

"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..." 1 Cor. 2:1-2

— VERSE OF THE MONTH —

"Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee..." (Deu. 5:16).

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REMEMBER THY MOTHER

Lead thy mother tenderly
Down life's steep decline,
Once her arm was thy support,
Now she leans on thine.

See upon her loving face
Those deep lines of care?
Think, it was her toil for thee
Left that record there.

Ne'er forget her tireless watch
Kept by day and night,
Taking from her step the grace,
From her eye the light.

Cherish well her faithful heart,
Which through weary years,
Echoed with its sympathy
All thy smiles and tears.

Thank God for thy mother's love
Guard the priceless boon;
For the bitter parting hour
Cometh all too soon.

When thy grateful tenderness
Loses power to save,
Earth will hold no dearer spot
Than thy mother's grave.

— Author Unknown

THE TESTIMONY

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EDITORIAL

A MOTHER IN ISRAEL

What are the attributes of a mother? Many could be listed, and here we will just “scratch the surface.” One thing a mother would do is to lovingly care for those who are entrusted to her. This is usually her children but also applies to her husband. Titus 2 tells us that the aged women should “teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children...” This can also apply to others she cares for, because one definition of “mother” is a woman who holds a position of authority or responsibility. And so it was with Deborah.

In Judges 4, we learn that Deborah was “a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, she judged Israel at that time.” After Canaan oppressed the children of Israel for 20 years, Deborah went with Barak and 10,000 men to Mount Tabor where the Lord delivered Sisera and his host into the hands of Israel. Then Deborah and Barak sang a song unto the Lord, telling the story of how He delivered them. In that song, Deborah referred to herself as “a mother in Israel.” Why did she call herself that? Did she have children? We do not know. But she was as a mother to the children of Israel because she loved them and cared for them. She also loved the Lord, and trusted Him, and was obedient to Him. Are these not good qualities of a mother today—to love and care for her own? We see these qualities in more detail in Proverbs 31.

Again, in 2 Samuel 20, we find the term “a mother in Israel,” but

this time it probably refers to a city. Joab and his men were pursuing Sheba, who had lifted up his hand against king David, and had fled to the city of Abel of Bethmaachah. Joab’s men began to tear down the city wall, but a wise woman in the city cried out to Joab in defense of her city. She said “I am one of them that are peaceable and faithful in Israel: thou seekest to destroy a city and a mother in Israel: why wilt thou swallow up the inheritance of the LORD?” Abel was a town that gave care, wisdom, and guidance to the country round about. Therefore, Joab said he would not destroy the city if the woman would deliver Sheba to him, which she did. Was not this wise, peaceable, faithful woman also a mother in Israel?

In the next chapter (2 Samuel 21) we read about another mother, Rizpah, who had two sons that were hanged by the Gibeonites, and she stayed by their bodies day and night to protect them from birds and beasts. Also, Naomi and Ruth were both good mothers in Israel. Notice how they loved and cared for each other.

I’m sure there were many other women in Israel who had the good qualities of a mother. One was Jochebed, the mother of Moses. She saved her son by hiding him from Pharaoh as long as she could. Hebrews 11:23 tells us that Moses’ parents had faith that he would be saved from Pharaoh’s command to kill the boys that were born. After Pharaoh’s daughter found baby Moses in the bullrushes, his mother was still able to care for him for some time. During that time, I

imagine she told him about God and His promise to deliver their people from the Egyptians.

Another example was Samuel's mother, Hannah. I am sure that she loved him very much, for she had prayed earnestly to God for a child. Even after she had weaned him and given him into Eli's care, she still cared for him and "made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year..."

We can turn to many places in the Gospels and see the love and care that Mary had for Jesus! She (and Joseph) obeyed God and took baby Jesus to Egypt to protect Him from Herod. Then, when Jesus was twelve years old, and His parents discovered that He was missing, they spent three days searching for Him. During Jesus' ministry, we see His mother with

Him several times, first at the wedding feast in Cana. She understood, in part, who her Son really was, and had faith in Him because she told the servants, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." Finally, we see Mary, no doubt weeping, at Jesus' side during His suffering and death!

Since we live in America, we are not familiar with the mothers living in Israel today. But we are very aware of the many good mothers living among us. We see them in our homes, in our churches, and in our communities. And, these mothers are not only those who have children, but are single women as well! Thank you, "mothers," for your love and care for others! May God bless you!

Darryl Filbrun

GENERAL

FIVE FUNCTIONS OF OUR RESURRECTED REDEEMER

PART 1

In the 40 days after Jesus rose from the dead and before He ascended, He appeared to many, many different people! He appeared to women at the tomb, He appeared to His disciples, He made another special appearance just for Thomas, He appeared to over 500 followers at once, and in John 21, we find a short account of how He appeared to His disciples once again! As we read through this little account of Jesus meeting with these men once more, we see Jesus doing some things that only HE could do, functions that only

HE can accomplish in the lives of His people, as our Resurrected Redeemer!

#1 – Our Resurrected Redeemer FINDS His Sheep!

In John 21:1–4, we read that, "After these things Jesus shewed himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this wise shewed he himself. There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee and two other of his disciples. Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing. But when

the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.”

For forty days after His resurrection, Jesus remained on earth before He ascended back to His Father, and in John 20, He had appeared to Mary Magdalene, and then twice to His disciples (once in the absence of Thomas and once when He was present with the others). This little account possibly took place a week or two after the Resurrection, out on the Sea of Galilee when, after the excitement of seeing Him again, things seemed to begin to cool back down. Maybe the disciples were bored, maybe they were just lacking clear direction and weren’t sure what to do next. Whatever the cause, instead of continuing to spread the Good News, Peter decided he might as well go back to fishing (perhaps to support his family), and several of the other disciples decided they would go along, too, back to the old way of life that Jesus had called them out of at the beginning of His ministry!

John records that they set out on a boat, and what happened? Really, what always happens when we try to go our own way? Things didn’t go as expected. In fact, these professional fishermen fished all night and caught nothing until daylight began to dawn, when they saw a man standing over on the shore. Though they did not recognize Him at first, the King of the Universe who had kept the fish from biting that night, but He had not called them so they could remain fishers of fish; He

had something far greater in mind for them, and so it was that He had come to FIND them. So often the same is true of our own lives when we wander from the path He has laid out for us, or when we lose sight of our purpose and calling to follow Him, that we can take comfort in the fact that He will send His Spirit to call us back from whatever we have allowed to distract us from Him!

Second Timothy 2:13 says when “we believe not, yet he abideth faithful!” We can rest in that promise, being assured that our good Shepherd knows where to find His sheep when they stray! Nothing we ever do is hidden from Him and His view, as Proverbs 15:3 tells us, “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.” He knows both how to find us and how to get our attention, and we can be confident that He will not let us go astray forever, but He will pursue us and find us because our Resurrected Redeemer knows where to FIND His sheep!

#2 – Our Resurrected Redeemer will FEED His Sheep!

John 21:5–11 continues, “Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the

Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea. And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes. As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken."

As the story continues, Jesus lets them catch a full net of fish, and it was then that they realized who it was on the shore! Likely they remembered another time when they had fished all night and caught nothing (Luke 5), when Jesus had similarly told them to let down their nets and they caught more fish than they could handle; and now, when they threw their net out once again, they could not pull it in the boat because it was so full! Not only did Jesus know where to FIND them, but on this particular morning, He took the opportunity to FEED them as well! He was able to provide all that they lacked that morning, and what a reminder for us that Jesus knows exactly where we are and what we need as well! Whatever we lack, our sovereign, omniscient and resurrected Redeemer knows what lies ahead and will provide, just as Philippians 4:19 says, "But my God shall supply all your need

according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Notice for just a moment the number of the fish specifically mentioned in this account: 153 fish! Romans 8:28 reminds us that, "...all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose," and Jesus not only supplied, but He gave them an overabundance! There are times when the Lord may similarly bless us in abundance, and yet there are also times when He may stretch us and things get tight. In those times, we can rest in the knowledge that even though He promises to provide, He also desires that we will trust Him, come what may, just like the weary disciples who had fished all night with nothing to show for it, until they saw Jesus once again and their nets overflowed! Do you see the lesson here, not only for the disciples, but for you and me? Jesus reminded the disciples in John 15 of the fact that "without me ye can do nothing"! Romans 8:17 says that we are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, and Romans 8:32 assures us that "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" He who knows where to FIND His sheep is also able to FEED them!

#3 – Our Resurrected Redeemer will FELLOWSHIP with His sheep!

John 21:12–15 tells us, "Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask

him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise. This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead."

Breakfast is ready! Jesus has found them, He shows that He can FEED them, and now He wants to FELLOWSHIP with them again! Here He invited seven weary sheep to join Him at the fire, to take part in the meal that He had prepared for them, and at this point, nobody had to tell them Who they were fellowshiping with; in His presence they knew it was Jesus! We serve a living Savior, and only a living Savior can fellowship with His sheep! Sometimes He just shows up when we have gone "a fishing" like Peter, and when He does, how quickly things change! And yet we know that He was always there: watching, waiting, protecting! Hebrews 13:5 says, "...I will never leave thee nor forsake thee"! And in Matthew 18:20, He assures us that "where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Now, if we're honest, sometimes we can relate to Peter—we feel like we're not sure what to do next either, so we "go a fishing," don't we? After a spiritual high point or experience, how easily we slip back into what we know, to the daily grind and the familiar! And yet, when Jesus comes to FIND us and FEED us and fill our nets again, how powerful it can be

when He FELLOWSHIPS with us once more; such moments of sweet fellowship are sometimes easier to feel than to tell. Yet when they are experienced, they are not easily forgotten! As John 21:13 says, "Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise," and how precious the times when He shows up once again in the midst of our lives, knowing how badly we need the reassurance of His presence.

What a joy to know that our Redeemer wants to fellowship with us on our journey, and that He will do so, just as He did many times in the lives of His people throughout the Bible! Consider how He came to Abram and Sarai to promise them an heir; He parted the Red Sea before His people; the Captain of the Lord's host appeared to Joshua outside of Jericho; He stood with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the furnace and with Daniel in the lions' den; He walked on water and calmed the storm on Galilee; He came to the tomb of Lazarus, to a funeral procession in Nain, and to the bedroom of Jairus' daughter; and the list could go on and on. The point is, when Jesus shows up, everything changes, because He is our Resurrection and our Life, and as our resurrected Redeemer, He wants to FELLOWSHIP with His sheep!

To be continued...

Chris Filbrun

LONGING FOR HOME

Recently we observed an elderly man wheeling his wheelchair around the dining room in the nursing home. He was saying to whoever he encountered, "Will you take me home?" To no one in particular he was also pleading, "Mother, will you take me home?" Just a few years earlier, this man was the principal of a local school. What distilled his priorities to thoughts of home?

Fifteen years ago our granddaughter suffered brain injury in an auto accident. Much of the day she is clear and coherent. When the sun goes down she often resists going to bed, with the statement "This is not my home!" It may be universal that when life as we have known it seems to lose its meaning, there is a longing for home. This seems to be a common desire that arises in our souls. It is the desire to relocate with those we love to a place that is comforting, safe, and familiar.

Caregivers often witness this phenomenon in those they care for. Such mental impairment may be due to the ravages of aging, trauma, or chronic illness. It may well be a condition that many of us will experience should our lives be extended. When these conditions reduce our once active minds to the basics, the overriding desire is for "home." Our Creator planted this desire within. Paul explained it this way: "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnest-

ly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven" (2 Cor. 5:1, 2).

When it is our eternal home that we long for, such a longing is the mark of a child of God. Paul also wrote, "...but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day" (2 Cor. 4:16).

What conditions prompt one person to long for the benefits of an earthly home that no longer exists, while another's reflections long for the eternal home where "...the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Rev. 21:3,4)?

The source of our longings at the extremity of life may arise out of our view of the cross. The cross is a symbol of the One who died in our place. When we see our brokenness before Him and sense His amazing grace toward us, do we not yearn for nearness to Jesus? If so, perhaps this destination is where our treasurers are? (Matt. 6:21). May this passion be the utmost desire of my brethren and myself. May we encourage one another in this journey home.

"Home of the soul, beautiful home. There we shall rest, never to roam..." — James Rowe

Stanley Boyd

*“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of
you in our prayers;*

Remembering without ceasing

YOUR WORK OF FAITH, AND LABOUR OF LOVE, AND PATIENCE OF HOPE”

1 Thessalonians 1:3

The “Grace—Faith—Works” triad has long been a point of discussion in Christian circles. To many today “Salvation by Grace and Grace only” seems to be the more popular position. There has long been an emphasis by some to teach “Salvation by Faith and Faith alone.” This was the position of Martin Luther. Finally, I have never known of anyone who would teach “Salvation by Works” despite attempts by many to hurl that accusation. Emphasis may be placed on one or another, but the Anabaptists from their beginning have held to “Salvation by Grace, through Faith, manifested by a life of Obedience to Holy Scripture.”

In meditating on 1 Thessalonians 1:3 we find an emphasis on work, labor and a steadfast walk. “We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father...”

We do not hold Grace above Faith or Works, nor Faith above Grace or Obedience, nor Obedient Works above Faith or Grace. As we read in James 2, Faith is dead without Works. Grace is ineffectual without Faith and Obedience. Works are meaningless without accepting Grace and an expression of Faith through obedience.

At our recent Annual Conference, the opening sermon on Saturday May 24, 2025, dealt well with Faith and Works. We suggest going to the New Conference website at “ogbbc.org.” There, under “sermons,” search for “Living Faith: The Evidence of True Belief.” Click “view page” to hear the one-hour sermon. For those who wish to and can, listening to that sermon again would be a good introduction to this meditation.

“YOUR WORK OF FAITH”

Greek “*érgon*” in 1 Thessalonians 1:3 is interpreted simply “toil as an effort or occupation; an act, deed, labor, or work.” In almost every place in the KJV “work” is this same Greek word. Theologically, work has become a four-letter word used as an antithesis of Grace. Many say that Grace alone saves. In Ephesians 2:8 we read that not only is Grace a gift of God, but Faith and its demonstration are gifts as well. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God...” A gift has meaning only when received. Grace is effectual only through Faith. Not Grace only. Not Grace alone. It is Grace through

Faith. And as we have seen in James 2, “What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?” And “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” And again, “But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” Grace without Faith is an unaccepted and ineffective gift. Faith without works is meaningless and dead. There is no Salvation without Grace, Faith, and Obedience. Romans 1:5–6 says, “By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ...”

Let us consider the title of this meditation, beginning with the “Work of Faith” versus the “works of Law.” Paul was referring to the works of The Law outlined in Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy, then later the ingrained Rabbinical Law, and since then even a host of rules and regulations which have dogged the professing Christian churches for centuries. In his letters, Paul was often speaking of the Judaizers who were troubling the church in the first century regarding eating things offered to idols, the Jewish rite of circumcision, and the observing of the Sabbath and other ritual days.

Paul twice and James once wrote, “Abraham believed God.” All three citations say it was counted or imputed to Abraham for righteousness. We know that Satan also believes, and the Greek word “believe” is the same here as elsewhere, for Satan not only believes but has faith after his ability, admitting his trust in the immutability of God. Paul had much to say about the institution of circumcision and the Mosaic Law which represented elements of a works religion. In reading Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy, it is easy to see what a works religion looks like. But the writer of Hebrews 10:4 states, “...it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.” “The Law” in the Old Bible almost always means the Decalogue and the Pentateuch which are the Ten Commandments and the Law as set forth in the first five books of the Old Bible. It was not intended that the works of God’s former Law could take away sin. It was intended to show mankind their sinful nature and condition and to prepare them for the coming of Messiah.

Man cannot be saved by works. But it is impossible to be saved without obedience. In Hebrews 11:6 we read, “But without faith [the work of Faith considered here, if you will] it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

Jesus said in John 14:15, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” We have not space and time here to list all that Jesus commanded by word

and by example. That would include love as He loved us, a witness to God's Grace and our obedience in the act of baptism, care for the widows and poor, pray continually, forgive as we are forgiven, wash one another's feet, do not return evil for evil. "If you love me, keep my commandments."

Grace is a Divine concern. Faith is the concern (deed, doing, labor, or work, if you will) of man. Without the Grace of God no one could be saved. Without the work of Faith, as stated in this Scripture, it would be impossible to receive saving Grace. Faith is lifting our hands to accept a gift from God. "Father, I stretch my hands to Thee. No other help I know; If Thou withdraw Thyself from me, Ah! whither shall I go?"

Paul speaks of the "gift of God," the "gift by grace," the "abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness," "...for by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God," "gift of the grace of God," "grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ," and "the manifold grace of God." Grace is a gift, ranking with the many other gifts of God—or higher.

Faith is a gift of God through Grace. Paul makes a statement in Romans 12:3, "...according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." In 12:6 he states, "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith..." Paul states in Galatians 3:22, "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given [a gift] to them that believe [the work of Faith]."

Paul prayed for the Thessalonians and for us (2 Thess. 1:11), "Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power..."

"YOUR LABOR OF LOVE"

If work implies effort, occupation, or action then labor implies toil, trouble, pain, and weariness. Work can be a pleasure, of course, but we usually consider it to require energy put forth for a purpose. Labor sounds more taxing than work. When Paul wrote of the "labor of love" he was not addressing the honey sweet, gratifying, pleasuring of Love and even sometimes lustful "love" driven by carnal emotions. In the setting of 1 Timothy 1:3 and the triad of Faith, Love, and Hope, Love is in the setting of an emotion of affection toward fellow believers, Brothers and Sisters who share the same salvation, children of the same God. We read in John 13:34, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one an-

other; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.” John 15:17, “These things I command you, that ye love one another.” Romans 13:8, “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.” (The works-law is fulfilled by love which is attained through labor!) Ephesians 4:2, “With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love...” 1 John 3:23, “And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.” Love is a commandment—something to do.

There are more Scriptures about our obligation to love one another. A commandment! “I command you!” With long suffering and forbearance! It sounds easy but, studying history, and the timeline of the church, and looking around even today, it seems that loving the Brotherhood is not always easy. It is laborious. Especially to love like Jesus loves. Or like God loves. Sacrificial Love isn’t easy. It is more than work. It is labor. That is why Paul wrote to the brothers and sisters at Thessalonica, “We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your...labour of love...in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father...”

“YOUR PATIENCE OF HOPE”

Patience in this sense is “to stay under (behind), i.e. remain; figuratively, to undergo, i.e. bear (trials), have fortitude, to persevere:—abide, endure, (take) patient(-ly), suffer, tarry behind.” This implies patient endurance. In 2 Thessalonians 1:4 Paul writes, “So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure...” That is more than work. More than labor. That is endurance in the face of persecutions and tribulations.

Much could be said of the patient endurance of trials, sickness, opposition, strained and broken relationships, physical, emotional, and spiritual pain, unfulfilled needs, unrealized expectations. Beyond that, the unknown future and what it might bring by way of disappointment or suffering.

Patience is the capacity, habit, or act of being—patient; the ability to accept obstacles or delays in a calm and self-possessed way; the ability to act with calm or restraint under provocation or strain; the ability to persevere over a long period of time despite opposition, difficulty, or adversity. To my shame, this is a quality which this man has not yet mastered.

Paul wrote, “...we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope...” Patience makes the promise of Hope a reality. “...that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”

The triad of work of Faith, labor of Love, and patience of Hope comes

up in other places in Scripture. “O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, *faith, love, patience*, meekness.” “...That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, *sound in faith, in charity [love], in patience.*”

Hope may be a verb, or it may be a noun. The noun, Hope is a yet-unrealized promise. Hope is used in this Scripture as a noun, an “entity,” a reality. Hope may be described as a promise, in which case it will, in time, change into “glad fruition,” that is, it shall sometime bear fruit. We sometimes hear said, “Hope shall become a reality.” Hope is a reality now, but when it bears fruit in the afterwhile it shall become a realization. That is why patient endurance is necessary and why Paul wrote, “...we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience...”

IN SUMMARY

Paul speaks of our “Work of faith.” Those who stress the importance of Grace contrary to Works may do with that what they will. As for me, I believe “we have our work cut out for us,” as the saying goes.

Paul speaks of our “Labor of Love.” That may be more difficult, given human frailties we must deal with in ourselves and in others. Sometimes it is difficult to love. But think how difficult it was for Jesus to come down from Glory and to die on the cross!

Paul speaks of the “Patience of Hope” which is not just sitting by waiting for the fulfillment of the promise of Heaven. It may entail far more effort than we expect, considering the endurance of martyrs over the millennia. Patient endurance may be the most difficult of these three.

May the gift of the Grace of God rest upon us all.

Marcus Miller

QUESTIONS IN CULTURE

January 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger launched into the sky above Cape Canaveral, Florida. It was the shortest flight in the program’s history, lasting only 73 seconds before it disintegrated 46,000 feet above the earth killing all seven lives on board. Why did this happen? What was the cause?

This disaster shattered the pro-

gram’s “safe” reputation at launching space equipment as well as shuttling people to and from the International Space Station. What unfolded in the aftermath are valuable lessons large organizations can learn from, whether it be businesses, schools, or churches. Prior to launch there was a conference call with the different companies that NASA had contracted with to build and launch the shuttles.

There were questions raised from lower-level engineers on whether the O-rings would expand properly on this cold of launch. The temperature for the day of launch was forecasted to be around 22° F. the morning of the launch, which would be a record low in the program's history. After much discussion and frustration from NASA, and their arrogance in not wanting any more delays, it was decided to launch Challenger anyway, ignoring the warnings of the low-level engineers. We know now how costly that mistake was as seven lives were lost.

What lessons can we learn from this tragedy? One lesson we could learn, is that it's okay to ask questions. We should encourage more questions from our young people about our culture, explaining why we do things a certain way. I think it's important to know: are we teaching the next generation convictions? They are the future of our church body, and they will be faced with many different challenges from those we have been. My generation is faced with a barrage of information. Sometimes it's hard to navigate through life with so many things distracting us at every corner we turn. If my faith is placed in just how my church does things, we will fall away. But if our faith is placed in the Scriptures, we will stand steadfast in the

Lord. Where are we building? Jesus reminds us in the Gospels that a foolish man builds his house on the sand, but a wise man builds his house on the rock.

James (Jesus' brother) tells us (paraphrasing), if we lack wisdom, ask God, He will give to all generously. God will not rebuke or shame us for our questions, and He will give us more wisdom. But



when we ask questions, ask in FAITH BELIEVING. If we ask in doubt we are like a wave of the sea that is tossed in the wind. A double minded person is restless and unstable in everything that he does, thinks, or feels. Does this sound familiar with some of the challenges that we are faced with today? Being related to the world (all have a sin nature), are we anxious believers, or do we fully trust God that He will do everything He says He is going to do? Have we forgotten that our position is in Christ? Yes, we are in the world, faced with the same challenges of the world, but do we feel like we

have been redeemed on a personal level? Or do we just feel that our church has been, so we don't need to be on a personal level?

My generation is faced with a sexual dilemma. The world says men can be women, and women can be men. The world is completely fine with homosexual relationships. In fact, it's encouraged, often at an early age. Sexuality doesn't have to, nor should it be talked about in a perverse way. Yet in our subculture do we shy away from talking about it? We are not immune to the temptations of the world. Each one of us is born with a sinful nature. Again James (Jesus' brother) reminds us that temptation doesn't come from God, it comes from man and our own flaws and sin nature. We are weak feeble beings who are drawn away by our own lust, our own worldly desires and passions. Even though occasional meetings are being held to address some of these areas, and other efforts are being made, are we doing enough? Is it time for our church to address biblical sexuality a little more openly in some setting? We need to teach what the Bible says about biblical manhood and biblical womanhood. Each one of us is created in the image of God, for His glory. The sexual dilemma has already crept into our church, and if we don't have a plan of attack against it, we will fail

and more young people will fall prey to the lion who seeks destruction. As a brother once said, "If you do not know who you are, the world will tell you."

I don't have all the answers on the subject, I am not an expert by any means, but I have concerns for the future. Are we going to sit in passivity as our young people get tempted and some even sucked into this delusion? Evil is only going to continue to wax worse and worse. Take heart though. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Life and Light (Jesus) will prevail, Light always overcomes darkness, and we are reminded that we too are overcomers, because Jesus overcame. When young people ask questions, let's not discourage them by discounting their questions, but let us point them toward the infallible Word of God. When our spiritual shuttle launches will our O-rings fail or will they function? Let us work together to equip the future generation to fend off the fiery darts of Satan using the application in Ephesians 6. There is a war that is out there. Are we non-resistant to that war or are we ready for battle? Let us all be Truth seekers, and Truth speakers.

Landon Kelley

LAST DAYS

A collection of Scriptures about the last days

- “And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days” (Genesis 49:1).
- “And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it” (Isaiah 2:2).
- “But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it” (Micah 4:1).
- “And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams...” (Acts 2:17).
- “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.” (2 Timothy 3:1).
- “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds...” (Hebrews 1:2).
- “Your gold and silver is can-

kered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days” (James 5:3).

- “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts...” (2 Peter 3:3).

Are we in the last days? We know that mankind, in general, is covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, and so on, but some scoff and say, “They always



have been!” But, are we looking for His return, anytime? “Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors” (Proverbs 8:34).

- “And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and

great glory” (Matthew 24:30).

- “Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven” (Matthew 26:64).
- “And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory” (Mark 13:26).
- “And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven” (Mark 14:62).
- “Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching...” (Luke 12:37a).
- “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:17).
- “But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief” (1 Thessalonians 5:4).
- “And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ” (2 Thessalonians 3:5).
- “Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen” (Revelation 1:7).

*Let us then be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.*

(Hymn 510)

“Keep on keeping on,” watching and waiting, my dear brethren and sisters!

AliceMae Haney

THE BEST OF HEAVEN

Every one of us wants to go to Heaven. But have we thought of what the best of Heaven will be? Yes, there are beauties untold. We have imagined many times of streets of gold, and walls of precious stone, with angels and saints gathered there to sing, and of the glory of that place. There will be no more sin or sickness, of anything amiss! It will be forevermore, and for all eternity!

But what do you think will be the very best of Heaven? Will the Best of Heaven not be seeing the face of Jesus on the throne at the right hand of His Father?

Have we found Him today? Jesus always spoke of His Father! Do I look deeply inside my heart today, loving and praising Him? Look! He is there on the throne with kind eyes and a hand stretched out in love.

Do our needs, our thanks, our

praise, and our cares rise to Him, as tears in a bottle, and put in His book? (Ps. 56:8). Can we claim, even while we are living here, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Ps. 119:105)?

Do we know Him? Is His word in our memory, and foremost on our minds? Have we sought Him, and do we have a desire to have Him walk with us? We have not seen Him physically. Peter says, “Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory...” (1 Pet. 1:8). But have we heard His call? When we are not at our best, and we fail, have we asked for His forgiving mercies (1 Pet. 3:15)? In our lives daily, Satan may try to mar our day, but will we not ask Jesus to intercede for us? Far beyond the earthly thoughts, moments, and motives is GOD. And He has provided some better thing for us (Heb. 11:10).

How can we have some of that today? Ephesians 3:17–19 says, “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” Can we feel that? It will make us walk differently! It will help us be like Daniel, who “purposed in his heart...” Far be-

yond our thoughts, tears, joy, and our tired bodies, is the hope that we have to this end (1 Pet. 1:13).

Matthew 12:20 says, “A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.” And this will be His victory! He bore our sins at Calvary! We will “crown Him Lord of all!” Let us begin today!

Beyond the “work benches” of today, and beyond the trials of today, and beyond what little “I” wants or needs is this beautiful



scene: (Matt. 25:31) “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory...” What a glorious time!

Is God the Father in our heart and speech most of all? Or is our heart full of worldly thoughts and plans? When Jesus was here, His chief concern was the will of His Father. “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work” (John 4:34).

We have written this article a number of times. One time we noticed Mary’s response to Jesus at

the tomb on Resurrection morning. "Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master." (John 20:16). And all of the disciples, after Jesus ascended, and after they had received the Spirit, wrote of all of these things, and brought this story to us.

Can we turn ourselves to see the Master? It begins today! It begins in our hearts—deep inside of us! "And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me that I am His own"!

And then we will experience seeing Him in Glory! This will be the best of Heaven!

Vicki Witmer

LITTLE THINGS

J. C. Fall

Life well begun in little things is the source of all profit, let it be spiritual or worldly. Little acorns produce large trees. A bank that uses an adding machine, if it is not working properly, the figures will soon paralyze the understanding of the bank; and soon the banker will be lost in his management and control of his bank. Of course a penny to a banker would be, so far as value is concerned, a small affair. But the trouble would be in making the books balance; and the longer the business, the more confused and dangerous it would be to the business.

Little things will often cause death. A fork-handle with a little splinter will sometimes lacerate the hand and produce blood poisoning and death. If we take care of little things we are likely to take good care of larger things.

A farmer who lets the weeds get a start in his cornfield must put forth a greater effort to ever cleanse his field of noxious weeds. Little things well perfected is the common sense of all perfected, both in spiritual affairs and worldly affairs. How thankful we are that Jesus told us to be as little children! "...except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3).

Our heavenly Father will take care of larger things. He has promised that His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

How easy it is to be deceived in little things. If we rightly divide the Word of God, our faith is alive, perfect—a faith which will abide with us through all eternity. Little drops of water will finally wear away the hardest rock. Abstain from the very appearance of sin; and those little drops of water will not wear the rock away. David was a little shepherd boy. He certainly took good care of the little lambs and of the sheep. His own father regarded him with little notice. And yet he was mightier than Goliath.

Selected

Quotes from the early Church —

The Kingdom of God

“He says, “The kingdom of God cometh not with observation. Neither do they say, Look here! Or, Look there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.” Now, who will not interpret the words “within you” to mean in your hand, within your power? That is, if you hear and do the commandments of God.

Tertulian 207 A.D.

MEDITATIONS

Pray for all the Brethren groups meeting in Annual Conference.

God’s chastisement may hurt you, but it will never harm you.

Satan wants us to be comfortable. Life is best if we are not.

Man, alone, was lost. But the Spirit came on Pentecost.

The season of Spring reminds us of the Resurrection.

The way to bear a cross is to carry it on your back.

Obedience is the surest evidence of discipleship.

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 kingdoms of the world do not stand forever. In our own lifetimes we have seen kingdoms divide, and come to an end. In ancient times we also read of Assyria, Babylon, Macedonia, Rome, and many others.

It is sobering to read about kingdoms in our day, where life is so uncertain because of pending destruction and warfare that threaten the citizens, and bring fear to every home.

Questions for our day:

1. Are my hopes primarily in this

earthly kingdom of which I am a part? Or that kingdom which is to come?

2. Where have my greatest investments been made?

3. If the peace or existence of this earthly kingdom (U.S.A.), and its wealth and comfort became threatened, would I be greatly troubled?

4. We have so many promises in the Scriptures regarding His Kingdom. “Lord, help me be rejoicing that you have promised us a kingdom that cannot ever be shaken.” (Heb. 12:28).

GENERAL ITEMS

BAPTISMS

Feb. 15, 2026; Fair Haven, KS
Graham Wray
Feb. 22, 2026; Living Epistle, NM
Jurnie Wolf

NEW MEMBERS

June 1, 2026; Mt. Zion, PA
Daniel and Liz Kegereis
Jason and Sandy Noll
Mar. 7, 2026, Sequatchie Valley, TN
Melinda Malchow

COMMUNION NOTICES

June 7, 2026 .. A.M. @ I.W.U., Marion, IN
June 27, 2026Mtn. View Brethren, ID
Sept. 26, 2026 Pleasant View, OH
Oct. 3, 2026 Providence, IN
Oct. 10, 2026 Lower Twin, OH
Oct. 10, 2026 Zillah, WA
Oct. 17, 2026 Maple Grove, OH
Oct. 17, 2026 Western Kansas, KS
Oct. 24, 2026 Stillwater, OH
Oct. 31, 2026 Bethel, OH
Oct. 31, 2026 Columbia River, WA
Nov. 7, 2026 Covington, OH
Nov. 7, 2026 West Modesto, CA

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

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Date and Location

Lord willing, the Annual Conference is scheduled to take place from June 6 to June 9, 2026 at:

Indiana Wesleyan University
4201 S. Washington St.
Marion, IN 46953

Worship Services

All friends, neighbors, and attendees are warmly invited to join in glorifying and praising GOD together. The first worship service will begin at 10:00 A.M. on Saturday, June 6. Prior to each service, one or two hymns will be sung to help gather the congregation, quiet our minds, and prepare for worship. We also anticipate a communion service for OGBBC—New Conference members on Sunday, June 7 at 4:00 P.M.

Registration Form

All persons planning to attend Conference must register. Registration for the Conference will be available exclusively online this year. The electronic registration form must be completed at www.ogbbc.org. A paper Registration Packet will not be available.

Registration is required to plan for complimentary meals. Lodging fees for Dorm or RV accommodations will be calculated online and

may be paid by credit card to finalize the form. Registration cannot be processed without acceptable credit card information. If you do not have access to the internet or have trouble with the form, please seek assistance from someone in your district. Those lodging offsite must still register for meals, but no fee will be charged.

Check-in

The Lodging committee's Information Center will be open on Friday, June 5, from 2:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. in the Piazza Terrace room, located in the Barnes Student Center. This year, on-campus guests will check in as follows:

- Young Folks will sign in and receive their keys and packets at their dorm common area.
- Campers will sign in and receive their packets as well as their parking assignments as they arrive at the camper lots.
- All others will sign in at the Information Center, located in the Barnes Student Center.

Additional information will be provided at check-in.

Awareness

For safety and liability reasons, COA requests that attendees do not bring rip sticks, skateboards, roller blades, bicycles, roller skates, or similar items to the Conference.

Call-in

The call-in number for worship services is 717-908-1961 and the Conference PIN is 6883602. This information will be posted on the OGBBC website and in the Registration Packet.

Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will move among His people, encouraging the saints, mentoring the youth, convicting the unsaved, and that together we may bring praise and glory to God.

On behalf of the 2026 COA,

Dean Brovont, Secretary

A NOTE OF THANKS

A special word of thanks to all contributors of articles and poems to this publication.

We hear much feedback that lets us know that *The Testimony* is read by many. Even just a small article that allows other to hear your thoughts or perspective can be an encouragement to so many.

We have, sometimes, fears about writing to a publication, and many thoughts arise that may prevent this small investment, but the rewards are so many. Family experiences, the words of one of your children that have delighted you; all of these, when they are shared, bring a warming of the heart to friends and loved ones across the brotherhood.

God is able to take our little offering and bless the churches in our homes. God bless each of you!

The Editor

POEMS

WHAT MAKES A HOME

A man can build a mansion
 Anywhere this world about,
 And man can build a palace
 Richly furnish it throughout.

A man can build a mansion
 Or a tiny cottage fair,
 But it's not the hallowed place
 called "home"
 Till Mother's dwelling there.

A man can build a mansion
 With a high a spacious dome,
 But no man in this world can build
 That precious thing called "Home."

A man can build a mansion
 Carting treasures o'er the foam,
 Yes, a man can build the building
 But a woman makes it "Home."

— Author Unknown

RULES FOR DAILY LIFE

Begin the day with God,
 Kneel down to Him in prayer;
 Lift up thy heart to His abode,
 And seek His love to share.

Open the Book of God,
 And read a portion there;
 That it may hallow all thy
 thoughts
 And sweeten all thy care.

Go through the day with God,
 Whate'er thy work may be;
 Where e'er thou art, at home,
 abroad,
 He still is near to thee.

Converse in mind with God,
 Thy spirit heavenward raise;
 Acknowledge every good bestowed.
 And offer grateful praise.

Conclude thy day with God,
 Thy sins to Him confess;
 Trust in the Lord's atoning blood,
 And plead His righteousness.

Lie down at night with God,
 Who gives His servants sleep,
 And when thou tread'st the vale
 of death
 He will thee guard and keep.

— Author Unknown

WHY WORRY?

Why do we worry about the nest?
 We only stay for a day;
 Or a month, or a year, at the
 Lord's behest,
 In this habitat of clay.

Why do we worry about the road,
 With its hills or deep revine?
 In a dismal path, or heavy load,
 We are helped by hands unseen.

Why do we worry about the years
 That our feet have not yet trod?
 Who labors with courage and
 trusts, not fears,
 Has fellowship with God.

— Author Unknown

LONGING

I longed to walk along an easy road,
And leave behind the dull routine of home,
Thinking in other fields to serve my God;
But Jesus said, "My time has not yet come."

I longed to sow the seed in other soil,
To be unfettered in the work, and free,
To join with other laborers in their toil;
But Jesus said, "'Tis not My choice for thee."

I longed to leave the desert, and be led
To work where souls were sunk in sin and shame,
That I might win them; but the Master said,
"I have not called thee; publish here My name."

I longed to fight the battles of my King,
Lift high His standards in the thickest strife;
But my great Captain bade me wait and sing
Songs of His conquests in my quiet life.

I longed to leave the uncongenial sphere,
Where all alone I seemed to stand and wait,
To feel I had some human helper near,
But Jesus bade me guard one lonely gate.

I longed to leave the round of daily toil,
Where no one seemed to understand or care;
But Jesus said, "I choose for thee this soil,
That thou might'st raise for Me some blossoms rare."

And now I have no longing but to do
At home, or else afar, His blessed will,
To work amid the many or the few;
Thus, "choosing not to choose," my heart is still.

— Author Unknown

OBITUARIES

HUFFMAN — Esther Frances (Miller) was born on July 8, 1942, to Hubert Earl Miller and Mildred Ellen (Root) Miller in Whittier, California. Mother accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior and was baptized on Easter Sunday, April 6, 1960, by her grandfather, Lloyd Miller. She answered the call of Jesus to enter her eternal home in heaven early in the morning of February 25, 2026, making her sojourn on earth 83 years, 7 months, and 17 days.

She was the first of seven children, her siblings being Robert, John, Paul, Marilyn, Sue, and Richard. She often told us of happy days spent in Whittier running through the orange groves and at the vacation home of her great-grandmother, Nellie Miller, in Laguna, California. At the age of six, her family moved to Modesto where her youngest three siblings were born. Mother learned to help on the farm, driving tractors, and cooling off in the canal with her brothers. She delighted in gardening, making it a work of art, pulling weeds as she walked, leaving little piles to pick up later.

On May 20, 1962, Esther was united in marriage to Charles Alfred Huffman, Jr. in her parents' yard by her Grandpa Lloyd. To this union were born 3 children, Sarah, Elizabeth, and Benjamin. For about a year Mother and Daddy lived in an upstairs apartment where Doctors Medical Center now stands. In 1963, they moved to a small house just west of Tolumne Church where they attended. A few years following, her

family moved to their home on Goodwin Road in Modesto, California, where Daddy and Mother lived until her passing. This is where Mother's love for beautiful things really blossomed. She spent untold hours in her garden, working with her flowers, giving special attention to her roses. A favorite plaque in her garden read,

*"The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer God's heart in a garden,
Than anywhere else on earth."*

Another highlight of Mother's was spending many happy weekends with Daddy exploring the backroads of America, enjoying African violet, rose, cactus and succulent nurseries along the way.

Mother delighted in many things. She spent hours sewing, quilting, and machine embroidering. Because of her love for music, she shared her talent with her children and grandchildren, also teaching at Brethren Heritage School for several years.

She was honored to sing at many weddings, using her beautiful soprano voice to worship the Lord and encourage others.

Esther delighted greatly in her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She loved everyone deeply, praying for each one of us daily. She spent 20 years encouraging young women at Modesto Pregnancy Center to keep and love their unborn babies, because of her love of children and conviction that God's Word is true, as stated in Psalm 139. Mother loved God's Word, and encouraged us as chil-

dren to memorize Bible verses, and became a mentor to younger women in a Bible study group that began over 18 years ago.

Alfred and Esther were members of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church—New Conference, where Mother lived faithfully, having a desire to be present and fellowship with her church family as often as possible. In later years, when she was unable to attend church, she continued to worship the Lord by listening from her home. Through her 10-year battle with cancer, Daddy was lovingly and faithfully by her side, making hundreds of trips to the Bay Area for treatment. On September 21, 2025, she received the blessing and comfort of anointing.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Hubert and Mildred Miller; her in-laws, Charles and Ella Huffman; a brother, Robert Miller; sister in-law, Karen Miller; brother in-law, Ralph Boone; and a niece, Corrie Bauman.

She is survived by her husband, Alfred Huffman; daughter, Sarah and Randy Jenkins; daughter, Betsy and John Gish; son, Ben and Sue Huffman; grandchildren, Rosanna and Kevin Root, William and Kayla Gish, Heidi and Ben Cook, Grant and Jennifer Huffman, Elsie Gish, Steven and Kaitlyn Huffman, Levi and Abby Jenkins, Logan and Megan Huffman, Sierra Gish, Caleb Jenkins, Carson and Laurie Huffman, Jesse and Estee Jenkins, Laina and Jamin Barton, Elizabeth Gish, Katrina and Travis Eller, Virginia and Ethan Cook, Reuben Jenkins, and Esther Jenkins; 31 great-

grandchildren, and three yet unborn. Twenty-six of these precious great-grandchildren were born after the cancer diagnosis. Also surviving are her siblings, John and Mary Miller, Paul and Leah Miller, Marilyn and Garey Boone, Sue and Leland Jamison, Richard and Dawn Miller, and sisters-in-law, Shirley (Bowman) Miller, and Mary Boone.

May her faithfulness to God's Word and love for children, be an example and inspiration to those who remain. Although Mother will be greatly missed, she is where she longed to be, forever with the Lord, basking in the light and glory of Jesus, her Savior.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at the Old German Baptist Brethren Church—New Conference, West Modesto District, at 10:00 A.M. A viewing was held one hour prior to the service at the meeting house. Burial followed at the Wood Colony Cemetery.

The Family

HESS — Robert Kenneth, son of the late Ray B. and Minnie (Leshner) Hess, was born on June 7, 1931, near Quincy, Pennsylvania. He peacefully passed from time to eternity at his home in the early hours of Monday, March 2, 2026, making his pilgrimage 94 years, 8 months, and 23 days.

His youth was spent in a loving farm environment that included two brothers and a sister. On August 29, 1954, he was baptized and became a lifelong member of the Old German Baptist Brethren

Church. He married Louise Yoder on December 2, 1955, and together raised six sons. They lived in Indiana for a brief time before moving to the Stone Quarry farm near New Franklin, Pennsylvania, where they spent the rest of their lives. The family circle was broken when Mother passed away December 29, 2018.

As Dad's health declined, he called for and received the anointing, which gave him a peacefulness and patience that served him well even to the end.

Left with cherished memories are his sons: Karl and Marsha, Timothy, Randy and Donna, Darrell and Janet, Clinton and Lydia and John, 20 grandchildren, and 32 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Dorothy Knaus; brother-in-law, Donald Hantelman; and sister-in-law, Naomi Hess.

Preceding him in death were his parents, wife, and two brothers: Donald (Isabelle) and Lloyd; brother-in-law, Russell Knaus; a

daughter-in-law, Janet Hess; one granddaughter, Mari Anne Hess; and one great-grandson, Andrew Wagoner. Also gone on before are parents-in-law, Noah and Nora Yoder; brothers- and sisters-in-law, Edward and Carol Yoder (Spann), Lois Hantelman, Velma Hantelman, and Phil Spann.

The funeral was held at the Browns Mill meeting house by the local ministry. Our minds were drawn to the thought of rewards. God's desire for mankind is that they receive a full (complete) reward. Eternal life is the ultimate reward. Ruth 2:12, 2 John 8, Hebrews 11:26. A full or empty reward is our choice. Dad was laid to rest by the loving hands of the Brethren in the Old Browns Mill Cemetery, Kauffman, Pennsylvania.

"The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust" (Ruth 2:12).

The Family

Terms

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

Contributors

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

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

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

Old German Baptist Brethren
Church—New Conference

THE TESTIMONY

353 Billman Rd.
New Paris, OH 45347-9102

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

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

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