

“And I, brethren...came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you...

THE TESTIMONY

...of God. For I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ...” I Cor. 2:1–2

VERSE OF THE MONTH

*“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27*

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SING OF THE MIGHTY ONE!

“And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased; And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.” Matt. 14:35–36

When light divine had touched the hills by slumbering Galilee,
The golden wave then rolled afar towards the western sea.
And when the men had knowledge of The Holy One of God,
They journeyed forth through all the land and spread His fame abroad.

And when they brought the suffering ones, the lowly and the dear,
And laid them at the Healer’s feet, from far away and near,
They bent before the wondrous One, and earnestly besought
That they might only touch the hem around His garment wrought.

He heard the prayer, and gave the will, and strength to touch the hem,
And gave the faith, and virtue flowed from Him and healed them.
For everyone whose feeblest touch thus met the Saviour’s power,
Rose up in perfect health and strength in that accepted hour.

O, tender One, O, mighty One, who never sent away
The sinner or the sufferer, Thou art the same today.
The same in love, the same in power, and Thou art waiting still,
To heal the multitudes that come, yea, whosoever will.

O, sing of the loving One! O, sing of the healing One,
O, sing of the mighty One, Thou art the same today!

Frances Havergal — 1892

Hymn #233 in *Hymns of the Church*

THE TESTIMONY

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EDITORIAL

THE WAY OF PEACE HAVE THEY NOT KNOWN

Our heart aches as we read of the general state of mankind as described in the first chapter of Paul's letter to Rome. Many questions arise when we ponder the rapid digression of men and women in the earth since its beautiful beginning in Eden.

When so much has been given to the children of men by their loving and Blessed Creator, why the continual downward trend toward lawlessness and unbelief? Notice the sad and sobering description found in Romans 1:21-23. "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things." Romans 3 continues this indictment against humanity (Rom. 3:9-18). "What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with

their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes."

What a sad and deplorable state! What guilt is laid upon the race of men as they attempt to live out the lives that have been given to them by their God!

It may be that the most unfortunate result of their straying from the will of their Father is this declaration found in verse 17 of chapter 3. "...*the way of peace have they not known.*"

Men love peace perhaps more than any one thing, as they live together in families, communities, and nations. What a blessed state it is when men dwell together in peace, and in harmony! But when men choose their own way, and depart from the simple instructions of their God, their Creator, their unavoidable end is to experience a lack of peace.

PEACE IN THE HEART

What a blessing it is to be given peace through the saving Gospel of the Lord Jesus. Peace because of sins forgiven. Peace from the Spirit of God, dwelling within and guiding our lives. He is the Spirit of grace! And it is indeed by the grace of God that this peace is granted to His children. It is not our own. But what would it be to be without it! No peace within. No

rest in the heart. No assurance of a blessed end. No intimate knowledge of a Redeemer. Our heart yearns for the children of men who abide in unbelief. *“The way of peace have they not known.”*

PEACE IN THE FAMILY

The Lord is surely grieved as He looks down on the state of the family throughout the earth. That beautiful institution which was intended to be a picture of Christ and His Church has become a place where there is much sadness, grief, unfaithfulness, anger, disappointment, and betrayal.

Not everywhere, of course. Wherever the principles of love, forbearance, and self-sacrifice are being lived out, the family can still thrive and prosper, and there can be joy and gladness, faithfulness and peace.

Think of the joy that is lost when husbands or wives live selfishly, being dominate over others, insisting on their own way, being easily angry. Think of the loss of joy and hope when the way of the Lord is not known and experienced.

We pray often for the families of the earth who are suffering from division and sorrow, separation and divorce. The sorrows keep compounding as children are separated from parents and lose a sense of foundation and of belonging. We continue to pray, because *“the way of peace they do not know.”*

PEACE AMONG THE NATIONS

As we read of world conditions among the nations, and see the loss of lives, and loss of order, our hearts go out to all who are immersed in these ongoing conflicts.

“The way of the world” seems to be the oppression of others, attempting to be dominant, speaking arrogantly and critically of others, and standing ready to inflict harm to others who stand in the way of your own agenda, and never confessing mistakes in judgment. The hearts of the children of God yearn for these people. *“The way of peace have they not known.”*

THE WAY OF PEACE

The way of peace is found in God! It is found in faith in Christ Jesus, and in the way of righteousness. It comes by giving ourselves up entirely to the Lord and surrendering our wills to Him. Giving up our way and our desire for each moment and each day. It is found in esteeming others better than ourselves, as the Lord teaches through His servants. It enters our heart when we give our bodies as a living sacrifice. We cannot manufacture it or create it. The Lord Jesus has provided it.

As men die at the hands of each other, and as nations conquer and are conquered, may we, as the People of God, faithfully abide in the way God has provided for us. May we increase in the knowledge of God, and be at peace with God, and with each other.

We may be limited in our knowledge about many things in the earth. But through the Scriptures, and by the leading of the Spirit of our God, we should be able to say, *“The way of peace we know.”* It is the way of the Lord Jesus. He purchased it with His own blood.

Lowell Miller

GENERAL

BURNOUT

Dr. Vincent "John" Waldron, M.D.

The message was brief. "Dr. Waldron, would you call Mrs. Jones back about her labs?"

I was puzzled. I didn't remember ordering any labs for Mrs. Jones. As far as I could remember, she was seeing a specialist and just had surgery for colon cancer. Maybe they had ordered the labs. But if so, they certainly should have followed up on them.

I opened the chart and looked in the lab section. Quickly my eye went to my patient's kidney function and stopped. Her kidney function had declined a huge amount in the last week.

I called her and then her kidney specialist. Over the next half hour, her situation came into view. Because of her colon surgery, she was losing a lot of fluid, enough that she couldn't keep up. This, in turn, was making her kidney function a lot worse, along with dropping her potassium level.

To take care of it, she would need IV fluids—once or twice a week—to keep up with the fluids she was losing. Without that, her kidneys would shut down completely.

In a sense, Mrs. Jones was dealing with kidney burn-out; a situation where they were putting out

more than they were taking in and suffering as a result.

As I was thinking about this, my mind went to the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea is "Dead" because it has such a high level of minerals and salts that very few, other than a few microorganisms, can survive.

The reason for this is that the Dead Sea has no outlet. The Jordan River drains into it, carrying fresh water, and then sits in a basin. Some of the water evaporates, and what remains are the salts and minerals in the water.

Over the thousands of years since the fall of Sodom and Gomorrah, this inland body of water has become one of the saltiest places on earth. It is a body of water that is neither useful for irrigation nor a place where plants and animals can thrive.

Neither situation is healthy, yet this is exactly how most people live their lives, typically gravitating towards one pole or the other. Either they fill their schedule to the maximum, leaving no time for quiet reflection, or they resist any efforts to get them to invest their time and talents and avoid these sorts of activities.

I want to spend a little time thinking about burnout. What causes it, and how can we avoid it?

EVERYONE HAS LIMITS

I Samuel 30 tells the story of David returning to Ziklag. Upon his arrival, he discovered, to his dismay, that the Amalekites had invaded Philistine territory, burned the town, and taken captive all the people who were present.

David and his men had been gone three days and were already tired from their journey to and from Aphek, where King Agag had mustered his forces. Despite this and their anguish at the loss of their family members and material possessions, David consulted God and decided to pursue the Amalekites out into the desert.

They had only gone as far as the Brook Besor when a third of his men gave up. Scripture tells us they were “too faint” to cross the brook. They were physically and mentally exhausted. Even if they had been able to hold things together for another day, they would be useless in battle.

So it was that David left them behind and continued to pursue the Amalekites, eventually defeating them with the four hundred men who were able to persevere.

Here, we come to the interesting part. The men who had won the victory looked down on the men who had been faint. They said those faint-hearted men could have their families back, but all the spoil would be reserved for

those who had won the victory.

In response, David said, “Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand. For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike” (I Sam. 30:23, 24).

David did not wish to penalize those who had tried but did not have the strength to make it through to the final battle.

Perhaps this speaks of the grace we ought to extend to others who don’t have the strength or energy to continue for a season. Maybe it lets us know that we should extend that same grace to ourselves.

WHAT IS BURNOUT?

There are different definitions for burnout, but it all comes down to a state of physical, mental, or emotional exhaustion related to too much stress over an extended period of time. We tend to think of this stress as work-related. There are too many projects going on at once, not enough help, or an employer who has high expectations.

Stress is stress, and it all adds up. Even if work isn’t stressful, if you have a newborn baby at home, a family member with dementia, or many church responsibilities, you can still reach the place where

you have little left to give.

It is as though you are in a vehicle traveling 90 mph, and you push the accelerator a little harder, and nothing happens. In response, you push the gas pedal even harder, and a screeching noise comes from the engine. Suddenly, the dashboard lights up with funny lights, and the car starts to slow down.

The question is, how can we avoid burnout, and what should we do if we realize that we are heading towards it?

UNDERSTANDING BURNOUT

Burnout leads to both physical and emotional depletion. The problem with burnout is that even if a particular stressor causes it—say, a situation at work or a family health problem—it will affect numerous other relationships.

People dealing with burnout often exhibit symptoms consistent with depression and anxiety. They may become withdrawn, lack motivation to be involved with church and family activities, or get angry quicker than people who are not dealing with burnout.

There is even a suggestion that burnout can lead to the weakening of our immune systems. This could lead to more colds and viral infections.

IDENTIFY EARLY SIGNS

We need to know ourselves. There are signs that other people

can see in our lives and how we relate to others that we don't necessarily identify as a problem.

People who are on the edge of burnout feel hopeless. They may hide it from their coworkers, but often, their family members realize that something is wrong. You used to have a sunny disposition, and now you are discouraged, not only about the present but also the future.

You might lack motivation and have low energy levels. In a sense, you are going through the motions and just doing enough to get by—both at work and in your home. This is likely related to your feelings of hopelessness.

You may find that you are more irritable than you used to be. Little things bother or aggravate you, and you find yourself smothering angry retorts.

It is important to realize that you are heading down this road for several reasons. First, you are not the only one who suffers when you are burned out. Your family must deal with you and your "grumpiness." Also, the longer you go without taking care of things, the harder it is to get back to a place of balance.

As a physician, I see people all the time who "didn't have time" to get something taken care of until they could no longer ignore it. At this point, it will take a major procedure to set things right. It would

have been easier to correct if they came in with the first symptom.

MAKE A PRIORITY LIST

Everything in our life has a priority level. People who do not prioritize end up feeling scattered as they try to do everything at once. This is a recipe for disaster. To me, it makes sense to divide our tasks into four buckets:

1. Things that need to be done relatively quickly
2. Things that need to be done but can wait a bit
3. Things that we'd like to do, but don't need to
4. Things that we should let go of.

Here might be a good place to mention that just because something needs to be done does not mean you need to do it. Sometimes, someone in your home or workplace could help with one of the tasks on your to-do list.

Once we have made our priority list, we need to do something about it. If you simply assign a priority to everything in your life but continue to try to do everything, it won't help your situation at all.

The point of this exercise is to figure out what things you can eliminate from your schedule, so you have more space to breathe.

Make First Things First

One of the things that happens when we are overwhelmed is that we stop doing self-care. We grab

unhealthy food on the go, stop spending time in prayer and devotions, and quit exercising.

Doing these things takes time, and that is exactly what we think we don't have when we are living on the margins of our energy. Self-care is extremely important but often gets assigned a priority of zero and is seldom included in a day's activity.

As we begin to replenish our spiritual nourishment, we must also make sure we take care of our physical health.

Take Time Apart

After feeding the multitudes, Mark 6:46 tells of Jesus, "And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray." Even Jesus had times when He needed to be alone without distractions.

It is easy to focus on the prayer aspect of this passage, and that is important, but let's focus on the solitary aspect of this experience. Jesus even left His closest followers behind during this time of seeking God's face.

There are times when we need to escape from the pressure of human interactions and find a peaceful place where we can be alone.

Put Down Technology

Part of making rest time truly restful is to eliminate sources of distraction. Phones and electronic tablets are exactly the types of

things that can keep our minds from achieving the peace (shalom) that we both desire and need.

Digital burnout is a new term that is being used to describe people who feel apathetic and exhausted from spending hours each day staring at screens. Many workers spend seven or eight hours a day looking at computer screens and then get even more screen time after work.

The funny thing is that the most productive workers are often people who use old-fashioned things like paper calendars and leave phones out of meetings. As wonderful as phones are, they are also immensely distracting for most of us.

So often, we have time away that is simply not restful. The reason is that we continue to receive texts and emails and can still access social media. If you are not someone who can put his phone away and ignore it (it takes a lot of willpower to do this), then leave your phone in another room and create some distance. This will seem stressful, but we can focus on recharging ourselves by creating a screen-free zone.

Build Breaks into Your Day

There is a certain amount of work that must be done each day, and it often feels like too much for the allotted 24 hours. There is certainly no time to stop, stretch, and take a five-minute walk, or at

least that's what we tell ourselves.

In reality, if you take a five-minute break every few hours to do something non-work related, you will come back refreshed and more ready to deal with the problems of the day.

Do something healthy during this time. Take a short walk or eat an apple. Chowing down a bag of potato chips or eating a couple candy bars is not likely to produce the desired results.

The problem is often with our own expectations. People who struggle with burnout often have extremely high personal standards and get frustrated when they not measure up to that standard.

Be Intentional about Rest

One of the messages of the Old Testament was the importance of the Sabbath. I have heard many people argue that in the New Testament period, we no longer need to practice the Sabbath. Didn't Paul say that one day was like the other? Didn't Jesus defend His disciples for picking grain on the Sabbath?

Regardless of what you believe about the importance of keeping the Sabbath, it is still important that we take time to rest. This is the real message that Jesus was conveying when He said that "The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath" (Mark 2:27).

Rest is not simply sleeping till 10 A.M. and then doing nothing. Rest is actively making decisions that will help us recharge our depleted batteries. Go out for breakfast with a friend, take a hike, or take a good book and go somewhere without cell service, and focus on something other than situations that are depleting you.

Jesus understood the human need for rest, this is why He told His disciples “Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while” (Mark 6:31). This time of rest would give them energy for their next time of ministry.

Don't Buy into Myths

People tell themselves all sorts of lies that can lead to pushing themselves too hard. I'll list a few of them and some thoughts about each one.

“I'm the only one who can do this task.”

This feels true. The other people in our home or workplace are not helping us the way we wish that they would. Sometimes, it simply feels easier to do the task ourselves rather than spend time teaching someone else how to do it. We need to remember that if we died, the people around us would figure out how to get things done. We can assign them some of the tasks today before we die.

“If I just get this job done today, tomorrow will be easier.”

I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but each day has 24 hours,

and somehow, they always get filled up. I have given up the idea that there is a time in my life coming up soon that will have nothing on the schedule. If a rest comes, it will come because I have made an effort to clear my schedule, not because by some random occurrence, one day, I happen to not have a single task in it.

“God will never give me more than I can handle.”

God has promised many things. He has promised that when there is a temptation, He will give us an opportunity to escape it (I Cor. 10:13). He has also promised that He will never leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5). I do not read anywhere in Scripture that God will keep us from overfilling our lives. He has simply promised that He will give us opportunity to take a different path and will walk beside us on our way.

So often the heavy load we carry is because other people, or even we, ourselves, have put too many things on our task list. Suppose I choose to put too many patients on my schedule and I am feeling exhausted. In that case, it is time for me to take responsibility for what I have done, rather than claiming a mythical promise that God will keep me from overwhelming myself.

“These are all good things that I am doing!”

Doctors face this a lot. We want to squeeze one more patient into

the schedule and stay just a little later to answer another message because we feel responsible. We hate to think that someone might need to go to the Emergency Department because we did not take care of them when they needed help.

Just because the things in your schedule are “good things” that benefit other people and are building the kingdom, does not mean that you don’t need to cut back in one area or another. If you are feeling emotionally depleted, it is probably time to remove a few items from your to-do list.

Conclusion

There are other things that could be mentioned. Getting support from someone else, meditating on Scripture, and even taking a vacation are all things that can help.

When I read about some of the famous preachers of the past, I see in some of their lives a roller coaster. They pushed themselves to the max, got involved in large numbers of projects, and then had an emotional breakdown. They would take some time off and, a month or two later, launch back into the same activities. This cycle continued for their whole ministry.

Jesus tells us that His yoke is easy, and His burden is light (Matt. 11:28–30). If we are at the point of exhaustion, we need to consider whether we have Jesus’

yoke or if we are laboring under the burden of our own creation.

Jesus knows our limitations. He wants us to have balance, living in such a way that we not only have strength for today but also for tomorrow, next week, and next year—till He comes again.

Selected from *The Heartbeat of the Remnant* (Winter 2023)

by the Editor

SIGNS

There were signs in the days of old. There are signs today, and there will be signs tomorrow. Signs were placed in heaven at creation and will be evident in heaven at God’s final judgment. Signs, Signs, everywhere there are signs. Some are good signs, and some not so good. When you’re driving down the freeway, and you’re hungry and tired, you welcome the many signs of restaurants, etc. Travelling on I-75 in Oakland County, Michigan, there’s a sign of faith, which is a towering portrait of Jesus, 50 feet tall. Below the huge picture of Jesus it reads, “Are you on the right road?” Travelers say that this has been a beacon and inspiration for them. It is more than just a sign. It preaches to 43,000 drivers as they zip by it each day!

Also traveling on I-70 in Effingham County, Illinois, there is a big

tall cross that is just projecting up out of nowhere. It can be seen from miles away and reminds us of how Great and High and Holy our Saviour really is. **Signs, signs;** everywhere there are **signs!** Luke 2:10–12 says, “And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

The main **sign** that Jesus gave us to verify and give His approval of His life and death here on earth, was that God raised Him up from the dead in three days (Matt. 12:40).

Signs are more directional in nature than chronological. They tell us which way, rather than what time.

What about this **sign**? You have heard the phrase, **“Signs of the times.”** A while ago one of our ministers said, “It seems the majority of society today is going pell-mell to hell!” II Timothy 3:2–4 says, “For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of

those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God...” Matthew 24:3 says, “And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?” Jesus answered them and gave some description in the 37th through the 39th verses, “But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

Genesis 6:5 says, “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.” While we should be very careful not to make a large general judgment of condemnation on all of society around us, do we not see this **sign** today?

God is not the author of confusion. So this tells us that the deceiver, the adversary, the devil, Satan, IS the author of confusion, and he walks about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (I Pet. 5:8).

Is your name found written in the book of life? Or are you one of many, on the wrong road. Matthew 7:13 says, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat..."

But wait! It's still not too late! Like the old railroad sign said, "**STOP**, **LOOK**, and **LISTEN!**" If you are consumed with the pleasures of this world, just **STOP** for a moment and take a long **LOOK** at your life, and read and **LISTEN** to the Word of God Almighty! Then make that ultimate change! That's how the words of Friend Jesus become music to our ears, more and more.

When the words of men came to discourage Jesus from His mission, He said, "Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall

reward every man according to his works" (Matt. 16:23-27). He is come to save that which was lost. "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh" (Matt. 24:44).

After our Saviour Jesus Christ was risen, He told His disciples (Mark 16:15) "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues..." (Mark 16:17).

Then after His ascension into Heaven, "...they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following." It is my interpretation through Webster that the purpose of confirming the Word with signs is to keep one's attention and give divine proof to believers (like us), and signs are a notice or gesture giving direction or warning to all mankind. **Signs**, **signs**; everywhere there are **signs!**

John the Revelator reveals this striking scene in the Revelation 15:1-3: "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over

the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.”

L.D. Flory

THE FIFTH KINGDOM, IRON MIXED WITH MIRY CLAY

“And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.” Dan. 2:43

This is the description of the fifth kingdom Nebuchadnezzar saw in a dream and the interpretation given by Daniel was that it would be partly strong and partly broken and not cleave together.

Mankind has gotten himself in a fix. Propaganda has a way of doing that. By definition it is misleading information, and it doesn't take much before people don't know what to believe and grow suspicious of manipulation. Of course the only way of reversing it is the truth. Unfortunately, as the old saying goes “A lie can travel half-way around the world while truth

is putting on its shoes.” In other words lies are believed and spread more rapidly than truth.

The mind needn't wander far to see the deceptions of the day, from who is what, to where they came from when. If you can't do biblical math, you will have some variation of evolution, or even creation, and if you don't have a grasp of honest procreation, you'll be confused in a hurry. It isn't any wonder with all the theory, choice, and invention that the fifth earthly kingdom won't cleave together. It can't figure out what to agree on except perhaps that we must do something. I have seen and sat in meetings of great discussion and mighty ideas, but not much more than talk gets done. Anything to avoid actual work which would have taken half the time. Seems that we are at a point of trying to mix iron with clay.

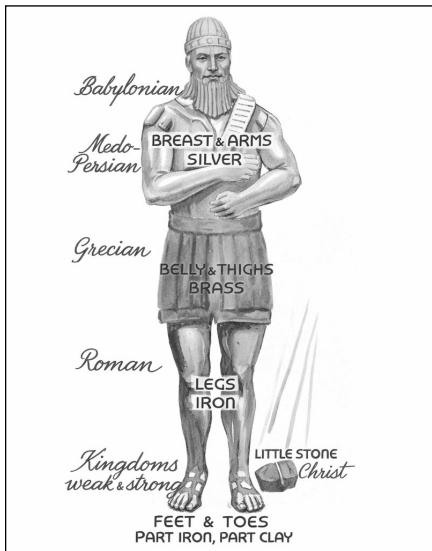
Of a long time man has been skilled with new knees and hips. The pacemaker has been around since 1960. We have transplants and implants. Several years ago a magazine did a photo of all that can be replaced and it was astonishing.

I just spoke with a classmate the other evening, and last winter he had both rotator cuffs and a knee fixed like ordinary farm maintenance on his farm. If that is not enough, consider all the devices beyond the body we use to save

labor. Even the army wants to eliminate the soldier and use drone warfare. But what if we could mix iron and clay?

There is still the problem of rejection. The body can detect an interloper, something that doesn't belong there. The need for anti-rejection drugs is still necessary. But what if the mind could be persuaded? It can be.

Doctors have known for years about nerve blockers to control pain, how to use a mirror to control the phantom pain when a limb



is lost or for a stroke. Now they are using computers to enhance prosthesis and give a person nearly normal motor skills. With the downsizing of cameras, chips, and instruments surgery can be done by hardly opening the body. I was amazed to visit a doctor who did surgery without any physical ex-

amination. All of it was scanned or robotic, and he sent me home the same day. In bygone years one would have spent a week hospitalized with much uncomfortable poking and looking.

Google Glass was supposed to be the new dimension of knowledge. It was discontinued in 2015 due to price and didn't work well. Basically it was a pair of glasses linked to the internet. A person had the ability to do this with a handheld device via voice activation on a smart phone or a smart watch but with Google Glass the information would display on the back side to the glasses for the wearer to read. Tap the touch pad running from the temple to your ear and screens would display with the user tapping the one of choice.

I never saw a pair used but they probably would have been as disruptive and distracting as someone using hands-free ear buds or their hearing aids, and answering their phone which, because it is closest and loudest, demands and usually gets attention over a person standing a couple of feet from you speaking. Fact is that while some things can be done at the same time, like thinking and speaking, or listening and reading, the same two things, speaking on a phone and with another person, or listening to people speaking simultaneously cannot. Driving

and using Google Glass was dangerous. Today we have hands free voice activated GPS and laws requiring it. Listen and drive (ears and eyes), but don't read and drive (eyes and eyes).

We are now conditioned to listen and do, and it's why people first had a problem with driving directions and GPS. The problem is who are you listening to, are they correct? The devil has breached what John Bunyan referred to as Pilgrim's Ear Gate a long time ago in the garden, but it is much worse now. Your local Walmart is no longer blasting Ear Gate when you enter the store it starts in the parking lot. Have you pumped gas in silence lately? In any public place is there much silence? At what point is it overload and does it contribute to things like dementia or autism? We already know noise worsens a brain injury. Most of us, if we think about it, have ringing ears after we've been in even the best of large loud crowds. In fact, there are now noise canceling earphones.

What if you could implant a hearing device that could accommodate our every command to amplify or hush somewhat like the Cochlear Implant we already have?

The eye is an amazing thing of lens, light, color, and without turning the head, a normal range of vision is 120 degrees (roughly your outstretched arms), but dam-

age to the optic nerve changes all of that. We see as much with the brain as we do with the eye.

We are a long way from knowing all about the brain, but more and more, vision and brain are being fooled. Holography, a three-dimensional image, was invented in 1948, and the first time I saw it demonstrated it gave me the creeps. Years later in a local museum I stood in front of a mannikin dressed like Orville Wright using holography and audio recordings listening to his voice tell how the Wright flyer worked. Even the eyes moved in a somewhat natural way. It gave me the chills. Last summer we took grandchildren to the Ark, and through animatronics, life like robots, they could ask Noah some prescribed questions via computer screen. The devil is having a heyday with all the technology, and COVID lockdown put it in the home via the school and workforce. There is no going back from virtual meaning "nearly as described but not complete or according to strict definition." In other words, not quite, but almost actual.

Fiat currency is declared legal tender by a government but has no intrinsic or fixed value and is not backed by any tangible asset such as gold or silver. For all intents and purposes most nations are operating in this manner. The right wrong person can flip the switch quicker than we want to

consider. A few weeks ago I stopped at a local fast-food restaurant, looked on the wall behind a single unmanned register to order, and saw...nothing. I waited. I waited longer. Finally someone came and I asked if they were remodeling as there was no menu. "Oh, we did a while ago. We have the kiosk now but I can take your order." Well, quite a number of things ran through my mind: was cash still good, and for how much longer? I laughed at the thought of five children choosing a meal from the kiosk, and the total bill when they touch everything they see, and the line behind the machine waiting while a parent corrected that. Ah, I thought, iron and clay do not mix well. Add to this the lazy or time and money-saving ways of men, and you have the A.I. Bot (Artificial Intelligence Robot), which will, via chat, answer your questions or solve a problem much quicker. This technology scares even the inventors. Where will it end? With what is called "singularity," and iron stronger than clay? I doubt it will get that far, not because it can't be done, but because if the Lord doesn't return no man would be saved alive. The devil may want to destroy it all, but God is building a new and better kingdom. The stone cut out without hands is going to smite them all. They will be broken in pieces, blown away with the wind like chaff of the summer threshing floors, that no place will

be found for them. And the stone which smites them all will become a great mountain filling the whole earth. It has already begun. If you don't think so, tell me...

Oh where are kings and empires now,
 Of old that went and came?
 The church of Christ is praying yet,
 A thousand years the same
 Mark ye her holy battlements
 And her foundations strong;
 And hear within, the solemn voice,
 And her unending song.
 For not like kingdoms of the world,
 The holy church of God!
 Though earthquake shocks are
 rocking her
 And tempests are abroad.
 Unshaken as eternal hills,
 Immovable she stands—
 A mountain that shall fill the earth
 A fane unbuilt by hands.

Don't let the propaganda get you. We are no better than ever; all the threats and grandiose ideas are only fears and imaginations of men. Don't spend your strength in vain but rather for the future. "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" (I Cor. 2:9). A city in Neom, Tabuk Province, Saudi Arabia, called The Line is utopian. A city called Jerusalem already exists.

Rachel Brubaker

Thoughts from a Sermon:

DEATH

We picture death as coming to destroy, but let us picture it rather as Christ coming to save.

We think of death as ending, but let us rather think of it as life beginning, and that more abundantly!

We think of death as losing, but let us think of it rather as gaining.

We think of death as parting; let us think of it rather as meeting.

We think of death as going away, but think of it as arriving, and as the voice of death whispers, "You must go from earth," may we hear the voice of Christ saying, "You are but coming to me."

AliceMae Haney

MEDITATIONS

Youth—a time to live life, explore horizons, and seek God's will.

Don't say God doesn't speak if your Bible lies there unopened.

A hedge controls what comes in and also what goes out.

Life is a battleground. It is not a playground.

I prayed for more faith. I received a trial.

An idle person makes a capable sinner.

There is no hope without promise.

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 sermon notes above on **death** cause us to think of other areas of life where we may be tempted to have a wrong perspective.

There are usually several ways to think about each event or place God brings us through.

Questions we can ask ourselves:

1. When I am given an unpleasant task, do I find myself being resentful and bitter? Or can I see God strengthening me through trial?
2. When I suffer a loss of any kind,

am I inclined to pity myself, or to see God's loving hand still caring for me and sustaining me?

3. As Satan battles for my soul, what direction does he want my thoughts to go in each hardship?

4. If I am given special favors, do I feel lifted up in pride? Or simply thankful, thinking how I might use this to bless others?

5. Is my family a great blessing to me? Or a continual burden?

6. Do I see God as good, always?

GENERAL ITEMS

BAPTISMS

Jan. 19, 2026; Lower Twin, OH
Kezia Brubaker
Jan. 23, 2026; Cascade Valley, WA
(Guerrero, Mexico)
Judah and Ana Wagoner

NEW MEMBERS

Jan. 10, 2026; Mtn. View Brethren, ID
Ben and Heidi Cook

COMMISSIONS

Jan. 17, 2025; Mt. Zion, PA
Alex Leshner (with wife Jaima)
Called to the office of Deacon

COMMUNION NOTICES

Mar. 14, 2026..... Dallas, OR
Mar. 21, 2026..... Mt. Zion, PA
Mar. 21, 2026..... Sugar Grove, OH
Mar. 28, 2026..... Morning Star, OH
Apr. 4, 2026 Modesto, CA
Apr. 11, 2026 Cascade Valley, WA
Apr. 11, 2026 Cutler Ridge, IN
Apr. 11, 2026 Fair Haven, KS
Apr. 11, 2026 Salem, OH
Apr. 18, 2026 Olive Branch, OH
Apr. 18, 2026 Shiloh, OH
Apr. 25, 2026 Bear Creek, OH
Apr. 25, 2026 Caldwell, ID
June 7, 2026 .. A.M. @ I.W.U., Marion, IN
June 27, 2026Mtn. View Brethren, ID
Sept. 26, 2026 Pleasant View, OH
Oct. 10, 2026..... Lower Twin, OH
Oct. 10, 2026..... Zillah, WA
Oct. 17, 2026.....Maple Grove, OH
Oct. 24, 2026.....Stillwater, OH
Oct. 31, 2026.....Bethel, OH
Oct. 31, 2026..... Columbia River, WA
Nov. 7, 2026..... Covington, OH

HARVEST MEETINGS

June 28, 2026 Pleasant View, OH
July 12, 2026 Lower Twin, OH
July 19, 2026 Bethel, OH
July 26, 2026 Shiloh, OH
Aug. 2, 2026..... Maple Grove, OH
Aug. 9, 2026.. Covington/Sugar Grove, OH
Aug. 23, 2026.....Stillwater, OH
Aug. 30, 2026..... Salem, OH
Sept. 20, 2026..... Bear Creek, OH

CONFERENCE COMMUNION

Lord willing, we anticipate a Communion Service on Sunday, June 7, at 4:00 P.M. which will be held during our Annual Conference June 6–9 at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana.

I Corinthians 11:26, “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come.”

On behalf of the 2026 Committee of Arrangements,

Dean Brovont, Secretary

DISTRICT NOTICES

LIVING EPISTLE

With a desire to enlarge the witness and influence of the Gospel along with expanding the network of districts in the Southwest, the local brotherhood at Living Epistle has been prayerfully taking steps towards another church plant. At this point we have established a preliminary group to send to the work and are narrowing down potential locations. We seek an interest in your prayers for discernment of open and closed doors; that God will be glorified in every way through this effort.

In behalf of the church,

Galen Flory

POEMS

ALL SHALL BE WELL

This world is forlorn and pretty sad,
 And if this is all there were,
 If we were all born, and hoped to
 be glad,
 But found that we must endure—
 That we must endure a host of hurts
 And a trove of trouble too,
 And just when we thought
 We had got on top,
 Our troubles would start anew,

And if this life were all there were,
 Then I am pretty sure,
 I would think this pain were had
 in vain,
 And hardly worthwhile to endure.
 But I've heard it said and I know
 it's true,
 That beyond this world of woe,
 Is another place where all is new,
 And where all the just shall go,
 So I press to the goal with heart
 and soul,
 For I know I shall reach it then,
 Where all shall be well,
 And all shall be well,
 And all shall be well again.

In that gladsome land all hurts
 are healed,
 And all woes are wiped away.
 There we'll understand the truth
 revealed,
 And all will be home to stay.
 In that heavenly place with un-
 veiled face,
 I shall know and shall be known
 then,
 And all shall be well,
 For all shall be well,
 And all shall be well, Amen.

Philip Hess
 State College, PA

COMPARISON

We see not from earth the City
 Celestial,
 Where "nothing defileth or maketh
 a lie";
 But we view with awe and with wonder
 The azure hue of a limitless sky.

We tread not the street of golden
 splendor
 Where the ransomed walk in vestments
 of white;
 But through ways o'ershadowed by
 swaying branches,
 Where the sun sifts down its golden
 light.

We hear not the harps and songs of
 the angels,
 In anthems resound to heaven's
 high spires;
 But songs that float o'er woodland
 and meadows—
 The joyful hymns of our feathered
 choirs.

We stoop not to drink of the pure
 crystal river—
 The water of life which proceed
 from the throne;
 But how grand are the streams and
 sky-mirrored lakelets—
 And vast, billowy oceans with
 waves of foam.

We breathe not the scent of the viol
 of sweet odors—
 The prayers of the saints ascended
 to God;
 But beautiful flowers with fragrance
 and beauty,
 Pour out their sweetness from this
 earthly sod.

We mingle not with the white-robed
legions,
With golden crowns on their living
brows;
But with the good of the earth, the
wise and the noble—
We are joined as one in holy vows.

Though we see not here the glories
celestial,
The jeweled walls and arches
high;
But the birds and flowers, the val-
leys and woodlands—
The rivers and mountains, the
oceans and sky.

But when the glories terrestrial
are faded,
And the sun sinks forever in the
distant West,
We'll live in the light of His daz-
zling brightness,
And behold His beauties in the
City of Rest.

Miriam E. Mohler

PRAYER FOR ZEAL

Janice Etter

Give me a heart that burns and
burns,
A soul whose very fiber yearns
A mind whose thinking ever turns
O God, to thoughts of Thee.
Give me a thirst to know Thy will,
A hunger man can never fill,
Thy Word to chasten me until
It's truth has set me free.

Pour out Thy spirit like a flood,
Uproot my sins before they bud.
I've not resisted unto blood,
But feebly and in part.
Give me a road that climbs up higher,
Give me love like a flaming fire.
Oh, Father, may this strong desire
Keep burning in my heart.

— Selected

YOU AND PREACHING

There isn't a word that a preacher
can say,
No matter how lovely or true,
Nor is there a prayer that his eager
lips pray,
That can preach such a sermon as you.
You vow to serve Christ and people
heard you,
They are watching the things that
you do:
There isn't one action of yours that
is hidden,
Men are watching and studying you.
You say you're no preacher? Yes,
but you preach
A powerful sermon each day.
The acts of your life are the things
that you teach.
It isn't the things that you say.
So Christians remember you're
bearing HIS name.
Your lives are for others to view,
You are living examples, men praise
you, or blame,
And measure all Christians by you.

Author unknown

Selected by

Lenora Oyler
Quincy, PA

HIS WILL—OUR WILL

Circumstances come and circumstances go,
 And 'oft we wonder why;
 But, really we should not even question Him,
 Or even loudly sigh!

HIS WILL with kindness, has been gently laid out,
 'Tis plain for us to see;
 Our will needs conquered as we accept HIS WILL,
 There's no other way to be.

And if we let Him help us conquer our will,
 No matter what our lot;
 HIS WILL is far better than ours ever will be,
 This is what we've been taught!

Tom and Betty Eller
 Cleveland, GA

EACH AND EVERY DAY

Each and every day, I wake up and I pray,
 Thank you, Jesus, for this precious day.
 I listen for you Lord, to guide me in your way,
 I spend time in your presence each and every day.

It's through this earthly place surrounded by your grace,
 You hold my right hand and guide me in my race.
 My goal, sweet Jesus, is to meet you face to face.
 Each and every day I wake up and I pray.

Thank you, Jesus, for this precious day.
 Through my struggles, Lord, you teach me,
 I want to learn your way.
 I thank God for Jesus each and every day.

Unwise decisions, I've made more than a few,
 How could I think I knew better than you?
 From my lack of understanding I grow closer to you,
 I want to trust you, Lord, in everything I do.

Each and every day I wake up and I pray,
 Thank you, Jesus, for this precious day.
 I hope and I pray you will show me your way,
 I thank God for Jesus each and every day.

— *Author Unknown*

Selected by

Nancy Sullenberger
 Arcanum, OH

OBITUARIES

SILVERS – Alan Christian “Chris” was born on March 17, 1947, at Quinter, Kansas.

He departed this life on November 17, 2025, at Meadow Vista, California, at the age of 78.

He was the son of Arthur and Annie (Boone) Silvers. Also the brother of Carolyn (Wayne) Fisher and Joan Lee (Fred) Benedict.

He was baptized at an early age.

He spent most of his life in California.

We leave him in the hands of a kind and loving Heavenly Father.

The Family

BARNES – Daniel Allen was born May 16, 1957. He came into our life in the summer of 2019 when I received a call from him inquiring about the need for the largest tree we had. He wanted shade at his caregivers’ home for her back patio deck.

A few questions evolved into at least a 30 minute conversation and we learned he had been a quadriplegic since October 1978. He was only 21 years old at the time. From that conversation, an interesting friendship resulted, with him being able to attend our worship services here at Columbia River a couple of times and calling in to listen to our services almost every Sunday the last few years.

During a convalescent time a couple of years ago our brethren agreed to have his funeral and

burial in our cemetery, if and when that time came. The time came Sunday afternoon, December 28, 2025.

The experience was a blessing to our congregation.

Everett Wray

Daniel was adopted as an infant by Samuel and Barbara Barnes. He spent the early part of his life in El Centro, California, until age six when his father passed. Afterwards, he moved with his mother and sister to Long Beach, California.

In 1965, he was baptized in a Lutheran church in Long Beach. During Junior High School, Daniel was baptized again at Bethany Baptist Church in Long Beach California. In 1970 his mother married William Davis, who became Daniel’s stepfather until his passing. Daniel graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1975 and in the fall began attending Long Beach City College.

On December 24, 1975, Daniel married Kathleen at Bethany Baptist Church. They were later divorced.

During a backpacking trip in October 1978, Daniel experienced a life-changing accident which left him a quadriplegic.

Before he was paralyzed, Daniel bodysurfed, swam competitively and played water polo in High School. He was an avid outdoorsman and spent much of his time back packing and rock climbing. He volunteered in high school at the Veterans Administration

Hospital as an orderly and continued to work as an orderly at St. Mary's Hospital in Long Beach while attending Long Beach City College.

After the accident, he went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles, and a Master of Science in Health Psychology from the University of California, San Francisco, in the 1980's.

He founded and directed a non-profit company, from which he counseled AIDS patients and partnered with retreats to include work with the Dali Lama. He was interested in conscious living and dying and studied with Stephen and Ondrea Levene. Daniel was a man with broad interests, and he contributed to many people via retreats and counseling. Daniel had a dry quick wit his entire life. He was brilliant at developing successful companies that helped thousands of people and saved cities/counties significant tax-payer dollars.

After the accident, Daniel identified as a Buddhist. But in the last years of his life, Daniel returned to the Christian faith of his youth.

Daniel was a wonderful, extraordinary brother who encouraged Marisa and others to get excited about learning of travel, history, religions, and politics; he always pointing out new things. Marisa learned patience, and the joy of being physically and mentally able to take care of him, which enabled him to visit her and her family in

Long Beach and even Idaho.

Because of Daniel's interest in others, he made friends and acquaintances easily. An attentive listener, people did not seem to give a great deal of attention to his wheelchair existence, often attracted by his peaceful personality, wit, intelligence, kindness, beaming smile and animated hands and arms when he talked.

In 2006, when Roxana came to care for him, Daniel became a family man at age 48.

With careful attention to the wellbeing of each of the four children he had just met, Daniel challenged and encouraged Joshua, Chloe, Hannah, and Samuel. His relentless pursuit of them was a very big part of shaping their young lives. By demonstrating courage and perseverance despite his own hardships, and by sharing godly wisdom, Daniel strove to prepare them for their life in the future.

Though Daniel wandered, God, in His abiding love and infinite grace, empowered Daniel to love and lead the family He provided. "For the LORD giveth wisdom; out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding" (Prov. 2:6).

Daniel was preceded in death by his adored beloved mother Barbara Barnes and his adored father Samuel Barnes.

Daniel's sister, Marisa; nephews, Shaun and Ryan; "Cousins" Glenda and Betsy Barnes; the wife of his youth, Kathleen; Joshua, Chloe, Hannah, Samuel, and Roxana join in gratitude for God's gift of His son Daniel.

A Funeral Service was held on

Sunday, January 4, 2026, at 10:00 A.M., followed by a Grave-side Service, both at the Columbia River District, Old German Baptist Brethren Church, New Conference, Pasco, Washington.

Family and Caregiver

BOONE — Sherman Aretas, 84, was born on November 2, 1941, in Modesto, California, to Dr. Aretas and Edna Boone. He passed peacefully from this life into the arms of Jesus on January 10, 2026.

Sherman was the firstborn and proud big brother to five siblings. His childhood was marked by frequent moves as his father pursued a medical degree, along with the hard work required to help support the family through wheat harvests. Sherman especially treasured the time spent working alongside his cousins during those harvest seasons.

In December 1957, Sherman was involved in a serious automobile accident while traveling to a Young Folks Christmas caroling event. Following a long recovery, he received Christ as his Savior and was baptized into the Old German Baptist Church on May 4, 1958. He remained a faithful member of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church, and the New Conference, for the rest of his life.

Sherman graduated from Downey High School in June 1959. During his senior year, his artistic talent was recognized when one of his drawings was selected for the cover of the Modesto Symphony Season program, earning him a \$25 U.S. Savings Bond. Through-

out his life, he continued to use his creativity to design and build projects for the farm, their home, and for his daughters.

After high school, Sherman served in Civilian Public Service in Southern California. In 1963, he met the love of his life, Arlene Hyre, at the Indiana Annual Meeting on his uncle Donald Brubaker's farm. They were married on July 18, 1964, and in April 1965 settled in Denair, California, where they raised four daughters. In July 2025, they celebrated 61 years of marriage.

Sherman was an innovative and versatile farmer, working with peaches, walnuts, chickens, almonds, custom farming, and harvesting. Later, he obtained his real estate license, combining his love for farming and people by helping others buy and sell property.

He served with numerous community organizations, including the Denair Fire Department, Modesto Christian School Board, and RCSD Board, among others that strengthened the local community. Sherman believed deeply in the value of community and was actively involved in his church. He especially cherished Family Camp, where his family enjoyed summers filled with skits, activities, and treasured memories.

Sherman was well known for his love of hosting—hayrides, roller skating in the barn, and pit barbecues were among the favorites. While not a gifted singer, he loved music and attending church singings. He was known for his generous spirit, kind smile, and mischie-

vous sense of humor. Sherman enjoyed a good prank and was always willing to be the butt of the joke. He often said it took a special man to be a “girl dad,” a statement his daughters wholeheartedly affirm.

Sherman’s legacy is one of faith, family, and community. He will be remembered for his storytelling, his laughter, and his steadfast love for those around him.

He is survived by his wife, Arlene Boone; his children Brian and Brenda Miller, Beth, Gary and Becky Austin, and Doug and Betsy Cockrell; six grandchildren, Grant Miller, Avery (Julianne) Austin, Allie (Nate) Case, Audrey Cockrell, Kirstin Cockrell, and Taylor Cockrell; and five great-grandchildren, Emmie Austin, Levi Austin, Laney Austin, Bodie Austin, and Boone Case. He is also survived by his siblings Sharon Lavy, Marilyn (Marion) Rogers, Danielle (Sam) Wray, and Gordon Boone; his sisters-in-law Myra Coleman and Dottie Hyre; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Pat Helmuth; his brothers-in-law, Dean Landes, Harley Helmuth, and Gary Lavy; his sisters-in-law, Tamera Boone and Marlene Boone; his wife Arlene’s parents; brothers-in-law, Jerry Hyre, Kent Dickey, and Bill Coleman; and his great-nephew, Jacob Reeder.

Funeral services were held at the Modesto District Church of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church—New Conference in Modesto, California, with John Fall officiating. Burial followed at Wood Colony Cemetery, with Sam Wray officiating. A viewing was

held one hour prior to the service at the church.

The Family

BOWMAN – Dale Leroy, passed away peacefully on the morning of January 15, 2026, at the Upper Valley Medical Center, Troy, Ohio, at the age of 76. He was born on April 25, 1949, at Good Samaritan Hospital, Dayton, Ohio, to the late Ralph and Ellen (Garber) Bowman. Dale was anointed on two occasions which brought him much comfort.

After graduating from Newton High School in 1967, Dale spent two years at Blanchard Valley Hospital, Findlay, Ohio, for his 1W service. During this time, he was united in marriage to Linda Fisher of Covington, Ohio, on September 7, 1968. They were blessed with five children. He received Christ as his Savior and was baptized into the Old German Baptist Brethren Church on July 24, 1974, along with his wife, Linda; his two brothers, Dwaine and Dave; and Dave’s wife, Darcia.

Dale spent most of his working life as the owner of Bowman and Son’s Painting. He also received income from buying and selling vehicles, which he greatly enjoyed. Those who know Dale will remember him by his very practical and frugal nature, his skill at bartering, and his way of bringing humor into everyday life.

Dale enjoyed being around water during the warm weather, travelling with his wife in the fall to see the leaves, and spending the winter months with her in Florida. He appreciated musical harmony

from his family, especially during the last couple months of his life. His family rejoiced when he was received into the Old German Baptist Brethren Church – New Conference on April 26, 2025, and was able to enjoy communion that evening.

Dale is survived by his loving wife; 5 children, Lonnie (Kylee) of Pleasant Hill, Lyle (Sheryl) of New Lebanon, Lowell (Diane) of Piqua, Leanne (Grant) Fullmer of Farmersville, and Lisa (Irvin) Bowman of Covington; 24 grandchildren and their 12 spouses; 19 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Rosemary and her husband, Fred Henderson, and Susan and her husband, Charles Wray; two sisters-in-law, Shirley (Flory, Bowman) Miller, and Darcia (Line, Bowman) Killingsworth and her husband Stanley; a brother-in-law, Larry Hufford; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife's parents, Jim and Helen (Rapp) Fisher; a step

mother-in-law, Violet (Woodbridge, Angle) Fisher; his brothers, Dwaine and Dave; a brother-in-law, Robert Miller; a sister-in-law, Doris (Fisher) Filbrun and her husband, Dennis; and a sister-in-law, Elaine (Fisher) Hufford.

A viewing was held on the afternoon and evening of January 19, 2026, at the Sugar Grove Meeting House, Covington, Ohio. A funeral service was held on the morning of January 20, 2026, at the Sugar Grove Meeting House, with thoughts of having a clear conscience and dying in the Lord. Following the service, he was laid to rest at the Sugar Grove Cemetery, Pleasant Hill, Ohio, where we were reminded of Jesus as an offering to God for a sweet-smelling sacrifice.

Received into the hands of our Heavenly Father, Dad will be greatly missed.

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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