lord. There is quickening power here. There is strength for the saints and overcoming energy that is released to those who assemble here and taste the soul-reviving food, and commune at the Lord's Table. And though there be imperfections among God's people, and though we come so far short of His glory, and disappoint one another, it is here that we overlook those little griefs and offenses and sit down together (*as we will before the Throne*) and gaze upon our Savior! We exalt in this place His Name and His great mercy and sacrifice for us all!

The evening closes with tender counsel, reflection, and encouragement from the officiating brother, and we sing a hymn, and go out.

*From the table now retiring,
Which for us the Lord hath spread,
May our souls, refreshments finding,
Grow I all things like our Head.*

*His example, by beholding,
May our lives His image bear;
Him our Lord and Master calling,
His commands may we revere.*

*Love to God and man displaying,
Walking steadfast in His way;
Joy attend us in believing,
Peace from God through endless day.*

There is an afterglow following the love feast. We do not need any artificial means of lighting up our countenances. ***"The Lamb is the light thereof."***

We pray that the saints may be drawn more and more to the Lord's table, "and so much the more, as [we] see the day approaching."

Lowell Miller

BEYOND MEASURE

After the passing of a certain celebrity, I noticed in different accounts the words, "He will be missed beyond measure. By so many." I first thought, that just means a whole lot. But after checking out the dictionaries, I would like to expound a little on these words "beyond measure."

Beyond measure can mean, "something that lies farther ahead, or further away," like "the great beyond" whatever follows death. Measure can mean, to ascertain the dimensions, quantity or capacity of, or mark off a certain amount. I have been a "measurer" most of my life, still

wearing a tape measure on my belt most days of the week. How do you view these words “beyond measure”?

When we think of “beyond measure” we want to think first of God. Psalm 90:2 says, God is from everlasting to everlasting. He always and eternally exists and has no beginning and no end, and His Word endureth forever, and this is the word which by the Gospel is preached unto us (I Peter 1:25). No beginning and no ending, forever and forever. Now that’s Beyond Measure! We also think of our universe that keeps on going and going and seems to be never ending. But woe, there is also the bottomless pit, where the devil was cast into (Rev. 20). How do you measure the depth of a pit that has no bottom? It is “beyond measure.” The dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and Satan, one thousand years later, is “...cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever” (beyond measure). We must know how to measure before we can understand “beyond measure.”

As we read His enduring Word, that is forever, it can train us for a future reign (Rev 20:6). “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but

they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”

That great city in Revelation 21 is not “beyond measure,” because the Scripture says, “...he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel.” In other words, a perfect cube, each side being 1500 miles. If each story were a generous twelve feet high, it could have over 600,000 stories! Wow!

I just told you that this city is not beyond measure. But yet it is beyond measure. If we study, and use, and obey His Word, that endures forever, we can be part of something that is farther ahead and away. Heaven, the Great Beyond, or the lake of fire and brimstone. The choice is ours! When we change from time to eternity, it will be Beyond Measure!

L. D. Flory

HOME & FAMILY

I WILL HIDE GOD'S WORD IN MY (CHILD'S) HEART

Melissa Brubaker

As sisters in the Lord and born-again believers, I am sure we would all agree that memorizing Scripture is important to our spiritual health. I have memorized many, many Scripture verses during my childhood years. Most of the verses that I memorized were taught during a vacation Bible School which I attended each summer.

During the first evening of Bible School, the teachers handed out memory work assignments, often many pages worth. These were not all required but the rewards were appealing. Most years I memorized everything that was assigned. I give these teachers and this Bible School the credit for the wealth of verses I memorized during those years.

Now I am married and have children of my own. The Bible School from my childhood is long past. I realized that if my children were going to memorize Scripture, I would need to make it happen. As moms, many of us know the importance of memorizing God's Word and hiding it, not only in our hearts, but also in our children's hearts.

"Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O, let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy

word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Ps. 119:9–11).

We need God's Word in our hearts to help us with our daily battles with sin. Our children need this as well. Most of our children are not going to memorize Scripture without some help from us.

My husband and I did not enter marriage with dreams of memorizing with our children. For our family, it happened almost accidentally. Our oldest children were three and four when my husband suggested that we work with them on memorizing the Christmas story found in Luke 2:1–19. I didn't think they would be able to do it. I thought young children memorized short verses like, "Be ye kind one to another." We started reciting it together every evening during our family devotions. I was quite surprised when they memorized this passage quickly and easily.

I was intrigued. Should we try again? Easter was approaching so I started working with them on the crucifixion account found in John 19:1–19. Again, they memorized this without much effort. This encouraged me to continue with other passages.

When it came time to home-school the children, I wanted memorization to be a part of our daily routine. I bought a binder and inserted the printed passages we had memorized as well as the passages I wanted them to memorize. This started a routine that we still do today.

Every day we recite the current passage as well as one we have previously memorized. We also recite it together as a family during our devotion time. I have found that doing it this way results in the family having the passage memorized in about three to four weeks.

At the beginning of a new passage, I read the Scripture out loud. As the days go by the children start chiming in more and more. Eventually, I just get them started and only help as they need help. When I think they know the passage I have them recite it to me one by one. If they know it well, they start reciting it to their dad during our family devotions. If they don't know it, we keep on practicing till they do know it. Sometimes I will give the struggling child just a few verses to recite. However, most of them would rather recite the whole thing.

We memorize as a family instead of individually. I don't move on to a new passage until everyone has it memorized or at least memorized to their ability. (Not all children can memorize 19 verses at age three.) Some of our children were barely talking at three years old so verbal Bible memory was hardly possible. Some children will stumble through a passage and need lots of clue words, which is okay if they are doing their best. Sometimes we go over the same passage again in a few years and they learn it better the second time.

This may sound time-consuming and stressful, but it is not so for us. I spend about five minutes a

day working on memory work. We have no time constraints on our memorization so there is no pressure to know it by a certain time. The children have been doing this since they were barely talking, so they are used to it and rarely complain. Since we memorize as a family, it also helps the child who can't memorize as well as another. As a family, we encourage and cheer on the struggling child. He feels a sense of accomplishment even if he struggles through the whole passage.

I give a small reward for each passage memorized. I have a prize box that they can choose from. This does not need to cost much! I often do not spend much more than a dollar. Yard sales and thrift stores are places to purchase items cheaply. Back-to-school sales are nice as well since most children like to have a new pack of crayons or a cute eraser.

As time went by, I found myself becoming discouraged at how quickly the children would forget a memorized passage. I discovered that several years later they often could hardly recite a previously learned passage. I wondered why I was putting in the effort if they were simply going to forget it in a few years. My husband encouraged me to continue. He said that the concepts were still in their hearts even if they could no longer recite the passage. So I continued, but I still hoped for a solution to this problem.

One day I read an article written by another mom who also worked on memorization with her

children. In the article she said that it is important to get the memory work out of the short-term memory and into the long-term memory. The solution is actually quite simple. Every day in addition to reciting our new passage, we also recite a previously learned passage. My binder comes in handy for this! All the passages we have learned are in this binder. I use a paper clip to help me remember the passage we just reviewed. Each day the paper clip moves to the next passage. When we reach the end, we start over. This helps to keep the passages fresh in our minds as well as move them to our long-term memory.

I also like to have a theme for each school year. One year my theme was, "Memorize 100 Verses." The children enjoyed watching the number rise as the year progressed. This year we are working on, "The Sermon on the Mount." I divided it into 10 sections. The goal is to complete it in a year, but if we don't reach that goal it doesn't matter. It is better to go slow and memorize something well than to go fast and not retain what you have learned.

These are the methods I have found helpful for our family. Pray and ask God for ideas that will work well for your family without comparing yourself to other families! Don't underestimate what your children can do. Don't assume that because they are young, they can only memorize a verse or two. Children often do only as well as we expect them to; even the younger ones.

After we have God's Word memorized, we need to use it daily. A blanket that is kept stored away in a closet does no good on a cold, winter night. The writer of Deuteronomy sums this up well, "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deut. 6:5-7).

First, we love God. Then we put His Word into our hearts. Finally, we should teach these truths to our children as we go about our daily activities. This passage encompasses it all, sitting, walking, lying down, and rising up. After a passage is memorized, my husband will explain the verses to us during our devotion time. This helps us to understand what we are memorizing.

We do many things by habit because we realize their importance. We brush our teeth, comb our hair, eat breakfast, and do many other things. We do these things daily. They are a regular part of our lives. Because we value them, we make them happen. This is how it should be with Scripture memorization. It is too valuable to skip.

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in

the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Ps. 1:1–3).

When we delight in God's Word, we will be glad to take time to memorize Scripture, and the memorized Word will then bear fruit in its season.

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9).

Selected from

The Remnant—Volume 31, Issue 2

SACRIFICE—MY LIFE FOR YOURS

Consideration for young women

When I think of sacrifice, my mind would typically go to the Old Testament and accounts of the Israelites' burnt offerings to the Lord. God doesn't ask us to do that, but a different kind of sacrifice is mentioned in the New Testament. Jesus says in John 15, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Jesus became a sacrifice for us and wants us to love as He did, by laying down our lives.

You probably will not need to physically die for someone, but every day there are opportunities for you to give your life in obedience to Jesus. You give up your life by giving up your "self" (your

plans, wants, preferences, time, etc.) and by putting others first and you last. It doesn't have to be big things; just little, everyday things that might seem really simple at first, but turn out to be a real challenge. It could be being kind to your younger sister when she's not exactly being lovable, letting your brother have the last cookie, or spending a Saturday helping your mom clean the house rather than going out with your friends. Or it could be giving up self-indulgence—things you do only for yourself because they "feel good" such as sleeping late, lounging around for hours reading a book or scrolling on your phone, or whatever you invest time in that only benefits you.

Wherever you are today is right where God wants you to be, and He has work for you to do! In Luke 17, Jesus talks about how a servant will be working hard outside all day and when he comes in for the evening, his master doesn't tell him, "Go sit down and eat!" He would say, "Make me supper, and serve me, then you can eat." The master doesn't even thank the servant for all his hard work because he's just doing what's expected of him. Jesus says, "So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do." So, when you do selfless things for your family, don't do them with the expectation of praise. Do them with a servant's heart. A heart focused on obedience to your Father and service for others. In Matthew 6, Jesus

says three times, “And thy Father which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.” God sees you doing those little things that no one else seems to notice or care about and loves your obedience. Hebrews 13 says, “But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.” The ESV translation says, “Do not neglect to do

good and share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing unto God.” My challenge to you is to develop a servant’s heart. Always be looking for ways to serve others, and you will be serving JESUS. (Read Rom. 12:1, Eph. 5:2.)

Jessica Bayer

MEDITATIONS

Few things are more encouraging than the witness of a faithful brother. It takes the edge off a little to think what our parents went through. Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul; and for making me whole. Thank you, God, for pain. Thanks even for scars. Try to love even the people you don’t like. Most things start out to be good. Do better than lukewarm.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

This section offers some questions to think about, or for Sunday afternoon discussions, or to prompt future articles from our readers, etc. Readers are encouraged to offer questions.

- A very common experience among men and women of faith is this:

After traveling awhile on the road of life, we often learn to let go of early opinions and the commonly held beliefs of youth, and embrace instead a more realistic, humble, and God-centered view of life.

1. Did I come into this life with a primary interest in myself and my own needs, *but am learning now* that the only true path to fulfillment is in thinking of others?

2. In my early years did I try to feel that I was *always* right, *but am learning now* that this is almost never true?
3. Did I once maintain a practice of quickly defending myself, *but am finding now* that this is a deadly, and proud, and futile pursuit?

4. Was I once content to live life without a conscious and humble dependence on God, *but am finding now* that I need Him every hour?

5. Did I once view prayer as something for the extra pious, *but am now finding* that I need it every moment?

6. Did I once think of myself as a potential leader, *but am finding now* that I struggle to be a worthy servant?

7. Am I learning my continual need for humility and repentance?

GENERAL ITEMS

BAPTISMS

Aug. 27, 2023; Fall Creek, IN
Faith Dix, Rebekah Olmsted,
Sarah Olmsted, Delilah Olmsted
Sept. 27, 2023; Zillah, WA
Carson Hess

NEW MEMBERS

Aug. 27, 2023; Fall Creek, IN
David and Heather Olmsted
Sept. 9, 2023; West Manchester, IN
Carl and Loretta Brovont
Oct. 1, 2023; Zillah, WA
Jacob and Irene Cover

COMMISSIONS

Sept. 16, 2023; Living Epistle, NM
Andrew and Colista Peters
Called to the office of Deacon

COMMUNION NOTICES

Nov. 4, 2023..... Columbia River, WA
Nov. 4, 2023..... Kidron Valley, KS
Nov. 11, 2023..... Covington, OH
Nov. 11, 2023..... Shenandoah, VA
Nov. 18, 2023..... Lower Twin, OH
Jan. 27, 2024 Pine Grove, FL
Feb. 3, 2024 Living Epistle, NM
Feb. 24, 2024 West Modesto, CA
Mar. 2, 2024..... West Manchester, IN
Mar. 9, 2024..... Dallas, OR
Apr. 6, 2024 Cascade Valley, WA
Apr. 6, 2024 Fair Haven, KS
Apr. 13, 2024 Salem, OH
Apr. 20, 2024 Caldwell, ID
Apr. 27, 2024 Bear Creek, OH

THE TESTIMONY FINANCIAL REPORT

Ending Balance
June 30, 2022 \$11,701.13
Income \$33,603.07
Expenses..... \$35,378.27
Ending Balance
June 30, 2023 \$9,925.93

Roger Rapp, Treasurer

MOUNTAIN VIEW BRETHREN Sandpoint, Idaho

Meetinghouse Update

We would like to give a heartfelt expression of appreciation to all who have contributed to the purchase of our property and building project. This summer we have prepared our building pad and parking area with gravel and Lord willing, plan to begin construction this coming spring. We greatly appreciate your continued prayers as we embark on this project. We plan to proceed as the Lord provides. If any feel to contribute to this endeavor, contributions may be sent to:

Mountain View Brethren
Building Fund
Kyle Deaton

May the Lord continue to bless as we seek to advance His Kingdom.
In behalf of the Mountain View Brethren,

Sam Wray

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL NOTICE

We are making our call for subscriptions for the year 2024 at this time. **Beginning January 1, 2024, the subscription rate will increase to \$30 per year.** The subscription price for each subscriber should be received by December 1, 2023, from the District Agents. Each District Agent should include an updated list of subscribers, with their current addresses. Individual subscribers' subscription payments should be received by December 1, 2023, as well, if possible, for the 2024 subscription year.

POEMS

BEGIN AGAIN

Every day is a fresh beginning,
Every morn is the world made new;
You who are weary of sorrow and sinning,
Here is a beautiful hope for you—
A hope for me and a hope for you.

All the past things are past and over,
The tasks are done and the tears are shed;
Yesterday's errors let yesterday cover;
Yesterday's wounds, which smarted and bled,
Are healed with the healing which night has shed.

Yesterday now is a part of forever,
Bound up in a sheaf, which God holds tight;
With glad days, and sad days, and bad days which never
Shall visit us more with their bloom and their blight,
Their fullness of sunshine or sorrowful night.

Let them go, since we cannot relive them,
Cannot undo, and cannot atone;
God in His mercy, receive, forgive them;
Only the new days are our own,
Today is ours, and today alone.

Here are the skies all burnished brightly,
Here is the spent Earth all reborn,
Here are the tired limbs springing lightly
To face the sun and to share with the morn,
In the chrism of dew and the cool of dawn.

Every day is a fresh beginning;
Listen, my soul, to the glad refrain,
And, 'spite of old sorrow and older sinning,
And puzzles forecasted and possible pain,
Take heart with the day, and begin again.

— Susan Coolidge

LAIID ON THINE ALTAR

Laid on Thine altar, O my Lord, divine,
Accept this day my gift for Jesus' sake.
I have no jewels to adorn Thy shrine,
Nor any world-famed sacrifice to make;
But here I bring within my trembling hand
This will of mine; a thing that seemeth small;
And only Thou, dear Lord, canst understand
That when I yield Thee this, I yield Thee all.
It hath been wet with tears and dimmed with sighs,
Clenched in my clasp, till beauty it hath none.

Now from Thy footstool, where it vanquished lies,
The prayer ascendeth; "Let Thy will be done."
Take it, O Father, ere my courage fail,
And blend it so with Thine own will, that e'en
If in some desperate hour my cry prevail,
And Thou giv'st back my gift, it may have been
So changed, so purified, so fair have grown,
So one with Thee, so filled with peace divine,
I may not know nor feel it as my own,
But gaining back my will may find it Thine.

— Author Unknown

THE NIGHT HAD GONE

The day had gone; alone and weak
I groped my way within a bleak
And sunless land.
The path that led into the light
I could not find! In that dark night,
God took my hand.

He led me that I might not stray,
And brought me by a new, safe way
I had not known.
By waters still, through pastures green
I followed Him—the path was clean
Of briar and stone.

The heavy darkness lost its strength,
My waiting eyes beheld at length
The streaking dawn.
O, safely on, through sunrise glow
I walked, my hand in His, and lo,
The night had gone.

— Annie Porter Johnson

OBITUARIES

AARON — Phillip Steven was born May 20, 1947, to Leo and Loretta (Engle) Aaron in Kansas City, Missouri. Most of his childhood days were lived in New Jersey, living in apartments and moving often. He accepted Jesus as his Savior in 1971, and then became an avid reader and lifelong student of the Bible.

Steve attended many different congregations of Christian believers in his lifetime, and wanted no other title than “believer.” According to instructions in the Scriptures, he was baptized, and anointed several times. In the last week of his life, he made the statement that when all of life is over, the only important thing is that God knows you, and you know Him. He also reiterated the powerful phrase, “Victory in Jesus!”

He married Miriam Cook (daughter of Clarence and Beulah [Metzger] Cook) in Pendleton, Indiana, on August 8, 1992. He was blessed to work for New York Telephone of New York City for 24 years; he took an early retirement offer from there in 1994. He and his wife lived together in various locations, including New Jersey, Indiana, Arizona, and most recently in Live Oak, Florida.

Steve had many interests and was always eager to learn more. He was very serious about life and had great respect for the Giver of life. His commitments were made with the condition “the good Lord willing,” and loyalty was very important to him.

His health declined rapidly over the last two months of his earthly life. Truly, as a friend commented, “He was passionate and tenacious about matters that concerned him.” Little by little, he surrendered his will, and it became manifest that the healing for which he had prayed and believed, was coming in the form of his “earthly house of this tabernacle being dissolved.” It’s wonderful to then know that we have “a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (II Cor. 5:1). Steve’s final breath was on July 12, 2023, in the hospital at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida. His age was 76 years.

He is survived by his wife Miriam; also surviving are his sister Linda Thornton and her fiancé Ben Stapelfeldt, along with Linda’s son Christopher Thornton, his wife Jane, and their children Nova and Neo, all of Brick, New Jersey.

A memorial service to honor his memory was held in Live Oak, Florida, on August 8, 2023. Brother Chris Cash of The Way of the Messiah led the service, with thoughts from John 11 and the 23rd Psalm. Friends from several congregations were present, who joined in singing seven familiar hymns. Now we look forward to being in heaven together, each one because of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ!

The Family

DENLINGER — Kevin Ray, of Hollansburg, Ohio, was born on March 15, 1958, in Dayton, Ohio. Kevin spent his last days in Miami Valley Hospital. He passed away peacefully on September 6, 2023, at the age of 65 years, following a brief illness.

Kevin placed his faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and received Christian baptism on July 2, 1975, at the Stillwater district of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church. He was united in marriage to Majorie Miller on September 3, 1978.

Continuing on in this life are his wife, Marjorie; and his children, Melissa and Jethro Crist, Kyle and Shanna Denlinger, Johnny and Holly Denlinger, Catie and Jonathan Stoner, and his 18 grandchildren. Kevin is also survived by his brother Gordon and Cheryl Denlinger; his sister Carla Denlinger; and his sisters-in-law, Mary Boone and Martha Miller.

Kevin was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse and Carol Jean Denlinger.

Dad very much enjoyed his family and close friends. His grandchildren were among his greatest joys in this life. He also enjoyed the fellowship across the brotherhood, teaching us by his example the importance of being committed to the local church family, and he set a precedent for us by being present in attendance and participation.

As Dad's illness became more serious, he expressed the desire to be anointed, and this was performed in his hospital room on September 2, 2023. He expressed immediately following the anointing service the comfort that it had given him.

Though in our hearts it seems that our husband, dad, grandpa, and friend, has been taken from us all too soon, we acknowledge that "there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens" (Eccl. 3:1), and that His ways are higher than ours (Isa. 55:9). So we lay Dad's body peacefully away, knowing that his spirit lives on, and with anticipation of the coming day when that trump shall sound and all those who live faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ will be reunited as we are swept into eternity to be in His glorious presence.

The Family

SELBY — Curtis Eben, the second son of Lloyd Eben and Clara Elizabeth (Wray) Selby, was born on April 8, 1949, in Modesto, California. He exchanged time for eternity September 6, 2023. His pilgrimage on earth was 74 years, 4 months, and 29 days.

In faith believing, he answered the call of his Savior at age 15 and was baptized. On May 25, 1974, he was united in marriage with Betty Mae Layman. They shared over 49 years together. This union was blessed with 7 children. Dad and Mom were called to the deacon's office in November of 1974 and later to serve in the ministry in 1976. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Old German Baptist Church where he tried to fill his place as best he could.

Dad grew up outside Modesto in farm country. In the summer of 1966, he moved with his family to the mountains near Twain Harte, California. Here they felt blessed to share in the organizing and

building of the Sierra Pines church district. In 1968 he lost a brother in a tragic hunting accident. At age 21, he lost his left eye with a recurve bow accident. In 1971 he began building cabinets where he enjoyed exercising his artistic ability. Dad always told us to do the best that we could in our work, because we are really working for the Lord. At age 43 he had a massive heart attack, which later resulted in congestive heart failure.

Dad loved to sing unto the Lord. Much of his life revolved around the many trips to Annual Meeting with heartfelt discussions. He cared about others and never seemed too busy to have a visit with you. Many folks were blessed to walk and talk with him as he exercised regularly. He received the anointing 3 times over the course of his life and each time he received much comfort and peace. After many health challenges and a long battle with cancer, his family ministered to him at home in the final days of his life.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lloyd and Clara; his wife's parents, Ezra and Dorothy Layman; one infant son, Joel Eben; one brother, Paul; and one brother-in-law, Lowell Layman.

He is survived by his loving and caring companion; six children, Simon and Amanda, Lori and Eric Leensvaart, Leah and Jonathan Miller, Reuben and Kara, Jamin and Laura, Nathan and Faith; twenty nine grandchildren; one great-grandchild; three brothers, Douglas and Marty, Benjamin and Joanne, Timothy and Barbara; one sister, Cynthia and Donald Fisher; one sister-in-law, Miriam Layman; five brothers-in-law and their wives, Marvin and Lois Bowman,

Wayne and Wyleneia Layman, David and Judy Layman, Owen and Dorothy Layman, Daniel and Teresa Layman; and a host of kind and caring relatives and friends.

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

The funeral service on September 13 was conducted by the home brethren, with the message centered on fighting the good fight of faith. Dad's body was laid to rest in the Wood Colony Cemetery, where Samuel Garber offered thoughts on a godly vision and the single eye. He now awaits the glorious resurrection day where all the faithful will dwell in the bliss of eternity.

The Family

GARBER — Marjorie Jean (Gish), eldest daughter of Caleb and Alice (Miller) Gish was born on June 3, 1928, in Modesto, California. She passed to her eternal home Sunday morning, September 10, 2023, at the Brethren Retirement Community in Greenville, Ohio.

Mother was convicted of her need of a Savior and was baptized on July 14, 1946. She was a member of The Old German Baptist Brethren Church—New Conference.

Mother married our Dad, Samuel Albert Garber, in Modesto, California, on November 30, 1946. Born to them were two daughters and three sons.

Mother, together with our Dad, was called to the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in 1954. They were ordained into the eldership in 1968. They faithfully served through the years in that

capacity as long as health permitted.

Mother was a very industrious person who loved to be busy baking, fixing meals for her family, and taking care of the house. She loved her only sibling Marie and family in California, and Dad's family became like her very own. She enjoyed the fellowship with many friends and loved ones in the Miami Valley of Ohio and beyond.

Mother was preceded in death by her parents; her husband's parents, LeRoy and Cleo Garber; her husband in 2004; a daughter, Kathleen in 2011; and a son, Thomas in 2008.

Also preceding her were her sister, Marie Bauman; and many of Dad's siblings and their spouses, Ellen (Ralph) Bowman, Robert (Doris), Henry (Lois), and Lowell.

She is survived by her daughter, Louise; a son, Gordon and wife Ruth; a daughter-in-law, Sherda (Tom's wife); and a son, Aaron and wife Marianne.

She is also survived by her grandchildren, great-grand-

children, and great-great-grandchildren.

Additionally, she is survived by her brother-in-law, Merle Bauman (Marie's husband); sisters-in-law, Mae (Harold) Gish, Eva (Samuel) Boone, and Janet Garber; and some dear cousins including a special cousin, Roger Gish; nieces and nephews, and many friends.

We are thankful for the many people that visited our mother during her later years and encouraged her. Dad and Mother enjoyed many friends through the years and throughout the brotherhood and in their community. The staff and Hospice at Brethren Retirement Community were so kind and helpful to Mother and our family. We want to thank them for their care and service.

Services were held at Stillwater meeting house 10 A.M. on September 16 by the home brethren and Elder Glen Landes. Burial was in the Eversole Cemetery.

The Family

Terms

Subscriptions should be made through the congregational contact or through *The Testimony* office. Subscription price is \$30.00 per year. New subscriptions should be paid (prorated) through the remainder of the current year. All renewals begin at the first of the calendar year. Newly married and those unable to pay for a subscription may receive a free subscription through the agent of their local congregation.

Contributors

Authors of essays, devotionals, poems, etc. are asked to review the Statement of Purpose on the back page of this periodical. Articles should

be based on Scripture. References are appreciated. Shorter focused articles are more desirable than articles that move from one topic to another. Selected material will be considered. Original writings are preferred. It is recommended that writers submit themselves to the Spirit, which reveals the will of God to the Church in every age, according to the varied needs and circumstances.

Written articles should be legible. Typed material is preferred and should be double-spaced. Electronic transmission or CD will be accepted. The author's name and address must be included on all material. An attempt will be made to contact the author of articles that are not accepted.

Old German Baptist Brethren
Church—New Conference

THE TESTIMONY

353 Billman Rd.
New Paris, OH 45347-9102

The Testimony is a Christian publication intended for those who desire nourishment in their spiritual walk, and for writers who wish to express witness to the Truth of the Gospel as experienced in their own lives. It holds the Holy Scriptures to be its only Creed. Its purpose is to bear witness to the Truth of God's Word as it is applied in the daily life of committed Christians. It supports the anabaptist and pietist foundations of the Brethren of Schwarzenau, Germany (1708) including the biblical principle of the community of believers bound by a confession of faith in the Lord Jesus confirmed by adult immersion baptism (Mark 16:16). It strives to promote a life of true living piety among all who confess Jesus as their Lord. It seeks to restore and

maintain a fellowship of true primitive Christianity through the communication of all good things.

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