

"Be not thou therefore ashamed of...

THE TESTIMONY

...of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel..." II Tim. 1:8

— VERSE OF THE MONTH —

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I ... forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (II Chr. 7:14).

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PRAYER FOR GENERAL PEACE

Thy footsteps, Lord, with joy we trace,
And mark the conquests of thy grace,
Complete the work thou hast begun,
And let thy will on earth be done.

Oh, show thyself the Prince of Peace,
Command the din of war to cease;
Oh, bid contending nations rest,
And love pervade each human breast.

Then peace shall lift her balmy wing,
Glad plenty laugh, the valleys sing;
Reviving commerce lift her head,
And want, and woe, and hate be fled.

Thou good, and wise, and righteous Lord;
All move subservient to thy Word;
Oh, soon let every nation prove
The perfect joy of Christian love.

— Charles Wesley

THE TESTIMONY

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EDITORIAL

ARE YOU A PILGRIM?

As the air turns cooler, the days grow shorter, and the humidity dissipates, our minds once again begin to think of that first Thanksgiving. An event in this nation's history that, since 1942, is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. There are many aspects to reflect on within this account, but we would like to consider the Pilgrim.

Initially two ships were planning to make the voyage across the Atlantic. Because of a leak, the *Speedwell* was deemed not seaworthy, and it was abandoned and sold. The combined 120 passengers were reduced to 102, who boarded the *Mayflower* and set sail in early September of 1620. After miserable conditions and hardships at sea, on November 9, they sighted land, causing them to break into singing the 100th Psalm—the first true Thanksgiving ceremony of these people. Who were these people? History calls them Pilgrims. Pilgrims, because they were seeking a new life where they could worship God according to their understanding of Scripture. This quest to worship according to their consciences was so strong they were willing to leave everything behind, looking for a better future. These people emulate the biblical definition of a Pilgrim.

"Pilgrim" is used twice in the New Testament, in Hebrews 11:13–14 and I Peter 2:11.

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country."

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul..."

Let's consider three principles from these passages that a true Pilgrim possesses and demonstrates. 1. A true Pilgrim has faith. 2. A true Pilgrim seeks a better country. 3. A true Pilgrim abstains from fleshly lusts. Having faith is stated in the context of not having received the promises. This does not mean the promises are nonexistent, but that they are obscured or not fully experienced as of yet. This is the essence of faith. Even though the promises are afar off, a true Pilgrim is persuaded they are true—even so much as to leave this world behind for a more glorious one to come. The true Pilgrim is not afraid to embrace and act on that faith, resulting in nonconformity to this world. They realize the futility of gaining the whole world and losing their soul. Because of this, they abstain from fleshly lusts. Why? Because fleshly lusts war against the soul—which threatens their entry into the better country they are seeking.

As the air turns cooler, the days grow shorter, and the humidity dissipates, consider the Pilgrim, and ask yourself these questions: Do I have faith in spite of unrealized promises? Am I truly seeking

another country or am I entangled in this world? Am I caring for my soul or indulging in fleshly lusts? Am I a true Pilgrim?

Grant Fullmer

SEASONAL

THANKSLIVING

We have in our papers an illustration, saved for many years past. It was first featured as a Thanksgiving meditation in a newspaper. In a three-panel cartoon are a father and his early-teenage son sitting at a Thanksgiving table spread with a turkey and dishes filled with food of all sorts. In the first panel, with heads bowed, the father offers a Thanksgiving prayer.

The prayer is simple: "Thank you, Lord, for the moment. Amen."

In the next panel, the son says, "Hey, Dad. That was pretty lame, considering all that we have here!"

In the final panel, the father replies, "Son, that is all we have."

We beg pardon of dear readers for using a cartoon for a spiritual lesson. But we have saved this slip of paper for all these years as a reminder of the importance of the moment, and that, with all we have received and all we call our own, the moment is the most valuable gift that we have. Too often we—or I—think of "the moment" in the sense of the brevity of life. Our natural life is but for a moment, and we pass on. But life goes on, year by year, day by day,

and moment by moment. True, life is fleeting. Life just glistens and is gone. Likewise, the moment is fleeting. Another moment may follow, or it may not. It is certain that the opportunity provided by each moment will soon be passed, often never to return.

There is a moment to speak. Or time for a moment of silence. There is a moment to offer encouragement. But in a moment, we often fail. There is a moment to hold up the name of Jesus. But often we fail to seize the moment. There is a moment to lay a comforting hand on the shoulder of a brother. But so often we do not. There is a moment to give to the needy. But in a moment, we look the other way. It takes only a moment to hug your wife or husband and to say, "I love you." It takes only a moment to give a child a hug and a smile. It takes but a moment to whisper a prayer of thanksgiving. If we fail to seize the moment, it is gone.

In this day of "...pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness..." it behooves us to focus less on what we have and what more we might attain, and more on the riches of heaven.

Recently, some of us attended an Anabaptist Identity Conference. One of the speakers recounted being in a store with another Anabaptist couple. In the next aisle, a sister and her husband were looking at dress material. She commented on a nice piece, upon which her husband gently said, "Do you need another dress?" To which she responded, "You are right. I already have four dresses." For all I know, this decision process may have been the result of extreme poverty. Or it may have been out of temperance. Or it may have been out of a true concern for others who cannot afford the barest necessities.

We do not intend to suggest a life of extreme asceticism, severe self-denial, or stark simplicity, although that may be more consistent with the lifestyle that Jesus lived and intended for us. Instead, we wish to invite readers to consider moderation, temperance, simplicity, frugality, and abstinence as a pattern for Christian living, even—or especially—in a self-indulgent environment such as the one in which we live today. Wealth abounds, leisure prevails, and too often we forget to be thankful for the simple things. When making decisions, it is well to think: Do I need yet another tool for my shop? Do I need another machine for my business? Do I need another vehicle? Do I need another farm? Do I need another house on the coast, or by the lake, or in the moun-

tains? Do I need more accumulation to boost and bolster my self-esteem and to enhance my image in the sight of others? We may even teach a child, "Do you really need another toy? If you get another toy, would you like to share one of your toys with another child?" Or, we might even try to learn that lesson as parents.

Indeed, life is short. We do not deny that! But instead of focusing on the brevity of life, it might be well to focus on the importance of the moment and the impact that moment may have on our eternity. The decision of an impulse may be life-changing. An ill-advised decision has changed the course of many a life. The reckless decision of many a youth has led to grief.

This is a season to be especially thankful. It is also a season to pay more attention to the way of our going. We are wonderfully blessed. But blessings may be a way for God to test the materials of which we are made—wood, hay, or stubble, gold, silver, or precious stones. In Luke 12:15 Jesus said, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

Thank you, Lord, for the moment, because that's all we have. And that's all we need.

Marcus Miller

GENERAL

COMMON SALVATION

“Common salvation” refers to salvation bestowed on all believers who share the faith of Christ that was once delivered to the saints (see Jude 3). This includes an innumerable company from every nation, kindred, people, and tongue. God knows this multitude as His Church and, most comprehensively, as His kingdom. What about in our neighborhoods? Do we as followers of Christ have anything in common with those who seem so different from us? Are some we encounter casually co-members of His kingdom? Are some, those of whom He would have us to be ambassadors? Perhaps a local example will help us see how this might be true.

About 20 men sat around the table. Most were there by their choice from several options. Some were returning to the detention center after the meeting to be locked up until their next work-release assignment. Several were alcoholics or drug addicts who had committed crimes related to their addictions. A few had been violent offenders. Some had been to these meetings before, recidivated, and realized the need for a support group to continue on the path to recovery. About all had experienced some or considerable prison time. There were three or four volunteers present who had never been incarcerated.

A young clean-cut man in this room would never impress as having struggles as the others. From his testimony we learned that he was an alcoholic. The group leader asked him how long he had been sober. He said, “Only a few weeks.” The leader then asked him how long he had been sober before this. He said, “About nine months,” but he fell back when he became discouraged.

The leader this Friday morning was a large African American man who had been involved in all of these vices. He had been free of addictions and crime for 18 years. Prior to this he had gone to prison five different times for a total of seven years of incarceration. He tells of getting “saved” at about every Christian service in prison but was really only wanting to get out of prison, not to change his habits. Finally, it began to dawn on him that he couldn’t keep doing the same things and get different results. He then truly surrendered his life to Christ and was given the power to turn from his past. He admitted that he now knows that he has to stay accountable to other believers to continue on this path. He advised those in the group that they also would need to stay accountable to godly men.

While the circumstances varied, the stories and lives of the others followed a similar theme. Another man attending these meetings sev-

eral months ago was also an articulate speaker but stood out in a more extreme way. He was in his early 30s and had spent considerable time in prison. He was heavily tattooed on his face, top of his head, neck and arms. He knew much of the Scripture from memory. He would often give sound counsel to others who were struggling with problems. This work release ministry hired him for construction work, and his supervisors reported that he was a dedicated employee and an industrious worker. He left his connection with the ministry after this work group was shut down as work fell off. Sadly, this man was clearly tortured in his mind.

As these men shared their testimonies and lives, it became apparent how much each of us needs the godly influence of others, how much our childhood environments differ, how much our struggles to resist temptation are similar, and how essential it is for us to live in godly, nurturing communities.

None of us have had a choice of what parents we were born to or what predispositions we inherited. The man in the last example above was only six years old and with his mother in a large store. His father came in with a gun and shot her point-blank. This father and I were once in church fellowship together. The shocked and confused young son was then guided by other family until he entered a life of addiction and imprison-

ment. Most of these men around the table were raised in single parent or broken homes. Some had a father or mother addicted to alcohol or drugs. Some had abusive parents. Still, some grew up in relatively stable homes and just made bad choices. The flip side of this is that children raised in nurturing, godly homes had a far better environment for making healthy life decisions.

As we listened to the stories, we recognized a pattern that is all too familiar. There was a temptation, a response, and an outcome. One man I have come to know as a friend was a star high school basketball player. By the time he graduated from high school, he had four children by four different girls. Because of this “baggage,” college recruiters soon lost interest in him. He had a large debt of child support and no work skills. His father was abusive, and his mother a drug addict. He turned to dealing in drugs to pay his debts. All the publicity poured on him by the press for his basketball success also headlined him when he was sentenced to a long prison term. He served seven years of a 20-year sentence but was pulled out of this downward spiral while incarcerated. Since this, he now has a stable family and is involved in several ministries, including the one from which these examples come. He attributes his undisciplined choices to excessive media attention too young, absence of Christian training in his home, the role

models around him living and profiting from the drug culture, and the pressure of trying to maintain an image among his peers. With only the circumstances different, this pattern can be seen in almost all downward spirals. Although we are all responsible for our life choices, the factors influencing them can be much different. Today, this man instructs others from his neighborhood that the way out is to accept responsibility, yield to the lordship of Christ, break off toxic relationships, and begin living God's teaching in Scripture. When we surrender our struggles with temptation to Christ, we likely will see Him guide us on this pathway. While we can't change what we've inherited, we can change what we do.

When our God became flesh and dwelt among us, He experienced all the temptations as we (see Heb. 4:15). He taught of His kingdom as the dwelling place for His children. He told Peter that on the Rock of Himself He would build His Church, and hell itself couldn't overcome it. The Church in the wilderness was a type of the Church that came alive after Pentecost. Descendants of the wilderness Church despised Him, rejected Him, and had Him nailed to a cross. Even among His own disciples were those that denied Him, betrayed Him, and forsook Him. Still, Jesus loved this embryonic Church and gave Himself for it. This earthly kingdom was the forerunner of His heavenly kingdom. He then poured out His Holy

Spirit at Pentecost and infilled His people with Himself.

In the first 300 years persecution of the Church was severe. The enemies were hostile governments without; sin and false teachings within. Satan and his minions were determined to stamp out God's assembled people. As they were driven from one place, they expanded in others. Entrenched sin was confronted. Satan's weapon of temptation was blunted. This defense against temptation was assaulted from every angle. The Church continued to grow. Still, the history of the ages is that Satan continues his attempt to attack and destroy the assembly of God's people. It is in these assemblies that we "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:2). A healthy assembly will know and pray for the struggles of "one another." It encourages accountability among its members. It will speak the truth in love among "one another." As children of God, we must recognize our vulnerability if we keep our weaknesses in darkness. Conversely, we must be approachable to those who are struggling. Perhaps spiritual pride is the greatest enemy to approachability?

Our Lord has given us His Word, His Spirit, and His Church for our defense against temptation. It is in the community of believers that iron sharpens iron. It is here where we can bear each other's burdens. It is here that we can live out "...all things that pertain to life and godliness" (II Pet. 1:3).

May we never neglect gathering with our local assembly. It is in this setting that we have been given the power to overcome temptation. It should be here that we have the humility to "Confess [our] faults one to another, and pray for one another, that [we] may be healed" (Jas. 5:16).

Temptation and its remedy are common to all children of God. When I recognize that my "legal" sins such as pride, anger, and self-sufficiency can be every bit as offensive to God as some notable sins of my neighbors, I can appreciate my need for a common salvation. There is a "balm in Gilead" for whosoever will humble himself and repent. "...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" (Isa. 1:18). It was the "common people" that heard Jesus gladly (see Mark 12:37). It was the sinners and publicans that bowed before Him when their eyes were opened. Perhaps we have more in common with the tattooed boy or girl that we pass in the store than our judgment by appearance tells us. "...for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (I Sam. 16:7). What we don't know is if the casual passerby is a redeemed sinner or one God is drawing by the witness of Himself through His Church.

May the love and life of Christ shine through us to all whom we encounter!

Stanley Boyd

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Lester R. Fisher

Editor of *The Vindicator*

It may seem ironic to some to see an article of this type in *The Vindicator*. Historically the Brethren have always felt the injunction of the apostle Paul to his spiritual son, Timothy, applied to them equally as well. Specifically Paul wrote, "No man that warreth enangleth himself in the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." In this the writer heartily concurs, and wonders at the same time where it places those who do so entangle themselves. For this reason we have hesitated to write on so weighty a subject lest our remarks be interpreted to be an attempt to criticize the Government we respect, and which every Christian is taught to respect as an institution of God.

The object is rather to sound a warning, and to call attention to the "signs of the times," as being a product of the deceptive power of Satan. Change seems to be the order of the day; and as some changes create problems rather than solving them, what do some of these recent changes portend for the future welfare of both Church and country?

As all of our readers know, the Supreme Court has recently rendered an unprecedented decision which virtually sets aside the death penalty for crimes which hitherto have been adjudged worthy of death.

Consequently, this action by the

highest tribunal of our land represents a radical change in the administration of justice as understood in the past history of our nation. Obviously, neither the "Founding Fathers" nor their successors understood Capital Punishment to be unjust as the majority of the Court now interpret it to be in the most of cases.

No doubt the question is uppermost just now as to what any Christian writer, one who is longing and praying for the day when death itself shall be abolished forever, should be concerned over this issue? Should Christians not the rather rejoice and conclude that the Gospel of Christ is at last making some headway in the affairs of the nation? Many interpret the decision of the Supreme Court after this fashion, and even the majority of the Court held that principally the death penalty "constitutes cruel and unjust punishment in violation of the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments."

The concept of justice is far reaching as well as divine in its origin. As one has said, "The Bible is an all around Book. In it we find all that pertains to the knowledge, health, and happiness of mankind. From it we get the foundation for all Civil Law, home government, and personal conduct." Too many times we fear that men are overlooking the fact that God is the author of Justice, and that He sets the bounds and not man. Justice stands squarely between right and wrong as God defines them. Judgment

by His standard is ever the servant of justice, and never its master.

Pure justice, and we use the adjective gingerly to make a point, can neither be strengthened nor weakened. The expediency of the moment, however demanding or appealing, can never change its character.

Nor is the application of a just reward something to be arrived at through the process of trial and error. Longfellow said it like this, "Man is unjust, but God is just; and finally justice triumphs." Another writer says, "Impartiality is the life of justice, as justice is of all good government." The prophet Micah raises the question, "What doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." Be assured that where justice hangs in the balance, God is always in the picture: and those who are called upon to dispense justice must give unfailing answer to Him.

Let us see what God says about Capital Punishment. For testimony we go back to the eighth chapter of Genesis where God was reconstituting a regenerated world. In giving them instruction upon how to avoid the violence and consequent destruction that overtook the antediluvian world, God said, "And surely the blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the

life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." Nothing we might add will place any more emphasis on this message from the lips of our Creator. We can say this much without fear or rancor, that no man will be able to escape the thrust of this divine law. The great and the small and the low and the high all come alike into the radiance of the searching light of God's Word.

Since His Word is the last word,



the ultimate upon the subject at hand, what can we expect when men reject the supreme Law of God? When those in authority anywhere disregard the authority of God we may be sure they are on their own. The blessings of God are never poured out in reward to unfaithfulness. There are many examples of this in the Bible. When the kings of Israel and of Judah departed from the commandments of the Lord, these nations suffered, and God allowed their enemies to take them into captivity. Isaiah, the Lord's prophet, summed the matter up like this, "For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that

are led of them are destroyed." And can we expect any less today?

The Gospel clearly delineates the bounden duty of those who sit in seats of authority, and of the Christian's duty as well toward them. "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same; for he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid: For he beareth not the sword in vain:



for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil" (Rom. 13:3-4).

This portion of Scripture sets forth plainly the duty of both Church and State. Along with other testimony the Gospel teaches that Christians are to be subject to those in authority and are not the authority itself. The responsibility of Capital Punishment genders deeply into the area of Civil Law, administered by Civil Government, and as such can never be the responsibility of The Church. It is not according to Christian ethics, and anyone who is active in applying the death penalty is out of character if he claims to be a Christian. Nothing

that the Lord taught His disciples to be, or the life He exemplified can justify any Christian to take part in such an act. Indeed the death penalty and the taking of human life in general, are among the most vivid examples of the cleavage, or that great gulf which separates the rule of Christ in His Body, the Church, from the rule of the nations.

It is very evident likewise from the Scripture quoted above, where God places the responsibility of administering social justice—even to the extent of Capital Punishment. The action of the Court in taking this matter under consideration also proves that they coincide in this conclusion. Their decision however disregards God's plain command and puts into effect their own interpretation instead. And though there are many in authority who would still abide under and carry out the judgment of God in such cases, they are rendered helpless by this decision. Yet the sacredness of human life: life made in His own image, remains the same in the sight of God. Any time blood is shed wantonly, He holds someone responsible. How then can these two positions be reconciled? And the answer is obvious that they can never be reconciled. Justice revenges evil and protects the good, and when the plain and divine command of justice is abrogated then we can expect violence to

reap more violence and crime to reap more crime. We can expect less protection from evil and less "praise" for doing good. All of this we believe is just another indication of the power of deception raging in these latter days. The downgrading of God's Word among the churches: where God first placed His name, is now having its affect upon those in authority.

Nevertheless it still remains the duty of God's people to be subject to those in authority. This course of life is made increasingly difficult in a world where subjection is frequently supplanted by opposition. Let us never forget that every time a Christian retaliates he places himself down upon the same level of those he is trying to instruct, and thereby loses his effective witness for God. God's people suffer instead even unto martyrdom, and the test may come soon. We read in the Revelation of the divine patience of God, where His judgment is withheld until the last martyrs are gathered under the heavenly altar. "Here is the patience of the saints," for though He is long suffering, the promise is that God will speedily avenge His elect. Up until that time may our cry and our prayer ever be, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven."

Selected from the August 1972 issue of *The Vindicator* by

Terry Boone

EVIL IMAGINATION

The man walked into the office and threw the bunny suit (a cover-all used to keep dust off one's clothing) across the chair, finished up some loose ends, and went home for the day.

The next morning he came in and began where he left off in the office. Unbeknownst to him, another employee had come in earlier, espied the bunny suit, put it on, and flopped across the chair in nearly the same manner it had been lying. The man fiddled around in the office and suddenly sensed something was amiss. The bunny suit was coming to life! It staggered toward him, and his eyes bugged out. It reached for him in a weird sort of way, and he realized it was going to embrace him. His breath came in gasps as he tried to back away from it. It kept coming! At some point he realized it was the fellow employee, and whew, what a relief. It wasn't what...well, what did he think it was?

The Bible says that man's imagination was only evil continually before the flood, and we believe it will be the same at the end of time. This year we noticed that Halloween came in August. Last year it seemed to be observed some places long after October 31 and skeletons were sporting Christmas décor. If you have ever seen or read even a bit of the horrors that

man can dream up you know how bad it can be. Little children watch that from their youth. Children, who haven't, don't always understand what is fact or fiction. Anyone has enough of an imagination to be shaken by the unnatural, whether it be a devil or an angel of the Lord. We fear them both. Should we?

Japan has an aging population and, like many countries, the next generation has been limited in number. The aged get lonely, so elderly homes are making use of robots. It has recently come to our attention that troubled young people are likewise resorting to robots and artificial intelligence for comfort.

It is ever the devil's way to try to counterfeit or copy the real thing. Twenty years ago this would have been seen as very weird if not outright unacceptable by either group, but the inventions of men have become startlingly lifelike, disturbingly smart, and downright deceptive. Who of us doesn't talk with that computer on the other end of the phone when it says, "How may I help you?" And it gives us some choices. We think nothing of telling it what we want. Do we remember it has a switch and a plug? When we hear people say they can't do anything, because of "the system,"

are we smart enough to challenge that? I would hope so, because God never gave machines dominion over the earth. That is man's responsibility.

A couple of years ago, a fast food restaurant tried something new at their drive-through. A slightly human voice took your order. When I pulled around to get my hamburger there was a child's meal to make me happy. The person at the window looked at me, saw no child in the car and asked, "Did you order this?" No, I hadn't, but I told her, "Don't throw it away; I'll buy it instead, and you keep the toy." She corrected the order and handed me both. I wondered how long that would last, and I haven't had the opportunity to try it since. It didn't work as well as a person, evidently. Yes, God has made man upright, but he has sought out many inventions, and some with more knowledge. Then we are fearful of what it is leading to. Suffice it to say that God has been known to take vengeance on inventions (Ps. 99:8). Therefore, "Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy...let the people tremble..." (vs. 9, 1).

Fear is a normal emotion, but we often don't take it as seriously as we should. It has been said that fools enter in where angels fear to tread, and certainly fear has its

place. A healthy dose of it can prevent injury or death. It can sober one up and give one a renewed degree of respect. It gets our attention, especially if it gives us the creeps; the hair rising on the back of the neck and goosebumps that signal it is time to flee. If fear is unfounded, we laugh it off. If it is unreasonable, we fight it. All of this can be processed in a very short time.

Why, as the hymn sings, do "we fear, we faint, we grieve, we doubt"? Perhaps it is as it says, we "feel the load of sin." I have often wondered, was there any fear in the garden of Eden? Probably not. Animals didn't eat people and vice versa. There was no death.

Every once in a while, we see a vehicle with a decal in the front window that declares NO FEAR. Somehow we doubt that. A person with no fear just isn't going to survive long.

There are some things we ought to fear. We ought to fear God. We ought to fear Him who can kill both body and soul, and yet His perfect love will cast out that fear, a result of keeping His commandments. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love" (I John 4:18). "Torment" here means "punishment." We all know the fear of being punished if we don't do as a parent wishes. Like-

wise we don't feel comfortable with God or others when we have transgressed against them. You are probably discerning that there is a right and wrong kind of fear for "The fear of man bringeth a snare but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe" (Prov. 29:25).

As a parent, I was never one to belittle a child's fear. I was about eight years old when we moved to a new house. While it was under construction the plumbers would enter in and out of a crawl space in one of the bedrooms that turned out to be mine. There was a dark hole the size of a sheet of plywood and the next time I saw it my bed was sitting square over that hole. Yes, there was carpet, but when the house would creak the thought of monsters under the bed in that dark hole was a disturbing thought for a few years.

One of the surest ways to overcome fear is knowledge. This is why it is so important to be careful what you put in your mind or the mind of a child. The Bible speaks about a day coming of "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken" (Lk. 21:26).

Today is the day to learn to know the God who created the heavens and the earth. Now is the time to marvel at the thunder as it rolls and the lightening as it flash-

es. This is the day that you need to realize that the climate can't be saved but you can. For the things that are coming are indeed disturbing.

One day the hail will be enormous, a star called Wormwood will fall from the sky and all the skeletons and jack-o-lanterns will be the least of concerns. All the wicked imaginations will imagine the worst—only it will be reality. If that doesn't frighten you, look around and see the multitudes blithely hurrying toward that day because they can't imagine that God has something prepared for us, which is so far beyond, and higher than our ways, and has not even entered into the heart of man. And because their imagination is only evil continually, they will never see it. Now that is something very troubling indeed.

Rachel Brubaker

*"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **think on these things**" (Phil. 4:8).*

SMALLVILLE

There once was a small town, and in it lived small people. They were mostly poor, weak, and slow. But they lived peacefully together in their little town, and they called it Smallville. Yes, they were small, but they helped one another. Each day, they worked and interacted together to meet the small needs of the other small people. The mayor of Smallville was not small. Indeed, He was very great. He was the Giver of all good things in that little town. The small people asked Him before making their small decisions. He was loving, and gracious, and patient. He gave them the power of choice, and they willingly came to Him each day. Outside Smallville were big problems. Big animals with big teeth, big people with big weapons, and big unknown things that were very dangerous to small people.

They were a small town and a small people, but there was one thing that was very prominent and commendable about Smallville. The small people knew how to build fences. They could build good fences. Big fences for big needs, small fences for small needs. The small people worked together to build their fences. They talked together. They reasoned together. They talked to the

Mayor together. They planned together. And then, they would build. Together.

The fences had many purposes. Some were big, some were small, but all were white, and clean, and strong. Some fences were built around their small homes. Good fences make good neighbors. These small fences helped the small children know where their homes were, and they helped them to know where their homes were not. The fences helped the small animals stay in their small pastures, and helped them to eat the good grass. Bright tulips and flowers grew cheerily along the borders of these small, strong fences. Tall maple trees stood stately at the corners of the small white fences. Rarely was a weed sprouted and grown until a small person diligently plucked it out. The small fences were clean and strong.

The big fences had purposes too. The small people built big fences around the borders of Smallville. These big fences were beautiful fences. The small people built them together and maintained them together. The big fences kept the big animals from coming into town. They kept the small children from wandering out of the town. The big white fences helped the small people

know where Smallville started and where it stopped. Big people looked at the fences with their big weapons. The fences were so big and so strong and so beautiful, the big people knew they could not break the strong fences of Smallville.

The people of Smallville had lived there for so long, they couldn't remember a time with no fences. They shared life in many ways. They celebrated small weddings and small babies. They mourned small accidents and small deaths. They took food to each other and helped each other do small things. They watched their small fences and repaired any small problems. They were joyful in doing small things with other small people. They had a simple small life.

And then one day, something tragic happened. It was small of course, like everything else in Smallville. But it was tragic. Beside one small fence on the edge of town, one small weed sprouted and grew. The person responsible for the fence had fallen asleep. The small weed grew. It matured and then went to seed. Just small seeds from a small weed, and they blew away. The small seeds drifted down over Smallville. Hundreds of thousands of small seeds, and they nestled in beside other small white fences. And began to grow.

Now when the hundreds of small seeds began to sprout, not very many small people noticed. They were small weeds. And the small people were beginning to become busy with many, many things. When the small weeds grew, many of them were pulled out by diligent small people. But there were some small weed seeds that grew beside a lazy person's fence. As the weeds grew, the other small people gasped and pointed, but they decided to let the lazy person decide what he wanted to do with his fence. They quietly decided not to tell him because he might be offended. So his small weeds grew by his small fence. But then they matured and went to seed. A small wind caused hundreds of millions of small seeds to drift across Smallville and all its beautiful fences.

As the small weeds grew and grew and grew, many small people became alarmed. They pulled the small weeds out and kept their small fences clean. But many other small people didn't notice the small weeds. They had become too busy. They had started to skip the small meetings with other small people. They had stayed in their small houses instead of taking a small walk. They used binoculars and peered through the big fences

to the intrigue of the big world. The small weeds beside their small fences didn't look as bad as the big weeds outside the big fence. So they let the small weeds grow. Their small neighbors didn't know what to say, but decided to wait and watch and mind their own small business.

Small weeds lined many small fences now. As the small people walked through town, they became accustomed to fences with small weeds. Some small people were very concerned, but as the days and seasons passed by, they realized the small weeds stayed small. The fences were still white and they were still strong.

As the small weeds grew, many small things began to happen. Small changes came to the town of small people. Some folks started to look at each other's fences and make small remarks. The small children started to be lazy since they didn't pull small weeds anymore. Instead of small visits in their front lawns, they scurried quickly into their houses and shut their small doors. The small people didn't talk about small things anymore. Each one of them started to do small things that they thought were okay for their small families. They did lots of small fun things that they had never done before. They pulled their small shades and did small things on

their small phones. Many small people stopped visiting the Mayor. They just thought they had bigger things to do.

As the days and seasons passed, Smallville began to change drastically. No one noticed the change from day to day. But after years of small changes, Smallville was tragically different. The small fences had so many weeds around them, they weren't visible anymore. Small children and small animals wondered around and became lost. The big fences had become dark with dust, dirt, and moss. Just small things on a big fence, but the small people couldn't see where the fences needed small repairs. The small fences were gone, and the big fences sagged. The small people started building bigger houses. They didn't have any small talk about it, they just did it. They rushed by other small people in their big houses and hurried on to bigger things.

Big people began to watch. Big animals began to creep closer. They saw the big fences falling. They saw the small people sleeping. They knew that the time had come to make the people of Smallville part of the big world.

Melina Flory

FOR CHILDREN

MEETING GOD

Dear Children of all ages,

I want to write and tell you of Someone who is great, for He is God! As we think about Him by faith, it seems we can see Him! No one can see Him with natural eyes, for we are born into sin, and God hates sin!

If we ask in Jesus' name for Him to forgive our sins, He surely will. And we can also have the privilege of calling Him our Father!

God made man in His own image. In some ways we have been made like Him. When we kneel to pray, may we see God on His throne, and Jesus at His right hand. I picture Jesus interceding. This means Jesus is mentioning your name and having conversation about us! Talking about our trials, our mistakes, our sins, our smiles, and our thanksgiving!

God has eyes and ears just like you do!

God made us with a purpose! He wants us to be His child, to overcome in our trials, to be happy in our hearts all of our days! He wants these things for us because He loves us! And He will love us for all eternity!

Why then are there tears? God allows this. Satan does not love God, nor anyone. His desire is to ruin the blessings God has given us and cause us to turn away from God. He allows Satan to bring trials into our lives. So when we experience these things, we must turn away from bad thoughts, and

pray that God will fill our minds with good things that give praise to God. Thoughts of Jesus and God the Father. Thoughts about love, joy, peace and kindness. These things come from the heart of God! He sends them to our hearts so we will know Him!

God is very pleased to see His children read their Bibles! This Book tells us about God and what God wants for our lives!

God wants us to be thankful and not proud, as we think about all of God's gifts. It may be difficult for us to be thankful for a headache, or other trials, but God wants us to be thankful that He cares for us. We need to be thankful for troubles that He chooses not to take away or fix. Why? Because even our trials are beautiful to Him. He can take the black crayon colors in our lives and make them to be gold and silver, and soft colors, because we are loving Him and trusting Him still!

Children, I cannot say how much God loves you! Jesus gathered the children around Him and loved them. He noticed a little boy with a lunch, and blessed his food to feed a very large crowd of people!

May we say every day how good our God is! He wants to be our Father, and He is when we trust in Him instead of ourselves.

Learn to pray in Jesus' name for God to help us and forgive us when we ask. God also wants to see evidence that we love Him

enough to try to do and say the things that please Him all of our lives. This shows us that we really do love Him!

If you are a small child, someday when you are older, God will call you to be baptized. And then (we do not know when) God will call your name, to come and live in Heaven with Him, where you can see His face, and be with Him!

But first He wants to know if you love Him, even though you can't see Him. Is it our love through our tears that lets us see His rainbows that He sends in life?

Your parents, brothers and sisters, cousins, friends, and church

members love you, but God loves you much more with a perfect love! A love that never makes mistakes!

Oh, come, little children, come, one and all! Come with everything you have! Return your best to God every day! When we look to Him, He gives us a peek into Who He is! He fills us with JOY through His love and His kindness!

May God's loving Presence fill us! He is with us to the end of the world (Matt. 28:20). And He will also be with us throughout all eternity.

Vicki Witmer

MEDITATIONS

It is harder to fast if you spend all your time by the refrigerator.

Belonging to church means loving your brother and sister.

Faith moves mountains—one little stone at a time.

Repentance holds the key to my own prison.

Feed your faith and starve your doubts.

Children's smiles say, "Thank you."

Thank you, Lord, for everything.

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.

The theme of many of our writings and poems seems to be our separate life as a pilgrim, our total trust in God, the two kingdoms taught by Jesus, and the hope we have of the world to come.

Since these themes are all taught in the Scriptures, we may want to ask ourselves some questions.

1. Have I examined each of these themes, and made them my very own?
2. Would those who observe my life say that it is very clear that I hold to these beliefs?
3. Am I passing these teachings on to the next generation? Daily? How?
4. If we fail in this, what direction will our children go?

GENERAL ITEMS

BAPTISMS

Mar. 9, 2025; Mtn. View Bre., ID
 Aliana Wray, Claire Ann Haney
 Aug. 17, 2025; Mtn. View Bre., ID
 Ella Deaton
 Sept. 3, 2025; Mtn. View Bre., ID
 Jenika Miller, Jaylyn Peters
 Oct. 4, 2025; Fall Creek, IN
 Wade Filbrun

COMMUNION NOTICES

Nov. 1, 2025..... Bethel, OH
 Nov. 1, 2025..... Columbia River, WA
 Nov. 1, 2025..... Kidron Valley, KS
 Nov. 8, 2025..... Covington, OH
 Nov. 8, 2025..... Shenandoah, VA
 Nov. 8, 2025..... West Modesto, CA
 Nov. 15, 2025..... Fall Creek, IN
 Jan. 31, 2026..... Pinegrove, FL
 Feb. 7, 2026..... Living Epistle, NM
 Feb. 28, 2026..... West Manchester, IN
 Mar. 14, 2026..... Dallas, OR
 Apr. 11, 2026..... Cascade Valley, WA
 Apr. 11, 2026..... Cutler Ridge, IN
 Apr. 11, 2026..... Fair Haven, KS
 Apr. 11, 2026..... Salem, OH
 Apr. 18, 2026..... Olive Branch, OH
 Apr. 25, 2026..... Bear Creek, OH
 Apr. 25, 2026..... Caldwell, ID

HARVEST MEETINGS

Nov. 27, 2025..... Pleasant View, OH

COMMISSIONS

Sept. 17, 2025; Cutler Ridge, IN
 Reuben Hufford (with wife, Megan)
 Called to the office of Deacon.
 Sept. 23, 2025; Olive Branch, OH
 Wesley Bowman (with wife, Rachel)
 Called to the office of Deacon.

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Lord willing, the brethren and sisters of the Indiana and Michigan congregations anticipate hosting the next Annual Conference at Indiana Wes-

leyan University, Marion, Indiana, on June 6–9, 2026. The brethren chosen for the 2026 Committee of Arrangements have organized as follows:

Jim Yost, Foreman
 Eldon Garber, Treasurer
 Mark Gish
 Doug Brooks
 Carl Brovont
 Dean Brovont, Secretary
 Bruce Dutter
 Lynn Flora

As our various committees meet in preparation for Annual Conference 2026, we ask for an interest in your prayers. May the Lord be magnified as we labor together for His glory.

Submitted on behalf of the 2026 COA,

Dean Brovont, Secretary

WESTERN KANSAS DISTRICT BUILDING FUND

Dear New Conference members and others. As of 9/10/2025 our building fund loan has been retired and has a zero balance. We are very grateful for the support and care you have shown to us in this monetary need. "THANK YOU." As we move forward in life may we continue to pray and seek the guidance of the Lord daily.

"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable" (Ps. 145:3).

Brenton Wise and Justin Sink

NOTICE OF SEQUATCHIE VALLEY DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

On Saturday, September 20, 2025, a meeting was held in Dunlap, Tennessee, for the purpose of officially organizing a district of church among the members residing there. Representation from the Lower Twin Servant Body and from the Elder Bodies of the adjoining districts were in attendance along with other interested

guests. After a time of devotion, a brief history was given of the developmental and formulative years of the congregation in that area and their request to organize as a district among the Old German Baptist Brethren Church, New Conference brotherhood. Approval was previously sought and granted by the Lower Twin congregation for them to proceed with organizing. This was concluded with the reading of a Certificate of District Organization that was developed and signed by the members there. After approval was given by the Lower Twin Servant Body and the Adjoining Elders present, it was declared that **Sequatchie Valley** was now a New Conference district consisting of six households and 14 members. Prayer and blessings were extended to this new district as the evening was concluded with fellowship, and a worship service on Sunday morning.

Larry Bower

**SEQUATCHIE VALLEY
MEETING HOUSE**

The Sequatchie Valley congregation gives everyone a warm invitation to come visit, fellowship, and worship together with us.

We recently purchased an existing meeting house at 39 Rocky Rd., Dunlap, Tennessee 37327.

If anyone desires to help with this purchase and the expenses for upgrades it would be greatly appreciated.

Please send funds to:

**Brethren Charity Fund, Inc.
P.O. Box 365,
Brookville, Ohio 45309**

Funds sent should be earmarked for “Sequatchie Valley.”

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,

Brian Frantz and Ryan Oyler

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL NOTICE

We are making our call for subscriptions for the year 2026 at this time. The subscription price for each subscriber continues to be \$30.00 per year, and should be received by December 1, 2025 from the District Agents. **Each District Agent should include an updated list of their subscribers, with their current addresses, highlighting any changes.** Individual subscribers’ subscription payments should be received by December 1, 2025 as well, if possible, for the 2026 subscription year.

POEMS

MANNA

’Twas in the night the manna fell
That fed the hosts of Israel.

Enough for each day’s fullest store
And largest need; enough, no more.

For willful waste, for prideful show,
God sent not angels’ food below.

Still in our nights of deep distress
The manna falls our heart to bless.

And, famished, as we cry for bread,
With heavenly food our lives are fed,

And each day’s need finds each day’s store
Enough. Dear Lord. What want we more!

Margaret E. Sangster

THIS AGE*Richard Stoltzfoos*

For such a time as this
 You have been born.
 Not for Victorian England
 Nor Dark Ages;
 Nor from the arms
 Were you unfairly torn
 Of Roman princes
 Or of Grecian sages.
 Those eras covet not;
 This century is your marriage,
 Arranged and permanent.
 Eschew time-travel,
 That adultery;
 Each spouse has strengths
 And flaws, so be content.
 This time-right now
 Has everything to love.
 Its earth has greener grass
 And streams more clear;
 Its song and costume
 Fit you like a glove;
 Its language is not foreign
 To your ear.
 Those other ages notice,
 But dismiss.
*For you were born
 For such a time as this.*

Selected by

Dana Long
 Mesquite, New Mexico

WORDS

Words are things of little cost,
 Quickly spoken, quickly lost;
 We forget them, but they stand
 Witnesses at God's right hand.

Grant us, Lord, from day to day,
 Strength to watch and grace to pray;
 May our lips, from sin set free,
 Love to speak and sing of thee.

Author Unknown

SUCCESS

I tried, myself, to bring to pass
 That which I thought should be,
 I felt the Lord would profit by
 A little help from me.
 And so I worried and despaired
 And vainly labored on
 Until my fairest plans had crashed,
 My choicest visions gone;
 And then I knelt before my Lord,
 Chastened, humbled, still,
 Ready to let Him work through me,
 Ready to do His will.
 And there it was I found success,
 For then the Lord alone my soul
 could bless.

I tried to win a soul for Christ;
 How earnestly I pleaded
 That he had sinned and gone astray
 And Christ was all he needed,
 I begged him to forsake the world,
 Repent and be forgiven—
 I tried to coax him to the Lord,
 To woo him into Heaven.
 And then I realized that Christ
 Longed for him more than I,
 That He alone could make one care,
 Who cared enough to die,
 Upon my knees I fought the fight—
 My friend was born again that night.

Barbara Cornett

***"I am the vine, ye are the
 branches: He that abideth in
 me, and I in him, the same
 bringeth forth much fruit:
 for without me ye can do
 nothing" (John 15:5).***

MY HEART IS FIXED

My heart is fixed; my mind is made;
I shall not ever be afraid.

Love conquers fear; our God will do
What He has promised me—and you.

My heart is fixed, the things on earth
May lose their luster or their worth.

No anxious moments need be mine.
I rest in strength and power Divine.

My heart is fixed, I trust His Name,
Forever and a day the same.

His Holy Spirit from above
Will fill my soul with perfect love.

—James A. Sanaker

OBITUARIES

SHELLABARGER — Stanley Dean, a cherished husband, father, and grandfather, passed away peacefully on May 17, 2025, in Bradford, Ohio, at the age of 85. He was born on January 11, 1940, in Laura, Ohio, to his parents Erman A. and Irene (Garber) Shellabarger. Stanley was a man whose life was defined by his loving nature and faith-filled spirit.

A graduate of Newton High School's class of 1958, Stanley dedicated his life to the land, working as a lifetime area farmer. His passion for the earth was evident in the bountiful vegetable gardens he cultivated and the popcorn he grew with care. For three decades, Stanley and his beloved wife, Evelyn, were a familiar and welcome presence at the Troy

Farmers Market, where they sold their produce to the community.

On January 10, 1965, Stanley married Evelyn Lavy, and together they nurtured a family and a partnership that flourished for over 59 years. Their shared love for the outdoors was reflected in Stanley's enjoyment of fishing and hunting coyotes. Above all, he loved spending time with his five granddaughters, imparting to them the values of hard work and the importance of family.

Stanley's legacy is one of enduring love and steadfast faith. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him, but his memory will continue to inspire and guide those he leaves behind.

Stanley was preceded in death by his loving wife, Evelyn Shella-

barger; sisters, Gladys Eley and Carolyn Flory; sister-in-law, Mary Shellabarger; brother-in-law, Ferdie Murphy.

He will be missed and remembered by his sons and daughters-in-law Michael and Barb Shellabarger, Zane and Jennifer Shellabarger; granddaughters, Emily, Erika, Stella (and Cavin Baker), Lillie, and Eva; brother, Ronald Shellabarger; sister, Marilyn Shellabarger; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Bob and Sharon Lavy, Everett and Reta Lavy; sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, Edie Murphy, Eileen and John Henderson.

Visitation was Tuesday, May 20, 2025, from 4:00–7:00 P.M. at the Shiloh meeting house of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church—New Conference where Stanley was a faithful member. Funeral services were held at the meeting house at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, with interment following at Newcomer Cemetery.

The Family

LAVY — Carl E., 96, of Arcanum, Ohio, passed peacefully into the arms of his Savior on Sunday, June 29, 2025, at his daughter Teena's home where he had resided for several years. Carl was born March 24, 1929, to the late Clarence and Marie (Sell) Lavy. Carl received Christ as his Savior and was baptized into the Old German Baptist Church when he was 15 years old and stayed a faithful member of the Old German Bap-

tist Brethren Church, New Conference. Even in his later years when he could no longer attend in person, Dad enjoyed listening to several sermons across different times zones each Sunday.

Carl was united in marriage to Catherine Rurode on March 29, 1947, and was blessed with two children, Kenton and Teena. Dad was a farmer and plumber, and thoroughly enjoyed his work and livelihood. He and Mom also enjoyed traveling, going on road trips with their travel trailer, but also flying across the world to tour many countries. When they returned from each trip, Dad would compile his pictures into slides and loved to share his stories and experiences with family and friends.

Carl is preceded in death by his parents; loving wife, Catherine; brother, Gerald; five sisters-in-law, and three brothers-in-law. He will be missed by his surviving family, Kenton and Cindy Lavy, Teena and Gary Peters, seven grandchildren, Joshua Lavy and wife Christy, Jamie Lavy and wife Sarah, Katrina Angle, Andrew Peters and wife Rebekah, Tyler Peters and wife Carrie, Benton Peters and wife Jessica, and Trenton Peters and wife Amy; twenty-five great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild; sister, Ruth and husband Glen Landes; brother and wife, Marvin and Wilma Lavy, sister-in-law, Linda Lavy, and sister-in-law, Linda Rurode.

Family received relatives and friends on July 7, 2025, at the Shiloh Meeting House on Delisle-

Fourman Rd., Arcanum, Ohio. Funeral services were held on July 8, 2025, at 10 A.M. at the Shiloh Meeting House. Burial followed at Newcomer Cemetery.

The Family

BENEDICT — Marlin David, 86, of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, passed away Saturday, September 6, 2025, at the Chambersburg Hospital.

Born January 2, 1939, in Quincy Township, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late David H. and Dorothy R. (Martin) Benedict.

He attended Chambersburg schools. He grew up on his family's farm, learning the value of hard work. He also worked for other farmers in the area. In 1965, he moved to Greencastle and worked for Grove Manufacturing for the next 18 years, welding and doing maintenance work. He retired in 1983 and worked as a manager at the Mercersburg Legion and then later working for Ventura Foods until retiring in 2002.

Marlin was a member of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church—New Conference, Mount Zion District. He loved being outdoors and found a passion for photography. He enjoyed the companionship of several dogs throughout his life. Marlin will be remembered as easy-going and hard-working.

He is survived by a son, Jeffrey L. Benedict and two grandchildren, Allexandra N. Benedict and Dyllan E. Wright.

In addition to his parents, he

was preceded in death by a daughter, Tamera Orris who passed away August 8, 2017, and a foster sister, Betty Jane Kurlin.

Funeral services were held at the Mount Zion District of the Old German Baptist Church—New Conference in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, with Glenn Jamison and the Home Brethren officiating. Burial was at Browns Mill Cemetery following.

A viewing was held one hour prior to the service at the church.

Resting in peace.

BOYD — Lynette Sue, daughter of Jesse and Fern (Hearn) Boyd, was born August 13, 1960, in Nashville, Kansas. She moved with her family to Modesto, California in 1963. She peacefully passed away on September 6, 2025, at the age of 65 years and 24 days. Lynette was one of God's special children, born with Down Syndrome. She loved her family and brought much joy to our lives.

Lynette attended and graduated from John F. Kennedy School in 1982. Mother made her a special new dress which she is wearing today. After graduation, she worked at the Howard Training Center for seventeen years. She later attended Continuum College in Turlock, California, for twenty years. Lynette always enjoyed school and when asked how her day was would reply, "I got a job!" She wasn't able to go to school during Covid, but later went to

Valley Caps on Blue Gum Avenue.

Lynette participated in the Special Olympics, playing softball and basketball, running track and doing gymnastics. Lynette loved to make hooked rugs, put puzzles together, do word searches, and go bowling. She enjoyed many camping trips and loved to fish. After mother passed away, Lynette lived with her siblings, staying a few months with each one. She was always ready to move on to the next home, enjoying time with each of our families. In August of 2023, Lynette needed more care and was moved into Pine Manor Care Home. We want to thank the care givers for the excellent care she received there.

Lynette was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Louise DeBoer; brother-in-law, Ray Denlinger; nieces, Ann Boyd and Alice DeBoer; and great nephews, Zachary McDaniel and Austin Timm.

She is survived by her siblings, Doyle and Marlene Boyd, Ellen and Bill Heinrich, Phyllis Denlinger, Joan and Merle Howser, and Kenneth and Cindy Boyd; Nineteen nieces and nephews, fifty-three great-nieces and nephews, and sixty-five great-great-nieces and nephews, along with many special friends.

Lynette was a blessing in our lives and taught us compassion for those with special needs. We are so thankful God placed her in our family.

Lynette had special friendships with many of you and we are so grateful for your kindness to her.

A viewing was held Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 9:00–10:00 A.M. followed by the service at 10:00 A.M. at the West Modesto Old German Baptist Brethren Church. Burial followed at the Wood Colony 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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