

THE TESTIMONY

...of thy mouth." Psalm 119:88

VERSE OF THE MONTH

"Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" Matt. 6:26

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THOUGH TROUBLES ASSAIL

By John Newton

Though troubles assail and dangers affright,
Though friends should all fail and foes all unite,
Yet one thing secures us whatever betide:
The Scripture assures us, "The Lord will provide."

The birds, without barn or storehouse, are fed;
From them let us learn to trust for our bread:
His saints what is fitting shall ne'er be denied,
So long as 'tis written, "The Lord will provide."

His call we obey like Abram of old,
Not knowing our way, but faith makes us bold;
For though we are strangers, we have a good Guide;
And trust in all dangers: "The Lord will provide."

When Satan appears to stop up our path,
And fill us with fears, we triumph by faith;
He cannot take from us (Though oft he has tried)
This heart-cheering promise "The Lord will provide."

He tells us we're weak, and our hope is in vain;
The good that we seek we ne'er shall obtain;
But when such suggestions our faith thus have tried,
This answers all questions, "The Lord will provide."

No strength of our own nor goodness we claim;
Our trust is all thrown on Jesus' dear name.
In this our strong tower for safety we hide;
The Lord is our power, "The Lord will provide."

When life sinks apace, and death is in view,
The word of His grace shall comfort us through;
Not fearing or doubting, with Christ on our side,
We hope to die shouting, "The Lord will provide."

Selected by Kendra Kuntz

THE TESTIMONY

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“For the earth bringeth
forth fruit of herself;
first the blade, then the
ear, after that the
full corn in the ear.
But when the fruit
is brought forth,
immediately he putteth
in the sickle, because
the harvest is come.”

Mark 4:28-29

EDITORIAL

THE GROWING SEASON

We are in the midst of the summer months. The time of planting is long past.

The farmer worked diligently to prepare the soil. It was properly conditioned. If there were weeds and grasses present, they were removed. The hard surface was broken up. There was a suitable bed on which to plant the seed, and it was properly covered.

There is moisture to consider at the time of planting. All must be right for the seed to germinate.

When the seed breaks open and the small plant pushes up through the soil, there is great excitement. New life has begun! It is so exciting to see the little plants in rows beginning to stretch upward and grow 3", 6", and onward, becoming stronger and thicker, changing and developing.

What is this next phase of the life of the plant? It is ***the growing season***. It is the active and eventful time between the miraculous new birth and the amazing harvest!

The growing season is not an inactive season. It is not only a time of growing, but also a season of withstanding all of the unpleasant trials of life. Standing strong against the winds, and enduring the varied difficulties, which may move from the plant receiving too much water, to unbearably dry conditions. A season when the weather may be unseasonably cold or scorching hot. The plant cannot choose its weather conditions. It must simply receive and accept that which it is given.

Now just as each plant, during this season, is developing, and withstanding, and enduring, and await-

ing the harvest, so are we. We have experienced a new birth. We have emerged into a new life God has given. Day by day we learn to withstand the things that may come against us and try our life in Christ. The winds blow hard. The heat sometimes feels greater than we can bear.

In the place where we reside, we observe the corn fields. And just as the corn stalks in the center of the field seem to grow taller and healthier than the stalks out at the edge, so we also observe that believers who are surrounded by others, and enjoy protection and fellowship, thrive and prosper in a richer way than those who stand alone in their faith.

We are in the growing season. We are waiting for the harvest. We wait in hope. Many promises have been given to us by our Heavenly Father, and we believe and embrace those promises. Our Father, who is the husbandman, is true and we believe His words. He is tenderly caring for us and will take us to Himself in the day of reaping.

May each day and month bring growth in our lives that will be a testimony to the world, and that will bring encouragement also to our own souls. May we be found bearing precious fruit for Him. It is a joy to dwell and grow in the vineyard and field of the Lord. There is promise and hope here. The Harvest is before us, and we await His return for our full deliverance.

And when the glorious end,
The day of God, shall come,
The angel reapers shall descend,
And bear the harvest home.

Lowell Miller

GENERAL

SHOULD WE VOTE?

We are living in a time of moral and political upheaval. While we know God is in control, it can be discouraging. We see Congress passing laws which conflict with biblical truth and ungodly leaders being voted into positions of power. Darkness looms and evil is advancing! We are being told (as we were four years ago) that our vote is important and needed. The future of America, it seems, rests on who wins!

So what should followers of Jesus be doing? If you have grown up in a church fellowship that has refused political involvement, you will quickly say we should be praying. But do you ever wonder if that is all we are supposed to do? With everything that is at stake, is it different this time? Isn't there more on the line than ever before? And further, if Jesus were living in America, what would He do?

WOULD JESUS VOTE?

Jesus didn't live in a democracy, and this question isn't easy to answer. But we can glean some powerful guiding truths by observing Jesus' life. Jesus was born in a dark time. Israel was oppressed by the cruel Roman Empire and corruption was rampant. Political shenanigans were normal and leaders lacked personal integrity.

Jesus' goal was to save, restore, bless, and bring relief for those who were oppressed. Yet He ignored some remarkable opportunities to utilize earthly power and political influence. Why?

Let's back up and examine Jesus' purpose. What did He come to earth to do? Your immediate response might be, "Jesus came to die on the cross so that we can go to heaven when we die." There is truth in that statement, but we often forget that God's purpose was much greater than getting us to heaven. This greater purpose permeates Jesus' teachings and is woven throughout the New Testament. Jesus came to establish a rival "nation" and He called it the kingdom of God.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

John the Baptist announced its arrival.¹ Jesus repeatedly proclaimed it was here,² and it was foundational in the Early Church.³ When we read the Sermon on the Mount we are reading the blueprint, the constitution, for this rival kingdom. These are basic, daily life instructions for everyone from the shopkeeper to the land baron. Loving your enemies, sharing your wealth, faithfulness to your spouse, caring for the poor—this is what the kingdom of Jesus Christ looks like! These are attributes of the beautiful "nation" Jesus came to set up!

¹ Matthew 3:2

² Mark 1:15

³ Acts 8:12, 19:8, 20:25

There is something very unusual about this kingdom. The kingdoms of this world have always used power, force, and coercion. When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, he offered ownership of the existing nations if Jesus would just do things Satan's way. "All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them..." was Satan's tantalizing offer. In other words, "Why take the difficult path, Jesus? I can provide a much easier shortcut!" But Jesus didn't come to take the world using Satan's techniques. His purpose was greater than ruling over existing nations.

WHAT DID JESUS DO?

When faced with the cross, Jesus admitted there were easier ways. Peter, ready to forcefully use the sword, was soundly rebuked. "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?"⁴ Much easier; just call for angels—poof—threat eliminated!

But the kingdom of Jesus Christ doesn't force its way. The kingdom of light pulls, drawing men to it, while the kingdoms of this world push, forcing people to submit. Jesus came to attract, not attack! He wanted the beauty of His way to draw men and women to Himself. While this ability to call thousands of angels to annihilate the enemy must have been extremely tempting (a power the kingdoms of this world dream of), it would have

destroyed everything Jesus came to do. May I gently suggest that the same is true today?

FASCINATION WITH FORCE

Power has always fascinated humanity. Whoever has the biggest gun, bomb, or army, rules. This is how our world operates, and sometimes we are tempted. We see our world becoming darker, and we long for change! Abortion of innocent children, moral degradation, gender confusion, promotion of sinful lifestyles, and loss of committed relationships surround us. Darkness seems to be winning the battle and we long for light.

But remember—we will never bring light to this world by using the tools of darkness. Force and overt power always corrupt; it is love and forgiveness that provide the attractive beauty that draws. Today, our job as kingdom Christians is not to forcefully protest the world into a particular ethical conformity. Rather, we are to attract lost humanity to the saving and peaceable beauty of Christ.

What does this look like in 2024? Can we do things Jesus' way in the middle of this highly charged political climate? Jesus didn't live under a democratically elected government, but under a harsh, tyrannical Roman regime that had brutally suppressed the Jewish people for decades. Further, many Jews were actively looking for rebellion. They wanted a strong Jewish leader capable of

⁴ Matthew 26:53

overthrowing the Romans and kicking them out of Palestine. Jesus had power and the hearts of the common people, and could easily have started a revolution. What an opportunity!

WHAT DIDN'T JESUS DO?

Many times we ask the question, "What would Jesus do?" But there is another question we should be asking: "What didn't Jesus do?" After all, He was facing even stronger cultural and political pressure than we are. Let's look at four things Jesus refused to do:

JESUS REFUSED TO UTILIZE POLITICAL POWER OR USE FORCE.

He calmly told Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight."⁵ Amazing! Did Jesus just miss a huge opportunity? No, He was simply seeing something we often miss. We are constantly being told that the way to transform society is to vote the right people into power, and that the solution to reform is in Washington, DC. But when we succumb to the belief that transformation will come through ballots, bullets, or bombs, we have forgotten the way of Jesus. And when we choose to enter the voting booth and get involved in the political process, we are telling a lost world that force and power are the way to bring change. We are

demonstrating the belief that Jesus' way of peace and love isn't sufficient.

JESUS DIDN'T SUCCUMB TO ANXIOUS CONCERN.

Jesus lived in full confidence that His Father was in control. He knew that the rulers of the Jews wanted to kill Him, and the Romans would be glad to silence Him as well. Yet He didn't let this fear overwhelm Him. Today I am concerned that many Anabaptists are succumbing to paranoia and fear. Ironically, when I travel to persecuted countries, believers there seem less fearful than Christians here in America. We fearfully subscribe to conspiracy theories, pass on unverified gossip, and align ourselves with political talk show hosts. Rumors fly, and in the process our mission is forgotten. It is a time for concern and to be praying for guidance. But we are not to live in terror or fear that the powers of darkness are stronger than our Heavenly Father. "God hath not given us the spirit of fear,"⁶ the Apostle Paul told Timothy, and it is still true today. Jesus didn't succumb to paranoia, and neither should we.

JESUS DIDN'T COMPLAIN OR CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT.

"Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's,"⁷ was Jesus' response to His disciples when asked about paying taxes. This was a

⁵ John 18:36

⁶ II Timothy 1:7

⁷ Mark 12:17

legitimate question. Both Jewish and Roman powers actively opposed Jesus and later His church. But Jesus and the Apostles were clear. Even when facing potential persecution, we are to comply with earthly governments⁸ as long as they do not force us to disobey God.⁹

Frankly, living in America has spoiled us. Just let the government ask us to comply with some regulation which even slightly inconveniences us and instantly we are up in arms. Our complaining and resistance to small governmental requests does not provide an attractive, compelling picture to American seekers. As much as possible, we should be known for paying our taxes, complying with regulations, and being upstanding residents in our communities.

JESUS REFUSED TO LET EARTHLY POLITICS DISTRACT HIM.

In spite of the highly charged political climate, Jesus never took His focus off His ultimate mission. His goal, and the focus of His followers after His death, was the building of another kingdom—a kingdom unbound by geographical lines. It is a kingdom that is just as concerned about refugees from other countries, as those who live in America. It is also a kingdom that will survive and thrive, regardless who is elected in the next election. Today we have a tendency to get caught up in the political

clamor and shift our focus from the kingdom of God to the kingdoms of this world. But Jesus refused to do this. He wasn't interested in promoting Jewish or Roman superiority, and we shouldn't get caught up in promoting the country we happen to reside in.

THE MAJOR CONCERN

My primary concern today is not the government becoming socialistic or the fact that laws are being generated which condone sin. Neither is it who wins the coming election or the future of America. Democracy is not necessary for Christianity to flourish. Ungodly legislation will exist until the Lord comes again. No, the major catastrophe is much deeper. It is when people who proclaim to be following Jesus leave His methods, and try to bring change through earthly power and force.

Unfortunately, the American evangelical church as a whole is no longer famous for transforming hearts, lives, and communities. Rather, it is known as a powerful political movement, a force to be reckoned with at the ballot box. But when the church links arms with the world, it always loses its power, its compelling beauty, and its ability to transform.

GIVE US MOHAMMED?

The Topkapi Palace Museum in Istanbul, Turkey, has many historic and unique treasures on display. One of these is Mohammed's

⁸ Roman 13:1–7

⁹ Acts 5:29

sword. Each year, around three million visitors file past a well-lit glass case to get a glimpse of Mohammed's weapon. Viewers marvel at its curved handle and jeweled scabbard which glisten in the special lighting. The sword represents how Mohammed (and almost every other world leader), ruled and reigned. It is the world's way. Unlike Mohammed, Jesus was willing to be killed rather than take life. He refused to utilize force or earthly governments, and you will not find His sword in a museum. And yet I wonder. Does the fact that we are tempted by politics and voting demonstrate a dissatisfaction with the way of Jesus? Is it possible we actually prefer the way of Mohammed over Jesus?

We long to see change, and when we don't see God working as we would like, it is tempting to protest certain laws, apply pressure on government officials, or even vote for an earthly leader who promises to bring transformation. But relying on earthly power and force, as Mohammed did, is something Jesus refused to do. We should as well! Our task is not to vote the right people into power or to use political means to bring about change. Neither is it our job to protest or force unbelievers to follow Jesus and transform America into a "Christian nation." Rather, we are called to attract an unbelieving world to the beauty of the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

THE JESUS WAY

The Jesus Way brings change as individual hearts surrender to His Lordship. His love, like the seemingly insignificant mustard seed, grows and spreads through local church communities. It empowers us to love each other sacrificially, care for the weak and downtrodden, and love our unbelieving neighbors. The Jesus Way causes us to love our enemies, give anonymously to those who lack, and fast and pray for earthly governments. And when this occurs, it provides an attractive, compelling, beautiful sight. We won't see the full completion of this kingdom until Jesus returns. But we are seeing the first fruits even now as His love and power is being demonstrated in church communities all around the globe. And it is beautiful to observe!

Gary Miller

BIBLICAL BEHAVIOR

Part 7

"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (I Tim. 3:15).

This is a continuation of a previous article. The purpose of this continued article is to provoke thoughts as to how we, as born-again believers, should behave. In

doing so, it is not our intent to lose sight of the basis of behavior, which is belief. Belief dictates behavior. I offer the following axioms:

1. All behavior is based on a belief.
2. Lasting behavioral change always starts in the mind.
3. When people genuinely change, it's because their beliefs changed first.

4. Changing your behavior without changing your belief is not true change at all. This is why Paul says, "be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."

As we mentioned before, the apostles used the word "conversation" to describe behavior. In the Greek it is the word *anastrophe* which means "behavior." *Anastrophe* is rooted in *anastrepho* which means to turn, or to turn oneself about. This implies the idea that godly behavior is a turning away from a direction you were once going, and going in a different direction. This is the essence of repentance—a change of your mind and direction of your life. Turning away from sin, self, and the world, and turning toward Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and heaven.

Because the Word of God is quick (living), we will, no doubt, only touch a fraction of the depth and meaning of the verses calling us to a godly behavior. The next verse we will consider is found in Hebrews 13, verse 7.

Hebrews 13:7 — *"Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of*

God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation."

This instruction is straightforward. We are to be mindful of those who have the responsibility of leading and teaching the Word of God. We are to focus on their faith and consider the goal and outcome of their behavior.

There are several assumptions made in this verse. First, it assumes the reader is in a church where there are leaders to observe. Second, it assumes these leaders are in fact speaking the Word of God faithfully. Third, it assumes that these leaders have a faith that is worthy of imitating. If we are in a setting where these assumptions are true, I encourage us to be very thankful, and as the verse says, remember those in leadership. It seems to imply that sometimes we forget the blessing of godly leadership.

As we dig a little deeper, leaders in the church should convey clearly the purpose and goal of their behavior. And what is that goal? I've often wondered about verse 8, thinking it odd that it was placed there. However, in thinking of the flow of this passage, I am convinced it is well-placed because it answers what the goal of the leader's behavior should be. It is the constancy and eternality of Jesus Christ. In the same way Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever, a leader must recognize the goal of his behavior is to point to the person and work

of Jesus as an eternal and unchanging Savior. In the past, his spiritual birth is indebted to Him. Presently, his spiritual growth is empowered and sustained by Him. In the future, his spiritual perfection is achieved because of Him. Behavior that is worthy of consideration must originate from Jesus' eternal impact on a leader's life. May every leader have this goal for their behavior.

Grant Fullmer

LIGHT OUT OF THE DARKNESS

Our world is dark. Very dark. Nations are posturing to unleash nuclear annihilation. They refuse to believe that God controls the end game. Governments are attempting to redefine marriage and even gender, changing the truth of God into a lie (Rom. 1:25). As electronic media is becoming a primary vehicle of information and the truth of God's word is pushed aside, the drift to darkness is accelerating.

Some have said that the total eclipse of the sun recently witnessed was a spiritual experience. While turning their faces skyward neighbors around us were clustered in their yards with eclipse glasses. Shortly after 3:00 P.M. the sky began to darken as the moon began blotting out the sun. When the sun was totally blocked except

for a radiating ring, there was only an eerie silence and trace of light. Nature seemed to hibernate. Were our neighbors and friends marveling at God's order, design and majesty? Were they reminded of



the Lord Jesus suspended between heaven and earth, bleeding and dying for the sins of His human creation? While His Son hung on the cross the Father blocked out the sun for 3 hours, not just 3 minutes. Amidst this terrifying event a presiding centurion proclaimed, "Truly this was the Son of God." He had just heard divine words from the cross. Thunder clapped and perhaps lightning flashed as he could have witnessed the veil of the temple being ripped apart from the top to the bottom. Likely the signs from heaven awakened him to know that real power was not in the Roman sword but from the One beaten and bleeding before him?

And yet, light waited just 3 days to dispel the darkness. Sometime before sunrise on the third day, an angel rolled the stone away to give access for His disciples to an empty tomb. The light had conquered darkness and death. "The people

that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them the light shined" (Isa. 9:2).

The light that radiated from the risen Savior did not withdraw with His ascension. His light on earth is now in you, His child. You are the light of the world (Matt. 5:14). How is this light shining to the lost and hopeless we encounter each day? To the despised and outcasts? To your discouraged brother or sister? Do we yield ourselves to let this light of Jesus shine from within?

The ultimate light will shine in His eternal presence where there is "no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof" (Rev. 21:23). For "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5).

Desiring a witness with an eternal view,

Stanley Boyd

WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE

*Sing them over again to me,
Wonderful words of life,
Let me more of their beauty see,
Wonderful words of life.
Words of life and beauty,
Teach me faith and duty,
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of life.*

*Christ the blessed One gives to all,
Wonderful words of life,
Sinner, list to the loving call,
Wonderful words of life.
All so freely given,
Wooing us to heaven,
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words, of life.*

*Sweetly echo the Gospel call,
Wonderful words of Life;
Offer pardon and peace to all;
Wonderful words of Life;
Jesus, only Savior,
Sanctify forever,
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of Life.*

John 6:63 says, "...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." There are many awful things happening in today's world, including increased distance between men and God, and His Word. We need to expound on the Word in many different ways, keeping it close and alive!

Do we have the wisdom of this world, or the wisdom of God's written Word?

Notice the following Scriptures:
I Corinthians 3:19: "For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God."

I Corinthians 1:27: "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty."

I Corinthians 2:9-10: "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear

heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him, But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep thing of God.”

We should welcome the opportunity we have to open the words of life, and to worship the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, known as the Trinity.

I Corinthians 13:13 says, “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” Love is the greatest, but that does not mean that we speak or write on charity alone. We might write of talk on faith or hope, or many other topics. We need all of the words the Bible has to offer. We want to do all that God’s Word says. By following and doing what God’s Word says, we can then enter into that kingdom above, and have joy in our hearts!

Mark 4:14–20 says, “The sower soweth the word. And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts. And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or perse-

cution ariseth for the word’s sake, immediately they are offended. And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.”

Where would we be without the wonderful words of life, the Holy Bible?

II Timothy 3:15 says, “And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

A good reminder of the eternality of God’s Word. “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”

L. D. Flory

THE LOVE OF MONEY

I recently got stuck on this phrase as I was doing a word study on love, and pondering the sacrificial aspect of it. When I came across I Timothy 6:10 and read it with the viewpoint of love being what we are willing to give or sac-

rifice to acquire money, it caused me to consider “The love of money” in a way I never had before.

Let’s take a look at I Timothy 6:9–11. It is hard to isolate these verses as the subject builds from at least the first part of the chapter with tentacles reaching to the end. There is much to be expounded on here, but I will try to keep a narrow focus.

Verse 9: “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.”

The key word here is “will,” also commonly translated as “desire.” In other words, we could say that those who desire (whether they accomplish it or not) to be wealthy or obtain abundance beyond food and raiment will be tempted and snared. Tempted to compromise righteousness when presented with an opportunity to make a lot of money, disregarding or blinded to the cost. This desire to be rich will entangle those that entertain it in situations where they must compromise their convictions to make a deal. Eventually it will hold them in a place where they have to, and cannot stop chasing excessive increase. It becomes like an addiction where one is preoccupied and consumed by acquisition and growth. Yet even while they prosper in this world their soul is

plagued with blight and calamity. This is all fueled by a misplaced desire. Feel free to consider other examples of temptations and snares. These are just some scenarios that have presented themselves in my experience.

Therefore, this desire to be wealthy would be considered an inordinate affection of the flesh and can be very deceitful and sly. The desire when camouflaged or labeled as “working heartily unto the Lord,” or “doing the best you can” may look good to those looking on while being hurtful and offensive to those you are dealing with.

If the desire to be rich is the lust, then the love of money is the sin that it brings forth. (See James 1:15.) I Timothy 6:9 tells us that the desire to be rich is destructive, and then in verse 10 it tells us why.

Verse 10: “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some have coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

To sacrifice something of eternal value for something temporal like money can lead to nothing good. There are many ways I can think of that people degrade relationships with customers or vendors; not to mention collateral damage

to family and friends all in the pursuit of just a little extra. It may not seem like you are asking for the whole world (Matt. 16:26), but it comes from the same desire, and the cost is tremendous! What is there to be gained if you lose your soul, or cause someone else to stumble? Our purpose should be displaying the Kingdom of God and the character of Jesus Christ—not flexing our business acumen. This is not to say making money is bad, but only that it must not come at the expense of others, yourself, or the things of God.

Many times, these sacrifices are justified by the good we plan to do with the abundance we hope to gain, thinking the end justifies the means. But, how many hungry people would you have to feed to justify taking advantage of one of your customers? Does the bigger house and all the nice things you provide for your family justify the slander of a coworker? Would providing some nice upscale housing justify evicting all the tenants of a trailer park so it can be rezoned? In God's eyes doing good does not negate the bad. The evil performed will still produce fruit. How we make our money matters, regardless of what it is used for. We need to work on God's terms instead of blindly following commonly accepted business practice.

It's interesting to notice how this sin differs from some other sins the Bible calls out. There is a list in Galatians 6:19–21 of sins that prevent you from inheriting the kingdom of God. Whereas in I Timothy 6:9–10 the love of money doesn't immediately disqualify you, but over time binds you up, causes you sorrow, weighs you down, and leads to the loss of your faith. I feel this is why so many Christians get carried away with it.

Verse 11: “But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, goodness, faith, love, patience, meekness.”

Here is the call to run from the desire for excess and shun the temptation to sacrifice things of eternal value for temporal things. This verse calls us to eagerly seek after things of eternal value. These are things that will feed your soul like no amount of mammon can. They will also build up the Kingdom and bring glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Unsurprisingly these are not characteristics sought after in the business world for adding to your bottom line.

Have you ever met a recovering rich man? Someone that has gone after the riches of this world, erred from the faith, and then repented and rejected the thing. We have rehab for fornicators and drunkards, but I have yet to find a sup-

port group for people recovering from an acquisitive mindset. Was Paul instructing Timothy about a problem that does not exist? According to the consequences laid out in this passage of Scripture, the desire to be rich and the love of money are just as damaging as some of these other addictions. However, they are rarely spoken of or stated as the cause of one's grief.

I feel the world we live in has a very vigorous and alluring campaign to promote the love of money and its supposed benefits while minimizing and degrading things that are Christ-like. The desire of the flesh is always ready to fill your heart, cloud your reason, and cast doubt in your mind.

May God grant us the humility to discern where we have placed our love and desire, and grace to make adjustments where needed.

Jordan Turner

CHRIST THE SURE FOUNDATION

When we think of something sure or something that will hold fast in times of disruption or turmoil, what comes to mind? One might think of the foundation of a house. This is because its purpose is to be a sure foundation for the house to be built on so that it

doesn't waver or collapse in a passing storm. Jesus made this analogy in one of His parables about building on the Rock instead of on the sand (Matt. 7:24–27). This was because ultimately He was the Rock that He wanted His followers to build their lives upon, and He desires for us to do the same.

There are many places throughout Scripture that refer to Jesus being our Rock; many of them being in the Psalms. David said in Psalm 61:2–3, “From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.” Here David cried out to the Lord to lead him to the Rock that was higher than himself, and who or what is that Rock? Jesus Christ! Like David, we should cry out to the Lord and have our desire be for Him to lead us to the Rock that is higher than we.

So as we go about our lives, let us remember that Christ is the Rock of our salvation, and that we can build our lives upon Him! May we also be able to say with the hymn writer, “On Christ the solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.”

Zechariah English

THE UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH: CONVICTION IN SERMONS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we gather together each Sunday to hear the Word of God preached, do we come with a desire to enjoy a well-crafted sermon, or do we anticipate the Word pulling at the sin we have hidden in our hearts in order to draw it out for the purpose of repentance? Let us not seek “comfort only” in the words that are spoken, but let us embrace the discomfort that often accompanies the truth. For it is in this discomfort that we find conviction, and through conviction, repentance, and through applying the blood of Jesus, salvation. From there, we find growth and transformation.

In the words of the apostle Paul, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb. 4:12). The truth of God’s Word is not meant to merely soothe our souls or stroke our egos. It is meant to pierce us to the core, revealing our deepest sins and shortcomings.

Too often, we come to church seeking sermons that make us feel good about ourselves. We want to be entertained, uplifted, and encouraged. But this is not the pur-

pose of preaching. The purpose of preaching is to challenge us, to convict us, and to call us to repentance.

Consider the words of Jesus Himself, who said, “They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:31–32). Jesus did not come to affirm the self-righteous or comfort the complacent. He came to confront sin and to call sinners to repentance.

Likewise, the great martyr Polycarp understood the importance of uncomfortable preaching. He fearlessly proclaimed the truth of the Gospel, even in the face of persecution and death. He did not seek the approval of men, but the approval of God.

Brothers and sisters, let us follow in the footsteps of Polycarp and embrace uncomfortable preaching. Let us not shy away from the truth, even when it convicts us of our sins. For it is only through conviction that we can experience true repentance and transformation.

May we approach each sermon with humility and openness, allowing the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and convict us of our need for repentance. And may we leave this place not merely feeling good about ourselves, but challenged and transformed by the uncomfortable truth of God’s Word.

In conclusion, let us heed the words of the apostle James, who said, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (Jas. 1:22). May we not only hear the uncomfortable truth preached, but may we also allow it to penetrate our hearts and lead us to lives of obedience and righteousness. May God grant us the grace to embrace uncomfortable preaching and to be transformed by the truth of His Word. Amen.

In self conviction and humility, this article is written and submitted by

Tracy Beaver

THE WEIGHT OF SIN IS DEATH

“Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (I Pet. 5:8).

Do you know how a lion brings down a giraffe? When the giraffe lowers its head to drink, the lion leaps for the neck, digs in with his claws, and holds on with all his might. The lion’s weight does the rest, for if the giraffe cannot lift its head above its heart, it will die in a matter of seconds. The heart of a giraffe is a super-powered pump. It must generate an enormous blood pressure in order to fuel the brain of such a long-necked ani-

mal. When the giraffe’s head is down, the pressure is too great. A small valve restrains it for a few seconds, just long enough for the



animal to drink. If the head doesn’t come up quickly, the valve will blow, resulting in instant death. The irony is that no pride of lions can contest the hooves of a giraffe, as it can kick backward, forward, and sideways with amazing strength.

Dear readers, let this be a lesson to us. If we lower our heads in sin, even for a short while, Satan can pull us down and just hang on and the weight of our sins will devour us and we will die.

We need to put on the whole armor of God. We need to kick backward, forward, and sideways against the devil in all his pernicious ways.

“...Look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh” (Luke 21:28). We must keep our heads up and our focus on the Lord Jesus Christ so we don’t die.

Glenna Trent

“We ourselves were well conversant with war, murder and everything evil, but all of us throughout the whole wide earth have traded in our weapons of war. We have exchanged our swords for plowshares, our spears for farm tools...now we cultivate the fear of God, justice, kindness, faith, and the expectation of the future given us through the Crucified One. The more we are persecuted and martyred, the more do others, in ever increasing numbers, become believers.”

Justin Martyr (beheaded June 1, 166 A.D.)

MEDITATIONS

Jesus said, “Go and Do...” But sometimes we don’t do either!
“Sweet Hour of Prayer...” But we pray less than three minutes!
“Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus...” But do we all just sit there?
“Father, I Lift My Hands To Thee...” But do we, really?
Independence Day—or a day depending on God?
True freedom is bondage to Jesus Christ.
Liberty—freedom to do what is right.

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.

There are many views of prophecy in Christianity today, and it seems to sometimes separate well-meaning Christians.	alarmed and troubled as we approach the final days of this age.
Though there are no prophetic views that hold that the Church will taste of the wrath of God as far as we are aware, (I Thess. 5:9) yet some views make bold claims that can cause simple Christians to be	1. Where did I get my prophetic view?
	2. Did I search the Scriptures or just adopt one that seemed to be well accepted?
	3. Am I gracious to other views?
	4. If my view is different from God’s plan, will I be troubled?

GENERAL ITEMS

COMMUNIONS

Sept. 14, 2024 Providence, IN
 Sept. 28, 2024 Pleasant View, OH
 Oct. 12, 2024 Lower Twin, OH
 Oct. 12, 2024 Zillah, WA
 Oct. 19, 2024 Clearwater, IN
 Oct. 19, 2024 Western Kansas, KS
 Oct. 26, 2024 Maple Grove, OH
 Oct. 26, 2024 Stillwater, OH
 Nov. 2, 2024 Bethel, OH
 Nov. 2, 2024 Columbia River, WA
 Nov. 2, 2024 Kidron Valley, KS
 Nov. 9, 2024 West Modesto, CA
 Nov. 9, 2024 Covington, OH
 Nov. 9, 2024 Shenandoah, VA
 Feb. 1, 2025 Living Epistle, NM
 Feb. 1, 2025 Pine Grove, FL

HARVEST MEETINGS

July 14, 2024 Lower Twin, OH
 July 21, 2024 Bethel, OH
 July 28, 2024 Shiloh, OH
 Aug. 4, 2024 Maple Grove, OH
 Aug. 11, 2024 Covington/Sugar Grove, OH
 Aug. 18, 2024 Salem, OH
 Aug. 25, 2024 Stillwater, OH
 Sept. 22, 2024 Bear Creek, OH
 Nov. 28, 2024 Pleasant View, OH

SHENANDOAH BUILDING UPDATE

April 20, 2024

Greetings:

Our Shenandoah District building project has progressed to near completion. With just a few finishing details yet to be completed, our Shenandoah congregation would like to say, "Thank You" for all the prayers, generous contributions, and support in various ways.

We've been blessed abundantly in many ways. The Lord has blessed us, protected us, and provided for us, including through our brotherhood. There is not a need for any additional

funds, however we still continue to covet the prayers of the saints.

We invite all to come and worship with us.

"We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God" (I Thes. 1:2-4).

In behalf of our Shenandoah church family,

Richard L. Jamison, Sr.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

With anticipation we gathered again at Cedarville University on Friday afternoon, greeting brethren and sisters at our 2024 Annual Conference. There were no hindrances or restraints. We are so thankful for a land of freedom where we can gather openly and worship.

On Friday evening, some sang the songs of Zion together. Some visited. Some observed the youth as they mingled.

The Saturday morning preaching service began with a word of warning and exhortation in the opening regarding the apathy of our day and its possible effect on our people. The day of the Lord is at hand, and we need to be ready for the coming of Jesus!

This urgent message was followed by a sermon on the Purpose of God, His Power, and the Promises that our Father in Heaven has given to His People.

Saturday afternoon brought the question, "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?" While our land is indeed strange and moving

farther from God, we were encouraged to sing still, and to remember both our song and our citizenship, and to remember why we are in exile here.

Sunday morning we heard a message that centered on Hebrews 2 and Romans 8. We heard of being delivered from the fear of death and we were reminded of the blessed hope that the saints have in Christ Jesus. We were told that God is able to hear and understand even a groan that comes from our heart. We were reminded of the consolation there is in knowing that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us in that time to come.

Sunday afternoon we received a powerful message from Hebrews 2:9, with an emphasis on “seeing Jesus” in His various roles, as He ministers to humanity.

At 4:00 Sunday afternoon and evening, approximately 190 communicants gathered around the table of the Lord, and enjoyed a season of sweet communion and fervent preaching. We lingered by the cross and were touched again by the sacred scene which evoked thoughts of tender emotion and sorrow, and yet thanksgiving and great rejoicing because of the atoning work there for us all.

Monday morning brought a message about the Holy Spirit, taken from the teaching of Jesus in John 14–16. Twelve points were taken from the Scripture in these chapters regarding the Spirit and His work, edifying all present.

On Monday afternoon we were blessed with teaching regarding the power of the Gospel in our lives, and how life-changing this Gospel is! This is a Gospel that is able to change lives, communities, and even nations! An inspirational message that was very moving and convicting.

The Monday evening service was very large and was opened with thoughts of the blessed intercession of Christ in our behalf. A quote was held before us that helped give Christ’s intercession clear perspective. *“If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet the distance makes no difference. He is praying for me.”*

The message then centered around “godly courage” and was an earnest appeal to us all in the dark and evil day we are living in. Examples from the Scriptures were held before us. We heard of the *difficulties* in life that will require courage, the *trust* in God we must have to be courageous, and the God-given *purpose* in our life that will assist us as we fight the battle of life. Following the evening service the young people sang in the sanctuary. A very inspiring song service for the blessing of all.

The Tuesday business session opened with thoughts from Matthew 11:27–30. Thoughts of our great need for God, and also of our need to worship and praise Him!

The devotional message on Tuesday was drawn from Ezekiel 37:5. A promise to Israel, and by extension, to all of God’s people: **“Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live.”** We must breathe to live! The blessed gift of life through the Spirit of God in us all was spoken of. A very clear message regarding the need for spiritual life that comes from God through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

In the business session, we sensed harmony and a willingness to yield to each other as we considered questions that were brought before the assembly. “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” (Ps. 133:1)

Following the business portion of the meeting, the moderator offered appro-

priate thoughts from John 17, where Jesus prayed for the saints of all ages, including us. A benediction from I Thessalonians 5:12–28 was read. We were blessed by the instructions given.

Closing remarks were then offered, pointing us to the need to *“always be filled with the Spirit.”* We were directed to the prayer of Paul for the church in Ephesians 3, and the need to increase in love for one another, spoken of in I Thessalonians 3:12. *“And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you...”*

The weather was very favorable over the meeting, with beautiful skies, and a couple of refreshing showers.

As we leave another conference behind us, we rejoice in our God and His great love and provision for us all. We are blessed far above our deserving, and our hearts and hands raise in thanksgiving and praise!

We know not what the future may bring, but we leave with a resolve to be faithful in the daily battle of life, for our Lord’s sake, and for the sake of His people. There is a great need for encouragement everywhere, and for faithful examples, as we labor together in His Kingdom. Let us hold each other up in prayer, interceding always.

L.M.

POEMS

PRAYER OASIS

Across life’s shifting dunes and desert sands,
 I travel weary, almost faint until...
 I reach the palms of my oases land,
 And there beneath refreshing shade,
 I kneel and drink from God’s
 deep crystal springs of love;
 I rest within the shadow of His Grace
 Until at last with strength renewed;
 I lift my brimming water jar and journey on.

Ruth E. Miller

Selected by Alice Mae Haney

EVENING HYMN

Sun of my soul, thou Savior dear,
It is not night if Thou be near;
Oh! May no earth born cloud arise
To hide Thee from Thy servant's eyes.

When the soft dews of kindly sleep
My wearied eyelids gently steep,
Be my last thought how sweet to rest
Forever on my Savior's breast.

Abide with me from morn till eve,
For without Thee I cannot live;
Abide with me when night is nigh,
For without Thee I dare not die.

If some poor wandering child of Thine
Have spurned today the voice divine,
Now, Lord, the gracious work begin;
Let him no more lie down in sin.

Watch by the sick, enrich the poor
With blessings from Thy boundless store;
Be every mourner's sleep tonight,
Like infant's slumbers, pure and light.

Come near and bless us when we wake,
Ere thro' the world our way we take;
Till, in the ocean of Thy love,
We lose ourselves in heaven above.

— John Keble

CHANGE OF RAIMENT

Lord Jesus, all my sin and guilt
 Love laid of old on Thee,
 Thy love the cross and sorrow willed,
 Love undeserved by me.
 The victory over death and hell
 Thou, Lord, for me didst win;
 And Thou hast nailed upon Thy Cross
 All, all my sin.

The way into the Holiest Place
 Stands open now to me;
 Where I can see Thy glorious face,
 Nor trembled thus to see.
 For as I am to Thee I come,
 I clasp Thy blessed feet.
 And learn the mystery of love
 So deep, so sweet.

Enfolded, O my Lord, in Thee,
 And hid in Thee I rest,
 Enwrapped in Christ's own purity
 Secure upon Thy breast.
 Had I an Angel's raiment—fair
 With heavenly gems unpriced,
 That glorious garb I would not wear,
 My robe is Christ.

— Gerhardt Tersteegen

SILENCE MY HEART

Silence my heart, Lord Jesus;
 Bid the tumult within be still.
 Quiet the raging billows,
 And a holy hush instill.

I would hear Thy voice, O Jesus;
 But the tempest's ceaseless roar
 Doth oft drown out the message
 That my soul so longeth for.

Silence my heart, Lord Jesus,
 That I may hear Thy voice;
 Yea, even Thy faintest whisper,
 And in Thy great love rejoice.

May Thy all pervading presence
 My waiting soul infill,
 Till my every thought is captive
 Unto Thy blest holy will.

Grant me Thy peace, O Jesus,
 That nothing can molest;
 So shall my heart be silenced;
 So shall my spirit rest.

— Avis B. Christiansen

THE FOUNTAIN

I took a stroll one summer eve,
 Down to a fountain clear.
 It seemed to bubble merrily,
 Free from all binding care.

I paused and sat upon a bench
 Meant for the passersby,
 And listened to the birds' sweet song,
 And to the breeze's sigh.

"There is a purer fountain still,"
 I heard them seem to say.
 "And plunged beneath its crimson red,
 Your sins will wash away."

I stopped to think this over now,
 As twilight deepened 'round;
 And knew that none more pure and clean
 Than Jesus' blood is found.

Rebecca Bowman

I SHALL GO ON

There have been days of anguish, nights of pain,
The heart has ached, the way has not been clear;
But I shall take life by the hand once more
And by God's grace I shall go on from here!!
Though I must journey for a while alone,
Since the hand I held in mine has loosed its hold,
I shall go on a way I have not known
Through summer's heat and winter's cold.

But an unseen Presence will be there to stay
My stumbling feet and give me power to stand.
I shall have His promised strength for every day,
As I move out across an untrod land.
I shall not falter and I shall not fear.
God helping me, I shall go on from here!!

Sincerely from Deanna Davison

OBITUARIES

DAVISON — Dale Arthur was born on October 22, 1938, in Garnett, Kansas, to Alpha and Mary (Garber) Davison. He was laid to rest on January 27, 2024, in Salt Creek Cemetery, Dallas, Oregon. Dale grew up in Anderson County, Kansas, and married Deanna Marie Beeghley on August 9, 1959. They farmed together in Kansas and had the first of three children, Danny Dale in 1960. In 1962, Dale moved his family to Ripon, California, where he worked as a truck driver for B & B Harvesting, Inc. While living in California, Dawna Maxine was born in 1963. Dale and Deanna ventured to Oregon in 1968 and settled in Dallas, where Diane Michelle was born in 1969. In 1972, Dale built a home and

lake in the beautiful country setting of Perrydale. He graciously shared his ranch with many families, churches, and community members. Dale loved living on "Hidden Lake Ranch" where he enjoyed his hobbies of farming and cattle ranching.

Dale loved excavation work and began his career in the Willamette Valley in 1971 as the owner of Davison Dozing. Dale worked for the Polk County Soil Conservation District to assist them in building waterways and conserving water for the farmers. He helped build private ponds and dams. He worked on many important construction projects such as the Dallas dam, sewage treatment lagoons, and major interstates and

highways. His company helped with cleanup on the Toutle River after Mt. St. Helens' eruption.

Dale used his excavation skills to do ministry work. He traveled to Panama to help construct a building for a youth camp and to Mexico to install sewer lines for a church and Bible School. The site work for Corban University's (formerly Western Baptist Bible College) sports center was another way that he impacted ministry with his construction skills. He also serviced The Master's Touch singing group tour bus. Dale invested in many projects and pastors over the years to further God's work.

In 1990, Dale and Deanna moved to Redmond, Oregon, while he was battling Hodgkin Disease Cancer. Dale started another business, Davison Construction, LLC, while living in Redmond. This excavation company began to focus on underground site work for subdivisions as Redmond's population increased. In 2003 Dale's son, Danny, joined him as a business partner. They continued to build new subdivisions in Central Oregon until selling the business in 2020.

Dale loved people and his family dearly. He was a great story teller. Some of his interests included music, flying airplanes, hunting, ranching, and collecting John Deere tractors. He was a hard worker and was known for his generosity. Dale enjoyed adventure and travel. He and Deanna traveled to

many places across the United States, Hawaii, and two trips to the Holy Land, Germany, and Egypt. For their 60th wedding anniversary, Dale treated his family to an Alaskan cruise. For three winters he and Deanna enjoyed time in Arizona in their motorhome. Dale was a member of Highland Baptist Church for thirty-two years.

Dale was preceded in death by parents, Alpha and Mary Davison; his sister and brother-in-law, Gloria and Jerry Bennet; brother, Harley Davison; and brother-in-law, Tom Garber; niece, Jenni Ann Beeghley; and nephew, Joshua English.

Dale is survived by his wife of sixty-four years, Deanna Marie; sisters, Marietta (Don Pegg) and Sherda Garber; children, Danny (DeAnn Voth) Davison, Dawna (Randy) Iott, Diane (Shaun) Hannay, eight grandchildren, Charissa (Scott) Lamb, Ashley (Nathan) Brown, Emily (Taylor) Wyatt, Justin (Jessica) Iott, Cody (Carrie) Iott, Haley (Michael) Mercado-Smith, Abigail (Timothy) Stevenson, Luke (Sarah) Hannay and twelve great-grandchildren.

He was deeply loved and will be greatly missed.

The Family

MEADOR — Dallas Wayne, son of Robert J. and Bessie I. (Rule) Meador, was born on March 28, 1929, near Cutler, Indiana. He passed away on May 6, 2024, at the age of 95 years.

On July 11, 1948, he accepted Jesus as his Savior and was baptized and remained faithful until death. At the time of his death, he practiced his faith in the fellowship of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church, New Conference, with confidence and hope.

On October 1, 1950, he was united in marriage to Doris Marie Bowman. They started their married life on a farm near Cutler, Indiana, sharing their lives together for sixty-three years.

He possessed a mild temperament using his abilities to help others with their spiritual and business needs. He practiced public accounting since 1958. He enjoyed listening and participating in singing, often followed with a brief exhortation. His passion for people and prophecy stimulated many interesting and cherished relationships.

He is survived by five children, Michael (wife Martha), Judith (husband Merle Flory), Mark, (wife Karen), John, and Brent, (wife Pamela); eleven grandchildren and thirty-one great-grandchildren. Also surviving are sister-in-law, Phyllis Meador and brother-in-law, Benjamin Root, as well as many nephews, nieces, and friends.

Preceding him in death was his wife Doris on September 18, 2013; an infant son, David Eugene in 1952; and one infant granddaughter. Also his parents; his brothers, Robert Lee and wife Betty, and Harold; and sisters-in-law, Sarah Lee

Switzer and husband David, Mary Jane Root, and Susan Bowman.

Memorial services were held on Sunday, May 12, 2024, at the Cutler Ridge meetinghouse, by Elder Darrell Boyd and the Cutler Ridge Ministry, focusing mainly on I Corinthians 15 and the glorious power of the resurrection to come as victory over death. Burial followed at the Middle Fork Old German Baptist Brethren Church cemetery to await the resurrection. "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (II Cor. 5:8).

The Family

LAHMAN — Vera Viola (Denlinger), third daughter of Ray and Angela (Kimmel) Denlinger was born April 29, 1928, in Preble County, near New Paris, Ohio.

She passed away peacefully on May 21, 2024, at the home of her daughter near Arcanum, Ohio, at the age of 96 years.

She grew up as an only child on a farm on Pence Shewman Road. She enjoyed her school mates and many friends for companionship. She graduated from Monroe Township School in 1946.

She answered the call of her Savior and was baptized on October 17, 1948, becoming a member of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church, Prices Creek district. She was anointed with oil in 2018 prior to a surgery.

On March 22, 1953, she was

united in marriage to George W. Lahman, son of Samuel and Mahala (Denlinger) Lahman. Together they shared life's joys and sorrows for 69 years. This union was broken when George passed away January 26, 2023. They spent the first few months of their married life in the Donnels Creek district, then returned to the Prices Creek district to a farm on Kimmel Road. This union was blessed with six children. She treasured the gift of a large loving family and enjoyed hosting numerous gatherings and occasions for her Prices Creek family, friends, relatives, and neighbors.

She is survived by her children Barbara (Charles) Beeghley, Philip (Sandy) Lahman, Rita (Bruce) Turner, Russell (LuAnn) Lahman; sons-in-law, Reyn (Sue) Angle and David Miller; 27 grandchildren; 72 great-grandchildren; and was awaiting the soon arrival of her

first great-great-grandchild. In addition, there was one nephew, Neal Basore and wife Phyllis; and many other cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; two sisters; a stillborn infant, and Vivian Lucille who died at birth; father-and mother-in-law; daughters, Marilyn Angle and Carol Miller; grandson, Justin Turner; half brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Harry and Evelyn Basore; nephew Otto Basore and wife Barbara.

A funeral service was held at the Prices Creek Old German Baptist Brethren meeting house near Eldorado, Ohio, on May 29, 2024. The home brethren took their thoughts from Luke 9:62, Matthew 24:44, and Revelation 19:7. Burial followed in the adjacent church cemetery. Our loved one was tenderly laid to rest to await the resurrection morning.

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.
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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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