

"Quicken me after thy lovingkindness; so shall I keep..."

THE TESTIMONY

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

— VERSE OF THE MONTH —

"Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness: and the little hills rejoice on every side." Psalm 65:11-12

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OUR BLESSED HOPE

Titus 2:13

The trumpet sounds, the sky shall part,
The faithful rise with joyful heart.
In twinkling of an eye we'll see,
The Lamb of God, our victory.

The dead in Christ shall first arise,
Then we who live shall pierce the skies.
We'll meet the Lord up in the air,
To dwell with Him, beyond compare.

Like Noah saved from judgment's flood,
We'll be redeemed through Christ's own blood.
As He ascends, so shall we, too,
Our blessed hope is ever true.

So watch and pray, we may not die,
The Bridegroom comes, the end is nigh.
For in that day, no tear, no pain,
With Christ our King, forever reign.

"For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout... and the dead in Christ shall rise first..."

— I Thessalonians 4:16

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump..."

— I Corinthians 15:52

"But as the days of Noe were...so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

— Matthew 24:37-39

Tracy Beaver

THE TESTIMONY

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“But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.”

Prov. 4:18

EDITORIAL

THE NIGHT OF TIME

*Oh, the night of time soon shall
pass away
And the happy golden day will
dawn,
When the pilgrim staff shall be
laid aside
And the kingly crown put on.*

We usually think of this time-world as being daytime. It is common to think of death as being the end of the day of life and the beginning of a long night. But in this hymn, author William B. Blake sees otherwise. He reverses day and night. Life is a night and the afterlife as the dawn of a happy golden day. In the second verse the author writes, "O the happy day that shall gild the hills, when the Lord shall come to earth again! O the happy hearts that shall welcome Him, when He comes once more to reign."

This hymn which we have heard sung from childhood (Brethren Hymnal, #705) has, undoubtedly colored our view of life and the hereafter. The third verse contrasts a passing night to a dawning everlasting daytime. "What a joyful time when the earth shall gleam, in the light of an eternal day, when the saints shall sing unto Christ their King, in the golden glad array."

Autumn of 2024 is fast approaching bringing the solemn thought that the Autumn of life is already here for some of us. Springtime and the Summer of life were short. And here we are, approaching the end of this night of time, approaching the dawn of an

eternal day. Even for happy, active, full-of-life, animated, eager, passionate, enthusiastic, exuberant youth it is not too early to sometimes think of life as a solemn time of preparation for the dawning of that eternal day.

We urge parents to take time with their little ones and with their teens, to address the seriousness of life. By reading age-appropriate books beginning with preschoolers. In conversation with teens around the kitchen table and during family devotions. Grandparents can serve as witnesses to the brevity of this night of time and the happy golden day to come.

We encourage teens to open their hearts to one another concerning the serious issues of life. To youth that might be reading this message: Life in 2024 is different from life as we knew it when we were your age. But the questions are still the same. "Who am I?" "What is my purpose in life?" "Where do I fit into the Great Plan of God?" We urge discussion of these issues with peers, with parents, with other important people in your lives, and most importantly, with God.

The chorus to this song is a simple message to readers of every age:

*We are watching now for the
morning light.
For the New Jerusalem to come.
We are waiting still for the
Savior, Christ,
Who will call His children home.*

Marcus Miller

SEASONAL

**WHY CHRISTIANS
SHOULD NOT CELEBRATE
HALLOWEEN**

Halloween, celebrated on October 31, is often associated with costumes, trick-or-treating, and spooky decorations. However, participating in Halloween contradicts biblical teachings and values. By examining the origins of Halloween and relevant Scriptures from the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible, we can understand why Christians should abstain from this holiday.

The origins of Halloween trace back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, where people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. This festival marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter, a time associated with death. When examining the roots of Halloween, it's evident that it has strong connections to pagan rituals and beliefs. The Bible warns against participating in pagan practices. In Deuteronomy 18:10–12, it states, “There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD...”

Additionally, Halloween's focus on the macabre and the supernatural can be seen as glorifying

darkness and fear, contrary to the teachings of Christ. In Ephesians 5:11, it is written, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.” Christians are called to be the light of the world, and participating in a holiday that celebrates fear and darkness may be seen as inconsistent with this calling.

Furthermore, the Bible encourages believers to focus on things that are pure, lovely, and of good report (Phil. 4:8). Halloween often involves themes of horror, violence, and the occult, which can be at odds with these values. Engaging in Halloween activities might lead to a desensitization to such themes, which can be detrimental to one's spiritual well-being.

In conclusion, while Halloween may seem like a harmless tradition, its roots in paganism, emphasis on darkness, and celebration of the dark side of the supernatural is in conflict with biblical teachings. By adhering to the guidance of Scriptures such as Deuteronomy 18:10–12, Ephesians 5:11, and Philippians 4:8, Christians should choose to abstain from celebrating Halloween, seeking instead to honor their faith through activities that align more closely with biblical principles.

Tracy Beaver

GENERAL

HONOR THE KING

M. Keith Skiles

This nation is now in the process of another general election in which it will either replace or reelect many of its leaders. We cannot help but notice the contrast between practices of those who aspire to gain political office and those who live by Christian principles. The candidate for political office must bring to the attention of the voters (the system requires it) all his good points—his virtues, his background, and the record of his achievements. This must be done again and again. The system also requires that all the failures and character flaws of his opponent be publicized and brought repeatedly before the voters. How different are the New Testament principles where men of God honor and prefer one another. They humble themselves while building up one another. Noting the contrast in the two kingdoms we ask, “What communion hath light with darkness?”

Scriptural truths pertaining to believers’ attitudes toward kings and rulers are illustrated in Daniel 4. The Babylonians had invaded and overcome Judah and carried away captive some of the choice young children, among whom was Daniel, some 35 years prior to the beginning of this Chapter. They were subjects of the

pagan king, Nebuchadnezzar, a man—who was an idolator, oppressed the poor, and possessed great pride. In those days when one nation conquered another it was considered that the gods of the conquering nation were greater and more powerful than the gods of the defeated nation. Nebuchadnezzar demonstrated his arrogance toward the God of Israel by carrying back to Babylon the golden vessels of His temple in Jerusalem.

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream (interpreted by Daniel) in which he saw himself as a great tree that was cut down, but the stump remained alive. In this dream a “watcher” came down from heaven and spoke that this matter was for the “intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.” In due time God humbled him by taking from him his kingdom and driving him out of his palace to dwell with the beasts of the field until “seven times” had passed over him. When Nebuchadnezzar’s understanding and reason returned to him he confessed that now he knew “that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will” (v. 25). He went on to praise Him “that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting domin-

ion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation...and he doeth according to his will... among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (v. 34, 35)

This same principle is reaffirmed in the New Testament. "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers...the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God... (Rom. 13:1–2). Paul wrote these lines during a time when the growing hostility toward Christianity, by both the local authorities and the Roman government, was manifesting itself. Paul met some of these ungodly rulers face to face, yet he accorded them the respect due to God-ordained men. "He is the minister of God to thee for good...he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil" (v. 4). Twice in this verse Paul calls a civil ruler "the minister of God."

The New Testament teaches that there are two kingdoms. This is clearly revealed in this Chapter: "Ye must needs be subject" (v. 5). "They are God's ministers" (v. 6). Notice "ye" and "they." "Ye" were the saints in Rome; "they" were the rulers of the civil government, separate, yet both ordained of God for their specific places in His will.

Peter writes in his first Epistle (2:13–14): "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the

Lord's sake; whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evil-doers, and for the praise of them that do well." The exception would be when "We ought to obey God rather than men." The Apostle says here that we ought to obey civil rulers "for the Lord's sake." This obedience brings honor to the Lord and is a good witness for His cause. Peter wrote this at a time when Christians were suffering severe persecution. Their rulers were unjust and unfair, but Peter says the Christians should submit themselves to every ordinance.

We find four imperatives in Verse 17: "Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king." Nero, one of the most wicked men in history, may have been on the throne at that time. They were not told to reverence him, nor to approve of his actions, but to honor him as one ordained of God for that time and position.

Consider the dilemma, should a Christian vote. It may be that God is raising up another of "the basest of men"—another Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Herod, Pilate, Nero, or Hitler. "None can stay his [God's] hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?" (Dan. 4:35) Should the voter vote for the better man who may be outside God's will, or a base man who is in God's plan, but who may bring suffering to millions?

So, at this election time do we

stand aloof and indifferent to what is going on about us? Do we get involved? Yes, we should get involved—and the Word tells us how: “I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior” (I Tim. 2:1–3).

Selected from the November 1992 *The Vindicator* by

Alice Mae Haney

SIGHT AND SOUND

“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” (Heb. 5:14). We want to use this Scripture as a springboard for the title of this essay. Our senses, which we take for granted, are wonderful gifts of Almighty God. They are entwined throughout our entire being; we are so used to them that it is easy to forget just how remarkable they are. While admiring all five senses, we intend to concentrate mostly on the remarkable senses of sight and sound. To get into the physical construction of the eyes and ears themselves would be an inspiring

and fascinating study itself, but we want to keep this more on an emotional, awe-inspiring, lessons-for-life level.

Jesus Christ in Matthew 6:22, said that “The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thy eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that be in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!”

We soon learn that, to be able to see, we need light. What is light anyway? We laymen can share some facts, but scientific terminology soon bogs us down. We can't explain it but quickly conclude that light is a wonderful thing. God said right at the beginning that He saw that the light was good. We learn from Jesus's words that light is associated with good and darkness with evil. The powers of darkness are associated with devils. Hell is referred to as a place of outer darkness, whereas the New Jerusalem is described as a glittering city of great light; a place of unimaginable joy.

Without light we might as well be blind; but, Oh the joy of being able to see and hear. Science tells us that light from the sun bombards us constantly, traveling at a speed 186,000 miles per second, or 7.44 times around the world in one second. Sound, on the other hand, only travels at 1100 feet per second. Light travels 893 million times faster than sound.

What a contrast between two created entities that we cherish so much. With sound we enjoy rhythm, melody, harmony, communication, and a myriad of useful wave lengths that can range from a state of soothing us to annoying us. Those rather funny looking appendages on the sides of our heads collect all the various sound waves and remarkably work with our wonderful brains to interpret and categorize thousands of varying sounds. At the same time those ears are processing so many sounds, those two beautiful round balls set in sockets in the fronts of our faces are collecting and interpreting light waves, allowing us to enjoy a world of outstanding color with a myriad of variations in every shape, size, and color. Then there is that remarkable controversial opening in the front of our faces that we put food into, but which also has the remarkable ability to emit sound. It is such a miracle how little babies can develop and use and manipulate those tiny vocal cords and tiny little tongues to emit fantastic sound that gets your attention quickly, and then later develops into baby style words, just because those little ears are constantly listening. Speech is such a wonderful gift, but unfortunately, the thought of darkness has permeated there also. James tells us that out of the same mouth proceedeth both blessing and cursing. The same

mouth that can praise God most reverently, can also blatantly use His name in vain. The same mouth that can be a melodious, poetic instrument of praise and communication can also become a loud, obnoxious foghorn of hate, bitterness and cruelty, spewing out nasty, despicable, gutter language. It is so sad that so-called educated people in this enlightened age actually act like they learned to talk in the gutter. If

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any young people reading this think it is cool to throw four letter words around as if it is supposed to be impressive—well, it is not. Swearing and cursing is the crude crutch of conversational cripples. The Bible teaches to let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how to answer any man. We need to have our senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Implement the good into your speech and reject the bad. May your eyes, ears, and mouth be single, that is, focused on Christ Jesus. If your eye be single, your whole body will be full of light.

If I were hypothetically forced to make a choice between sight and sound, that would be hard. Not to hear the sound of music, the rhythm of nature, bird calls, conversations, the rolling thunder, and on and on. For years I worked with a fellow draftsman who was totally deaf. You could tell by his body language that he was slightly different, but he could read lips and do sign language and could talk, but his words weren't always clear. He was a good draftsman, supported his family, and seemed to be very happy. Remember, he still had his sight. I think of Fanny Crosby who was blind yet wrote 8,000 sacred hymns. What is one little Testimony article in comparison? Unreal. She lost her sight but retained her hearing and God used her remarkable talent to bless so many of us. Then there was Helen Keller who had neither sight nor sound. It is so hard to comprehend being both blind and deaf. Yet she remarkably was taught to read and write. She was able to write 14 books. That, to me, is absolutely astounding. But getting back to the hypothetical, I guess I would choose sight over sound if the choice had to be. Seeing is believing they say. I love my sight.

The Bible contains numerous enunciations comparing light and darkness, songs of praise, and blind men being healed by Jesus. Truly Jesus is the light of the world. The Psalms stress the importance of praising the Lord,

both vocally and with instruments. It is not the intent of this essay to present these enunciations. I want you to just relish the blessing of our senses, especially sight and sound. We are not only fearfully made, but we are wonderfully made. The thought of spiritually seeing and being spiritually blind comes from the wonderful fact that we experience physical sight in marvelous ways; thus comes our understanding of spiritual light and darkness. We know well that precious refrain from "Amazing Grace": "I once was blind but now I see." The 9th chapter of John's Gospel is a physical illustration of this. The whole chapter is dedicated to the experience of a man born blind, but whose eyes Jesus Christ opened. I can't imagine the euphoria of that man when he realized what a wonderful world of sight he had been introduced into. But like us, I'm sure he soon learned that he had to discipline his eyes. In Mark 7:22 Jesus lists "an evil eye" with other sins. The Bible talks elsewhere about people whose eyes were full of adultery. We well know that the lust of the eye is not of God but of this present evil world. Sadly, today there are tons of smut and perversion, and visual trash being transmitted by all forms of media to appeal to the dark evil eye. While men are being called to lift up their eyes and transfer their conversation to heaven, too many choose to live in

the gutter and lick up one more filthy morsel of perverted corruption. "If the light that be in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness."

This thought of sight and sound could be expanded way beyond these few pages. Let's finish with Ecclesiastes 3:11. "He hath made everything beautiful in his time."

beside each other. Each flower with its color glory practically screams, "I am the product and creation of a grand designer." There is so much to see and behold to hold us spell-bound before our great creator.

"All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small, all things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all. He gave



This green and blue globe that we call planet earth is absolutely astounding, offering beauty, grandeur, majesty, glory and power in abundant fashion. The diversity of just the flower world is one example. There are myriads of delicate and grand shapes with bursting color schemes that should delight any eye. Differing brilliant colors many times reside side by side in the same flower petal with a distinct dividing line separating them. Think of the intelligence that it took for those brilliant color cells to lay themselves down so distinctly

us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell, how great is God Almighty, who hath made all things well." "God of stillness and of motion, of the desert and the ocean, of the mountain, rock and river, blessed be thy name forever." There is so much good and beauty out there; anyone can live an inspired life. A single eye for God can bask in the created glory of God resulting in a wholesome lifestyle that is good. There are still a lot of good people in this old sin-stained world. They are good because they trust and bask in the

perfection of a beautiful Savior who with his Father in heaven is the Author of so many beautiful things. I hope some of those good people are reading this article. Let us keep the faith. We have so much going for us and we have so much to gain. Enjoy the wonderful world of sight and sound, because "Soon you'll close your earthly mission, Soon you'll pass your pilgrim days, Hope shall change to glad fruition, Faith to sight and prayer to praise."

Philip J. King

MORALLY PURE IN A CORRUPT SOCIETY

Sim Yoder

Morals have to do with right and wrong behavior. Purity is being free from moral fault or guilt, marked by chastity, which is personal integrity. Purity contains nothing that does not properly belong there. As the title suggests, this article will be about doing right and being free from moral fault and guilt, living a life of integrity, and keeping our inside and outside free of anything that doesn't properly belong.

Notice what Scripture says about being pure. "Blessed are the pure in heart..." (Matt. 5:8). "That ye may approve things that

are excellent; that ye may be sincere [pure] and without offense till the day of Christ" (Phil. 1:10). Think on things that are pure (Phil. 4:8). "Keep thyself pure" (I Tim. 5:22). Matthew 5:8 says, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Psalm 24:3-4 asks "Who shall see God?" The answer is "...he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart." In other words, it is the people who are clean inside and out who will see God and enter His presence.

Being morally pure will not happen without strong determination and discipline. It has always been this way, but even more so today with the rise of technology and the availability of evil at our fingertips.

Sexual sins are not foreign to the church. In fact, they are not foreign to any people of any race. We cannot relax and let down our guard and suppose that our children will be safe from the evils of society and our humanity. We must show by example and teach our children and youth if we expect them to stay clean in this corrupt society. We cannot assume that if a person dresses a certain way, all is well on the inside. The story is not told fully by the outside. The Pharisees made the outside look good, while the inside was full of corruption. Jesus said, "Cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also" (Matt. 23:26). We, too, should

give primary attention to heart issues. When the heart is clean, then the outside will be able to be cleansed also.

I John 1:6 says, “If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness [light on the outside and darkness on the inside], we lie, and do not the truth.” Internal darkness will always destroy fellowship and kill relationships—every time.

This is intended to be a message of hope, not discouragement. If you have a hidden dark spot, confess it and get rid of it. You can be free! It is possible to be free from Satan’s clutches and live an open, transparent life with joy in your soul. You don’t need to go through life trying to hide the darkness of evil. Jesus wants to forgive and heal.

Satan is cruel. In John 10:10, Jesus said that the devil wants to steal, kill, and destroy. He wants to steal your purity, kill your character, and destroy all godly relationships. His interest is to break up your home, destroy your respect, and send you to hell. All the while, he is luring you through the lust of your flesh, with his sword drawn to bind and kill you. Moral sin is so shameful and hard to admit. The natural thing is to try to hide when we do wrong. Children who learn to hide wrongdoing early in life naturally develop into youth who

hide things from parents, school-teachers, and ministers. Such persons will need to learn to be open and transparent, or the time will come when they will be hiding things from their companion. Hiding results is a double life and leads to more bondage and broken relationships. People who have closed doors in some corners of their lives will be possessive of their phones and unwilling to share their passwords with a trusted partner. It seems we easily forget how futile it is to hide from God. Hebrews 4:13 says,

**The men and women
who make it to victory
will be those who, like
Daniel of old, purpose
in their hearts not to
defile themselves.**

“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do [will give account to].” How can we be so naive and foolish to think we can hide anything from God? Or take it a step further: Why would we want to hide something from Him? Numbers 32:23 is still very true, saying, “...Be sure your sin will find you out.” God loves you too much to let you keep hiding

what needs to be brought out and forgiven.

Sexual sins are also extremely deceptive. It usually happens the way James described it in chapter one. We are enticed, drawn away, pulled like a magnet off-center, feel a surge of desire, make sure no one is looking, and our tracks are covered, step closer to the forbidden, feel more desire, and begin very quickly to lose reasoning and sound thinking, not able to calculate consequences much like an intoxicated person, then James 1:15 happens: "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" Verse 16 says, "Do not err [be deceived] my beloved brethren."

James would tell us not to lust after what isn't ours, not even a hint. The Bible tells us to flee three things. One of these is fornication, which can be broadened to all sexual sins. Don't dabble with it; don't take a second look; get away from it! Replace those thoughts with upbuilding thoughts of God and His way. Sing an old hymn; thankfully, we can't think of two things at once. Whatever it takes, flee from that lustful desire. It will take you farther than you want to go and cost more than you want to pay. Run the tape to the end and ask yourself, if I follow what I am being tempted to do, will I have what I want? Satan

always promises pleasure, but then delivers pain. Remember, Satan has never invented a pleasure; he only takes what God made to be pure and good, perverts it, and offers it back in its perverted form. Remember, Satan's sword is drawn to kill at this point. Flee evil desires!

Don't follow your lust. Pornography is extremely addictive and has ensnared many a person. Promise Keepers said 65% of men in their survey were addicted. Porn addiction is like alcohol or drugs. They tell us that the brain is calling for endorphins to be poured into it, whether from addiction to alcohol, drugs, or porn. I emphasize again that the men and women who make it to victory will be those who, like Daniel of old, purpose in their hearts not to defile themselves.

This subject is also for our sisters, and a few questions seem appropriate. What inside your life is neatly tucked away and hidden? Have life's disappointments caused an emptiness that makes taking an "emotional Tylenol®" make you feel better for a short while? Is your emotional connection secure where God has planned it to be?

Young girls should be taught to develop a healthy reserve with men. Not with a haughty attitude and never a smile, but also not too free in relating to young men. Our socie-

ty is geared exactly the opposite, and from kindergarten on, boys and girls are being teased about special friendships. As a result, children grow up with little to no reserve. Socializing in messaging between genders should be avoided outside of family relationships. This will develop a habit in youth that will one day need to be broken if they expect to live an open, transparent life with a spouse. Think of it this way: would you want your spouse to socialize with the opposite gender on social media?

Sisters, be careful what books you read. Romance novels deaden the desire for the Word of God and give unrealistic expectations of married life. These books give the idea that the right man somewhere would be your key to fulfillment and happiness in life. Only Jesus can fill the hole that sin has brought to every human being today. No man or woman will ever be able to give the security and tranquility of the soul that we all want so badly. This hurt in the heart will never be quenched by Band-Aids® or pain relievers. They help only for a moment, and when they wear off, the cry of the heart is even louder. Unwholesome books deaden a taste for the things of God, and instead create a craving for junk food and pain relievers.

Another concern to the sisters is the amount of time you spend online. There is no end to feeding

the craving for finery, uniqueness, charm, and beauty. Don't let these things be the drive of your life as they will never cry out, "It's enough!" and will do nothing to satisfy the soul or point your children in the right direction. Consider the amount of time you spend hosting parties. Over the years, I have seen names come and go of business opportunities and products that one must have. But alas, in a few years, we cannot even remember those names and all the while the children were growing and by now are adults. Consider the real needs in your life and your responsibilities, and then decide which will bring eternal investments. Women with children need to limit hobbies they so much enjoy because, at this moment, they are blessed with children who have never-dying souls and time with them is an eternal investment. Remember that your husband and children are far more worthy of your time than spending hours at another party.

How can we live a morally pure life?

Be Humble

James 5 says, "Confess your faults one to another...that ye may be healed." It takes humility and brokenness to acknowledge our needs, but brokenness is the key to victory. I Peter 5:5 tells us that God gives grace to the humble. One of the most comprehensive definitions of grace is unmerited divine assistance given to humans

for regeneration and sanctification. Regeneration is “redeeming grace,” and sanctification is “transforming grace.” The truth of this is that God gives “transforming grace” to the humble. This grace changes us from the inside out making us holy. This aspect of grace must be desired and sought after as much as redeeming grace was when God saved us. This is probably the single most important step in overcoming addictions of any kind. Be humble enough to make it a daily prayer to God for His transforming grace. Jesus taught in Matthew 23:26, where He said, “Cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.”

BE HONEST

Examine your thoughts, actions, temptations, the things you struggle with, anger, lust, pride, bitterness, etc. Are you as spiritual as you portray yourself to be on the outside? Strip the veneer and admit the need for help.

BE TRANSPARENT

Romans 2:16 tells of the day when God will judge the secrets of men. We are so foolish to think we can hide evil. We can hide for a while, but someday our actions will stand naked before an all-knowing God. Why would we try to hide something now? Those hidden things can be sent before to judgment, and a guilt-free life can be a reality today.

Be transparent; it must be a working goal.

TELL YOURSELF THE TRUTH

When you are tempted, consider the end of your lustful desire. Will you get what you want? Will this craving be satisfied, or will it only crave more? If you saw your brother doing what you are going after, how would it look? How will it look thirty years down the road if you follow your evil desire? Will it bring joy or sorrow? Will it be a help to someone, or will someone else be scarred? Tell yourself the truth before you become intoxicated and unable to make rational judgments.

TEACH YOUR EYES TO BOUNCE

You can't help what you look at the first time, but you can control what you look at twice. Make it a practice till it becomes a habit to turn your eyes in a different direction whenever you see a sight that leads to impure thoughts.

TEACHING OUR CHILDREN

This should be heavy on our hearts from early childhood. If we don't teach our children that God made us in the image of Himself, which needs to be kept pure, someone else will teach them to be secretive and make them feel impure. Stay close to your children and teach them as they mature.

KEEP YOUR EMOTIONS

This is a safety in our corrupt society. The further you get from this, the more vulnerable you will be to corruption. Keep your spouse first in life, the one you share with

and are tied to emotionally.

FLEE LUST AND FORNICATION

Run from it! These cravings are addictions that must be broken. Remember, what you feed grows, and what you starve dies. These addictions can be broken, but you will need to feed the relationships that God has given and starve the hurtful ones.

God has made us in a way that when we love the things He loves, our heart still has room to love more. No matter how many children, grandchildren, or godly friends we have, our hearts still have room to love more. But the moment we start to love what God has forbidden, it begins to replace and destroy all other love, filling our hearts with emptiness, pain, and loneliness, which leads to a bitter end. Many a man has come to his senses and seen the utter foolishness of the path he took. Some tried to hide impure conduct and were successful until late in life. Others kept it hidden till after they were gone. A question to ponder: "Is it worth it?" Of course, the answer is a resounding, "NO!" How wonderful to live an open life free of guilt and have peace with God and the assurance of sins forgiven, so that one day we will be taken out of this evil world and ushered into the presence of our Holy God.

Selected from *The Heartbeat of the Remnant*, Spring 2024.

By the Editor

LEAD ME HOME

Attending three different funerals of elderly loved ones within ten days, during the hot and droughty period of June, was definitely a first for my wife and me. Yes, they were all well past eighty. Actually, in their nineties. Psalm 90:10 says, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

There are many of us living on borrowed time. My dad has said, "Older people need so little, but they need so little so much!" I have heard that we may be care-worn and aged, forsaken of the world, living on borrowed time, useless so far as any activity is concerned, dependent on children or friends; yet Jesus has loving acquaintance with us. James 4:14 says, "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

Psalm 90:12 – "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Psalm 90:17 – "And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it."

I wonder what take you readers would have on this experience we have had. My take is this hymn:

*Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand.
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light:*

*Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.*

*When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall:*

*Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.*

*When the darkness appears
And the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand,
Guide my feet, hold my hand:*

*Take my hand, precious Lord,
Lead me home.*

Take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me home!

L.D. Flory

THE THINGS WHICH ARE JESUS CHRIST'S

Sometimes in the Scripture a verse will jump out and catch our eye. It may be an outstanding statement, or one that seems striking, or unusual, or alarming.

Philippians 2:21 is such a verse.

Notice the context in verses 19 through 20. "But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may

be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state."

And then he makes this general statement about the condition of the early church. **"For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's."**

Could it be? Could it really be? How is this to be understood? Was the Apostle Paul just so discouraged that he was willing to make a careless general accusation about all the brethren about him, and the church leaders of his day? Was this an accurate statement? Or an exaggeration borne out of frustration?

And then I wonder what the Apostle would say about our day. Would he say the same? We often see glowing examples of zeal and godly interest in souls among us. We see much sacrifice for others. We see earnest faces in our meetinghouses as the worshippers gather. Is it really true that "all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's"?

Think of that statement. This is in the setting of the early church. This is close to the fountainhead of the water spring of the Gospel, as the miracles of the apostles were just in the recent past, and the message had been going out with power. Signs and wonders had been done at the hands of the apostles (Acts 2:43). We often look back at the early days of the New Testament

church and wish that our church could be like theirs; that our zeal could be closer to the zeal that was being experienced then.

But what did Paul mean? Did he mean that everyone seemed so busy taking care of their families and their properties that there seemed to be no time to care for others? Had he observed among the churches that there was a waning in church attendance? Had he heard in his association with the saints that their conversation seemed to be almost exclusively about the current events of the day, and not the things of God? Had Paul tried to seek for assistance in his journeys as he ministered to the churches, but had experienced great difficulty, because so many were so busy?

The Apostle Paul in another place (Rom. 8:5–7) says, “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” This expression of Paul in Philippians 2:21 is quite an indictment against the church of God in its early stages of growth. It was no doubt with heavy heart that these words were written.

The words of the apostle strike a tender chord with me as I think of my own life in this last day. Can

you identify with these also?

- The times we may be a little lazy about inviting others home after church to spend our Sunday afternoon in sweet fellowship, blessing others, and instead spend our time sleeping the afternoon away.
- The times when there may be opportunity to contribute in some way to the lives of others and instead pursuing pleasures or pastimes that just please ourselves.

When I am guilty of these things, many times my mind goes to this observation of Paul. “All seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ’s.”

I bow my head in shame. Often I am guilty.

May the Lord bless our meditation as we consider this sober observation of the Lord’s chosen Apostle.

The things of Jesus Christ!
How precious they should be!
May nothing take the place of Him
Who gave His life for me!

The things of Jesus Christ,
How can I push away
The precious things, and let the things
Of earth o’ertake each day?

Then let my soul awake,
Take up the Christian’s sword,
And bless the Church by caring for
The things of Christ the Lord.

Lowell Miller

SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD

What does that actually mean? What is the world? God placed us in the world; how can we separate ourselves from it? The following is a quote from L. C. in *The Pilgrim*:

Christians look different.

Christians talk differently.

Christians go different places.

Do we really? Each one of us can only answer that question for ourselves. And, what about the following?

Where is our heart's desire? Do we want to fit in with the fashions of the world? Do we just want to "go with the flow"? Or, do we want to "Stand up, stand up for Jesus" and be happy in a fellowship that is trying to follow Him?

Do we want to talk their talk and enjoy what entertains them? Or do we want to be a light to the dark world around us, showing that we are of a different kingdom?

How about our goings? Where we go—is that what makes our day? The Great Darke County Fair is in full swing nearby and I'm often asked by other residents if I'm going? It covers 185 acres and in 1898 more than 28,000 people attended. I have no idea what the attendance is this week, but the traffic on the highway nearby is something you want to avoid, if possible!

Are we always searching to be

entertained with things that take our mind from Him and His great love for us?

Instead, Peter tells us to sojourn here in fear. Since sojourning means "a temporary stay" should our thoughts and time not be spent in reading and thinking often of His sacrifice on Calvary, and loving Him with our all, and being ready when He calls us Home?

In the past, we were called the "Plain People"; do we hear that anymore? L. C. further quoted; "People are turned off when they see no difference." I know for a fact that people are disappointed when they know we are doing something or going someplace we ought not, and especially when professors end up leaving our fellowship!

I'm not contending that we should think we're above the folks around us, but that we should show them by our appearance, walk and talk, that we love the Lord, and are happy doing so, and invite them to join us!

Nor am I saying that this is the main object of our life here on earth, and living in this world. It's just an outward manifestation of what is in our heart, "that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart" (II Cor. 5:12b).

For, "no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by

faith” (Gal. 3:11).

Jesus said, “I am not of this world” (John 8:23b). Do we want to be “known and read of all men” as a citizen of His Kingdom or of this world?

“Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord” (II Cor. 6:17a).

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this...to keep himself unspotted

from the world” (James 1:27a,c.).

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (I John 2:15).

Written for your consideration out of a heart of love for all my brethren and sisters.

AliceMae Haney

MEDITATIONS

God, put your arm about my shoulder and your hand across my mouth.
There is something wrong when correction offends, but sin does not.
When Jesus told the blind, “Go!” he couldn’t even see where to go!
We need not be wholly different. We must be Holy-different.
Hell is not as attractive as the road that leads there.
Somewhere beyond, there is a beautiful forever.
Have faith in God—and trust in prayer.

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 Holy Scriptures given to the children of men include History, Prophecy, Teaching, Encouragement, and Warning. The Scriptures are so fascinating, supplying our needs and feeding our souls.

Questions:

1. Do I appreciate all of the various areas that are offered, equally, as I read the Bible?
2. Do I find myself jumping back and forth through the Scriptures, seeking those areas *only* that will lift me up and make me feel happy?
3. Do I have a hunger for all of the

counsel of God?

4. Am I seeking to know the mind of God even in Old Testament Warnings and Teachings?
5. Do History and Prophecy both give me insights to treasure?
6. Do I find comfort in knowing that even as the History is true, so will the Prophecy be as well?
7. Is it easy for me to take little discoveries in the Scriptures and pass them on to souls I work with?
8. If someone is needing encouragement or warning, am I able to point them to gems I have found?

GENERAL ITEMS

BAPTISMS

Aug. 11, 2024; Living Epistle, NM
Tia Flory
Aug. 14, 2024; Shiloh, OH
Davis Crist
Aug. 25, 2024; Morning Star, OH
Kaid Filbrun, Kendra Munsey
Aug. 28, 2024; Salem, OH
Luke Balsbaugh,
Cade Deaton, Carly Deaton
Aug. 29, 2024; Shiloh, OH
Janna Sink, Jayden Sink
Aug. 30, 2024; Bethel, OH
Drew Flora
Sept. 1, 2024; Columbia River, WA
Trevor Wolf, Colte Riley,
Terrance Wray, Sophia Wagoner,
Peyton Robbins
Sept. 1, 2024; Maple Grove, OH
Gracie Wisler
Sept. 4, 2024; Morning Star, OH
Layla Deaton
Sept. 5, 2024; Stillwater, OH
Luke Garber,
Jaylnn Denlinger
Sept. 6, 2024; Pleasant View, OH
Lily Sink,
Regan Denlinger
Sept. 8, 2024; Cascade Valley, WA
Lauren Meador
Sept. 8, 2024; West Manchester, IN
Kaylee Kinzie
Sept. 9, 2024; Shiloh, OH
Will Eikenberry
Sept. 11, 2024; Maple Grove, OH
Drew Bowman

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

Aug. 16, 2024; West Manchester, IN
Luke and Sheila Rockwell
Aug. 18, 2024; Bethel, OH
Gordon and Ruth Garber

COMMISSIONS

Aug. 16, 2024; Salem, OH
Ryan Kingery (with wife Alaina)
Advanced to the second degree of
the Ministry

COMMUNION NOTICES

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 Pinegrove, FL
Feb. 22, 2025 West Manchester, IN
Mar. 22, 2025 Sugar Grove, OH
Mar. 29, 2025 Dallas, OR
Apr. 12, 2025 Fair Haven, KS
Apr. 12, 2025 Salem, OH

HARVEST MEETINGS

Nov. 28, 2024..... Pleasant View, OH

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL NOTICE

We are making our call for subscriptions for the year 2025 at this time. The subscription price for each subscriber continues to be \$30.00 per year, and should be received by December 1, 2024 from the District Agents. **Each District Agent should include an updated list of their subscribers, with their current addresses.** Individual subscribers' subscription payments should be received by December 1, 2024 as well, if possible, for the 2025 subscription year.

POEMS

THE FAITH OF A LITTLE CHILD

We walked alone in the forest,
Little Danny and I,
And the thunder crashed above us,
And the storm-clouds hid the sky;
The lightning was wild and angry,
The wind gusts fierce and strong,
The trees bowed and shook around us
As we hurried our steps along.

I saw by the lightning flashes
That his face was frightened and white,
And his eyes were wide with wonder
At the terror of the night;
The owl called out in the darkness,
The crows sulked away in the pine;
I felt Danny's little hand tremble
As I held it close in mine.

"Are you afraid?" I asked him,
"And are you going to cry?"
But the little fellow answered,
"I'll never cry, not I."
He drew back his little shoulders,
Bravely did he stand,
He said, "I'm afraid of nothing
So long as you hold my hand."

I thrilled at his childish trusting,
And I thought of the path I read,
How the specters rise around me,
And the clouds are black o'erhead;
How the shadows lie so thickly
That the path I cannot see,
And I longed for a hand to hold to
As Danny held to me.

Then I thought of my heavenly Father;
I thought of His watchful care,
That when I need Him by me
I always find Him there;
And I softly said, "Dear Father,
When the storms are raging wild,
Let me cling to Thy hand more closely
With the faith of a little child."

—Author Unknown

Selected by

Marshall Dutter

LIFE'S PURPOSE

What was the purpose of God
making man?
Was it "marry a woman"? Or
"Take care of the land"?
Perhaps sharing the Gospel of our
risen Lord,
Or "try to be famous" Or simply
"Be bored"?

What was the purpose of God
making woman?
Was it to "Marry a man and be
blessed with children"?
Perhaps "Take care of children,
being a housewife,"
Or teach our young ones of our
Savior Jesus Christ?

Our humble opinion. God created
the man
To love Him back and obey His
command,
To give Him all glory He rightly
deserves,
And be a Christ-like example to
those that observe.

Our humble opinion, God created
 the woman
 To be there, a help meet, and
 respect her husband,
 To love him and cherish him and
 never let go
 Help train up their children in the
 way they should go.
 Both man and woman He made
 long ago,
 He thought it and said it, and
 then it was so.
 Men should be loving, faithful,
 wise fathers
 To their lifelong wives, and their
 sons and daughters.
 Let's be a shining light for those
 that look on,
 And let's love our neighbor, which
 is everyone.
 Let our conscience be clear all the
 day long,
 Have faith and trust that we're all
 going home.

Landon Jamison

AN EXCHANGE OF WILLS

I want my heart so cleared of self
 That my dear Lord can come
 And set up His own furnishings,
 And make my heart—His Home.

And since I know what this requires,
 Each morning while it's still,
 I slip into that secret room,
 And leave with Him—my will.

He always takes it graciously,
 Presenting me with His;
 I'm ready then to meet the day
 And any task there is.

And this is how my Lord controls
 My interest, my ills,
 Because we meet at break of day
 For an exchange of wills.

—Anna Jane Granniss

HE WILL SILENTLY PLAN FOR THEE

He will silently plan for thee,
 Object thou of omniscient care;
 God Himself undertakes to be
 Thy Pilot thro' subtle snare.

He *will* silently plan for thee,
 So certainly, He cannot fail!
 Rest on the faithfulness of God,
 In Him thou surely shalt prevail.

He will *silently* plan for thee
 Some wonderful surprise of love,
 Eye hath not seen, nor ear hath heard,
 But it is kept for thee above.

He will silently *plan* for thee,
 His purposes shall all unfold;
 The tangled skein shall shine at last,
 A masterpiece of skill untold.

He will silently plan *for thee*,
 Happy child of a Father's care,
 As though no other claimed His love,
 But thou alone to Him wert dear.

—E. Mary Grimes

IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE, BE KIND

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love.

—Romans 12:10

Little children, when you play,
With other kids throughout the day,
If you argue over toys
With other girls and other boys,
Though they should pout, and sass, and whine,
At least be kind.

Teens have many trials and trips,
Adjustments, and relationships.
Peers may act unkind and cruel,
Will sometimes bully when at school.
But it is best, I'm sure you'll find,
At least be kind.

In married life a word is spoken
Which causes pain—a heart is broken.
A careless word is gone forever,
Returning to the lips, Ah, never.
Love will heal if so inclined,
At least be kind.

The Bible says, "Love one another."
And "Don't offend your Christian brother."
Sometimes selfishness or greed,
Makes a tender heart to bleed.
But love constrains and sweet words bind.
At least be kind.

So, though we reach four score and ten,
And sit among the aged men,
In all we do, and think, and say,
And by our conduct every day,
E'er earth and life be left behind,
At least be kind.

Marcus Miller

OBITUARIES

BRUBAKER — Margaret Ann (Patrick), age 96, was born on August 12, 1927, in Edna Mills, Indiana, to Ervin and Melinda (Skiles) Patrick. She was the youngest of five girls. Mother graduated in 1945 from Rossville High School. She accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior, being baptized during a trip to California that same year. She received much comfort knowing that all of her family shared the same faith in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Margaret married Hubert L. Brubaker (son of L. Ben and Anna Cover Brubaker) on April 10, 1948, by her Uncle Jakie Skiles. After a few months in Indiana they moved to Modesto, California. When Lee was one year old they moved back to Pyrmont, Indiana, and raised their family. In the summer of 1967 they left many friends and moved back to California to live and help on the Brubaker ranch on Beckwith Road. In 2005 they moved into town on Lancey Drive where they were welcomed into the neighborhood and made many new friends. Daddy died on January 30, 2010, after breaking a hip with complications. Mother continued to live alone until her passing.

In addition to being a homemaker, Mother enjoyed many hobbies. She helped with starting Brethren Heritage School in Ripon. She raised many baby birds and had several apiaries. She loved any kind of plant or flower and also spent many hours knitting. She made a pair of booties for almost every newborn she heard

of. Many people were gifted with a dishcloth when they come to see her. Mother had a positive attitude and inspired others. She also had a keen mind and memory.

Mother was diagnosed with cancer in February and died on July 17, 2024, at Alexander Cohen Community Hospice where she was lovingly cared for. Margaret is survived by her children, Lee and Jeanne (King) Brubaker, Jane (Kelley) Brubaker (wife of David who died in 1991), Dennis and Ann Miller, Mark and Sue (Gervase) Brubaker, and Joseph and Jane King; 15 grandchildren and their companions; 56 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren; brother-in-law, John and his wife Diane Brubaker; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Margaret was preceded in death by her husband Hubert; her son, David; and granddaughter, Jennifer Brubaker Meeuwse; as well as four sisters and their companions, Pearl and Jesse Wolf, Mary and Frank Pryor, Virgie and Alva Wagoner, and Susie and Donald Wagoner; also sister-in-law, Mildred and husbands Edward Moore and Merle Garber.

A memorial service was held on Tuesday July 23, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. in the Modesto Old German Baptist Brethren Church—New Conference, with Elder David Rumble and Elder Vince Tye officiating. David spoke of her kindness to a little bedbound California boy (himself) with her sending a fun box of things to do from “the five little Brubakers” in Indiana. Vince expanded on

Mothers conversation with him of her confidence in "I know where I am going. Whatever happens, I know it will be okay, and I don't know what Heaven will be like, but I know it will be spectacular!" The service was very inspiring! Burial followed at Wood Colony Cemetery with Brother Clinton Bowman speaking of Grandma "finishing strong." We rejoice for her and patiently await the Lord's return.

"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints" (Ps. 116:15).

The Family

FISHER — Betty Jane (Flory), age 93, of Lewisburg, Ohio, passed away on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at Hospice of Dayton. She was born May 31, 1931, in Allen County, Ohio to Thomas and Iva (Miller) Flory.

On May 29, 1949, she was married to Dale Fisher, son of Ross and Mable Irene (Wehrly) Fisher.

Feeling the need of a Savior, Dale and Betty were baptized into the Old German Baptist Brethren Church on September 24, 1949, and were faithful members of the Prices Creek district until their passing.

On August 9, 1973, Dale and Betty were called to the Deacon's office. She was a faithful support to her husband in his labors until his passing on December 5, 2009.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Dale Fisher; brothers, Lester (Velma) Flory, and Howard (Mary Jane) Flory; and sister, Emma (Cabel) Montgomery; brother-in-law, Charles (Betty) Fisher; and sister-in-law, Naomi (Sherman) Padgett.

She is survived by her daughter, Doris Jane (John) Dewberry of West Alexandria, Ohio; son, Dennis (Jiemei) Fisher of Lutz, Florida; grandchildren, Yancy (Christy) Flora, Clinton (Dee) Flora, Lance Fisher, Tina (Derrick) Sturgill and Ting Fisher; great-grandchildren, Victoria (Patrick) Stapleton, Elizabeth (James) Tuman, Katherine Flora, Trey Sturgill, Wyatt Sturgill, Isla Sturgill, Tripp Flora, and Dustin Flora; great-great-grandchildren, Griffyn and Theodore Stapleton, Levi, Waylon and Liberty Tuman; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at the Pleasant View Church, Eldorado, Ohio. Funeral services immediately followed at 2:30 P.M. also at the Pleasant View meeting house. Burial followed at the Prices Creek Church Cemetery, near Eldorado, Ohio. The family would like to express a special thank you to Ryan and Julie Flora and family, Ken and Martha Orndoff, Jaylynn Blaylock and Martie Montgomery for all of their loving care for Betty. Gard Funeral Home took care of arrangements, for which we are grateful.

The Family

LANDES — Thelma Louise (Filbrun), daughter of Floyd and Mary Filbrun, was born on December 18, 1932, near Dayton, Ohio. Mother peacefully passed from time to eternity at home on June 20, 2024, making her sojourn 91 years, 6 months and 2 days.

She was united in marriage to Kenneth Eugene Landes on June 17, 1951, at her home. This union was blessed with 4 sons and 3 daughters.

Daddy and Mother were baptized on August 15, 1951, into the Old German

Baptist Brethren Church, to which she remained faithful until death.

In August 1954 they were called to the ministry in Prices Creek district, serving the Lord together for 66 years until Daddy's passing on May 14, 2021. Mother was an energetic homemaker as she lovingly cared for her family. Mother was blessed with good health most of her life. She willingly cared for her Daddy and Mother in their sunset years.

Mother is survived by her children, daughter Donna (James) Oyler of Delphi, Indiana, son Wayne (Carolyn) of New Madison, Ohio, daughter Sylvia (Joe) Yoder of West Manchester, Ohio, son Gary (Lisa) of Lewisburg, Ohio, twins Donald (Michelle) of Eldorado, Ohio, Ronald (Sarah) of Eldorado, Ohio and daughter Dianne (Terry) Bowman of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania; 29 grandchildren; 87 great-grandchildren; 11 great-great-grandchildren; a brother, Marlin Filbrun; and sisters-in-law, Virginia Filbrun and Luella Knaus.

Mother was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; her in-laws, Lee and Alma Landes; brothers Eldin Filbrun, and Norman Filbrun; sister-in-law, Janice Filbrun; in-laws, Norman and Pauline Flory; brother-in-law, Donald Knaus; a grandson, Adam Landes; a great-grandson, Jordan Metzger; a great-granddaughter, Katelyn Miller.

After a short family service in the basement, the funeral was held at the Prices Creek meeting house on June 24, 2024, by the home brethren. Thoughts were shared from John 11:4 about Lazarus and his death being unto the glory of God, and also from Revelation 2:11 "...He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death," giving the family much comfort. Hymns sang were 549, 403, 303, 494 and 455. With fond memories of her servant heart, we laid our dear mother to rest in the Prices Creek cemetery, anticipating the marriage supper of the Lamb!

The Family

Terms

Subscriptions should be made through the congregational contact or through *The Testimony* office. Subscription price is \$20.00 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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