

"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

"He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Psalm 126:6

Vol. XVII

October 2026

No. 10

THE TIME FOR TOIL

The time for toil has past, the night has come,
The last and saddest of the harvest eaves
Worn out with labor long and wearisome,
Drooping and faint, the reapers hasten home,
Each laden with his sheaves.

Few, light, and worthless—yet their trifling weight,
Through all my frame a wearing aching leaves,
For long I struggled with my hapless fate,
And stayed and toiled till it was dark and late,
Yet these are all my sheaves.

Full well I know I have more tares than wheat,
Brambles and flowers, dry stalks, and withered leaves,
Wherefore I blush and weep, as at Thy feet,
I kneel down reverently, and repeat,
"Master, behold my sheaves."

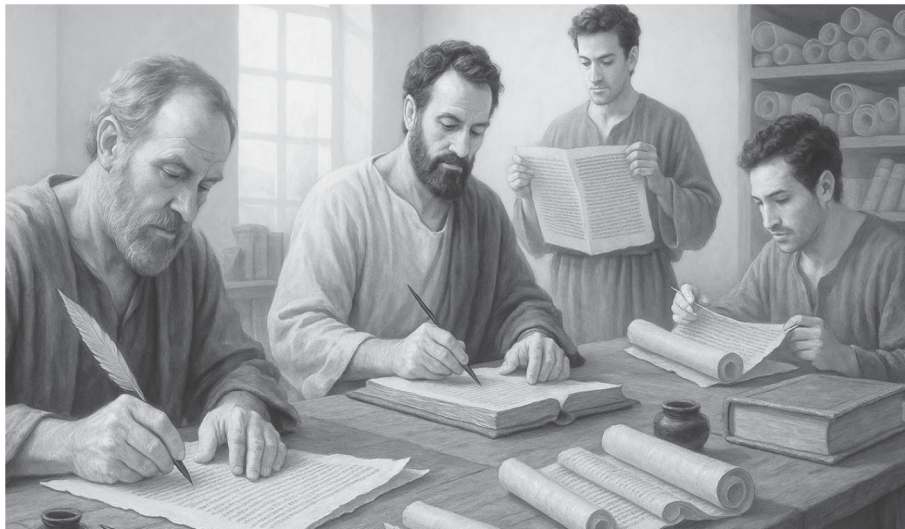
So do I gather hope and strength anew,
For well I know Thy patient love perceives,
Not what I did, but what I strove to do,
And though the full ripe ears be sadly few,
Thou will accept my sheaves.

Elizabeth Akers Allen 1832-1911
Hymn #542 in The Christian Hymnary

THE TESTIMONY

CONTENTS

FRONT COVER	1
The Time For Toil.....	1
EDITORIAL	3
Remember.....	3
GENERAL	4
Increasing Faith.....	4
Principles, Concepts, and Parables	7
The Organizational Structure	8
Tragedy, Trust, and Triumph.....	9
Nonresistance—Two Separate Kingdoms.....	10
“Thy Kingdom Come”	14
HOME & FAMILY	18
Merciful Dads	18
Let The Little Children Come.....	19
MEDITATIONS	20
QUESTIONS TO PONDER	20
GENERAL ITEMS	21
POEMS	1, 22
OBITUARIES	23



EDITORIAL

REMEMBER

“Remember, remember, remember! Remember what?”

Years ago, we enrolled in a class of Beginning Hebrew. In the first lesson were the words quoted above, stressing the fact that Hebrew is always read and written from right to left. I don’t recall whether future lessons stressed the importance of remembering, but that first lesson left an impression on my mind.

Men have written many books on how to remember, but to learn what to remember, we will turn to God’s Word. In the Bible, the word “remember” is recorded 148 times, and another 18 times it tells us to “not forget.” Some places it is referring to God remembering His covenant with His people, or for men asking God to remember them, or for God to not remember our sins. But many times, we are told to remember certain things. Again, we ask, “Remember what?” Space does not permit me to make a complete list, so here I only wish to remind us of a few of them.

One of the most important things is: “Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God” (Deut. 8:11). Many places in Deuteronomy, God tells the children of Israel to remember that they were bondmen in Egypt and to remember the miracles He did when He delivered them. This also applies to us—we must never forget what He has done to deliver us from our bondage, and how He guides us to our Promised Land! We should constantly remember who He is, all that He has done, and is doing for

us! “For in him we live, and move, and have our being...”

More things to remember: “But to do good and to communicate forget not” (Heb. 13:16). “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits” (Ps. 103:2). “...forget not the humble.” (Ps. 10:12). “...remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). “Only they would that we should remember the poor” (Gal. 2:10). “Remember them that are in bonds...” (Heb. 13:3). “Remember them which have the rule over you...” (Heb. 13:7).

“Remember” generally means to recall to our mind or retain in our memory. But many things the Lord tells us to remember are a call to action. As James tells us, we should not only remember these things, “But be ye doers...” of them. This was made very clear at the Last Supper when Jesus shared the bread and the cup with His disciples and said, “This do in remembrance of me.” Remembering the poor and needy means helping and sharing with them. Remembering those in authority means praying for them. To remember the Lord our God, means to also be obedient, honor, praise, and serve Him. Numbers 15:40 tells us, “That ye may remember, and do all my commandments, and be holy unto your God.” And Psalm 103:17–18 says, “But the mercy of the LORD...and his righteousness...[are] to those that remember his commandments to do them.”

Remembering is not always an easy task. It’s much easier when we

are younger, and those things usually stick with us the remainder of our lives. Ecclesiastes 12:1 tells us to, "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth..." To help us remember things, we need to actively recall them, repeat them over and over, and visualize them, or associate them with other known things. When I was a young boy, some college boys introduced our family to a book entitled "How to Remember Names and Faces." It teaches us to remember things by association, and this book is still a handy reference for me. Memorials also help us to remember, such as the rainbow which God gave us as a

reminder of His covenant between Him and every living creature. We repeatedly hold a communion service, where we associate the bread and wine with Christ's body and blood, and remember the price that He paid for our salvation.

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

Darryl Filbrun

GENERAL

INCREASING FAITH

Each of us started life with a "measure of faith" (Rom. 12:3). As infants It may have been as basic as trusting our parents for security and protection. If we grew up in a godly home, we may have been taught to trust Jesus for our needs. In any case, this faith was a gift from God and bears fruit when it matures. It was given to us as a seed to grow to maturity by trusting Christ's shed blood and resurrected life to become our life. Mature faith is that substance through which we connect to God's grace. It is the evidence and added blessing of our salvation (see Eph. 2:8). Grace, not faith, is the *cause* of our salvation. Still, without mature faith that works, we can have no confidence that we are children of King Jesus! (See Heb. 11:6, Rom. 5:1, James 2:19-22).

Since Paul makes it clear that

we are saved by grace *through* faith, it might be well to consider how we can attain this faith? Simply desiring to have more faith doesn't produce it. The Bible tells us how this faith "comes," and the lives of others demonstrate how it is lived out. We also understand that we grow in this faith by exercising it in response to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. We read that the Bible teaches that we receive this faith by hearing the Word of God, by whatever means is available to us. Several New Testament passages suggest that God's children will "walk and live by faith" (see Rom. 1:17; Heb. 10:38; 2 Cor. 5:7; Gal. 2:20; and Heb. 11:6). So continually hearing the Word of God and applying its teaching is essential for faith to grow. This essay will discuss three individuals from our experience that have contributed to our own faith journey. Like

us, they are all imperfect mortals but through their faithfulness to the faithful One they have ministered faith to us. I trust each reader can appreciate those whom the Lord Jesus has used to bring us to deeper faith.

The first example is an English hymn writer whose works continue to praise God in English-speaking countries. Charles Wesley lived from 1707 to 1788 and wrote from 6,500 to 9,000 hymns and poems—a number of which the church continues to use. The pathos of these hymns draw Christians into a deeper reverence for our Lord. The lyrics of "Jesus Lover of My Soul" invites us into the closest of communions with Jesus who took our sins on Himself, was mocked and tortured in our place, and overcame death so we could have eternal life. This hymn minds us that we are rank sinners in comparison to this "Lamb of God" that died and rose again to redeem us. Wesley's Christmas hymn, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" leads us to enter into His glory as we remember and celebrate His birth. We trust it is not just children who are nurtured in faith by these songs, but our own faith as well. Paul tells that one way the word of Christ comes to dwell in us is by "...teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs..." (Col. 3:16). Engaging in singing praises to God is one way we are strengthened in faith. This testifies of the majesty of the "Faithful One" (see Psalm 89:1).

Next on this list is a lady, Ruth,

who recently died at 96. She and her husband Les were our friends for nearly 50 years. In the mid 1970's Les's eyes were starting to fail to the point he could no longer run his dental lab. They were convicted that the Lord was leading them to live out their faith. They sold the business and determined to hereafter live by faith. We observed them spending their energies in living simply, prayer, fasting, and serving others according to the need. This couple believed in a prayer-answering God, and as a result saw many answers to their prayers. They knew that their faith could not manipulate God and were not side-tracked when His answer was "No." They learned that God only fulfills our requests according to His will but delights to answer according to this will when we ask. After Les died, Ruth traveled the world telling others of the faithfulness of her Lord Jesus. In part, because she was faithful in telling of the wondrous love of Jesus, she lived a life contagious to others of joy and peace in the holy Spirit.

The final example cited here was that of a friend and true brother in Christ. We knew Donald over a period of more than 50 years. He had rheumatic fever as a child and was weak in his body but strong in the Spirit. When we would visit with Donald in his early working years, he consistently radiated the love of Jesus. He and his wife lived a simple life of encouragement to others. He was a clear-thinking man and a life-long student of the Word. You

didn't have to visit with him long until it was apparent that he not only loved the brotherhood, but that he loved and intimately knew his Lord. Donald worked in a cabinet shop as long as he was able, but his symptoms of weakness seemed to take a different form, and he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis while still relatively young. As the disease progressed he and Alice, his wife, moved to Indiana and he eventually had to give up his job. He did what he could as long as possible. At one point he sold long-life light bulbs, but when he learned they didn't live up to their hype, he stopped selling them and apologized to those who bought them. That was just what we saw. His sensitivity to living right before a holy God was not a burden but a continual return to the throne of grace in gratitude. He saw himself as a sinner in constant need of this grace. There was no evidence that he bore the guilt and shame for what His Lord had cleansed. Alice helped with his care, but his needs increased to the point that he needed to be cared for in a nursing home. A consistent report from those who visited him and Alice in their home, and later in the nursing home, was that they went to cheer him up, but came away experiencing the love of Christ from the one they had come to encourage. At times he would sing in praise to his Lord. Often he would express the love of Jesus. He would answer

questions about his health but typically bring the conversation back to his interest in you and how thankful he was for his Lord and his family of brothers and sisters in Christ. As his body became twisted and contorted by the disease, his focus and love for the Savior was increasingly evident. The last time I saw Donald was not long before he died. A couple of brethren were carrying him up the church steps in his reclined wheel chair for a communion service. I didn't get to talk with him then, but his ever-present smile was evident, along with a countenance that reflected years of suffering in his body. To me, Donald bore the image of one with a life of faith in the Faithful One.

These three examples are used that we might be reminded that the substance of faith thru which we are saved must be dependent faith in the Lord Jesus. Snapshots of their faith-walk can be instructional as "examples of the believers." You will have different examples that have encouraged you to increasing faith. Still, they have common threads. Some pathways are shorter.

The one thief crucified alongside of Jesus may have only been aware that he was on this road for an hour or so. Perhaps during the previous three years he heard of Jesus preaching a coming new kingdom? There was no evidence that it affected his life. In the Gospel, as recorded by both Matthew and

Mark, we are told that both thieves initially mocked Jesus. In the Gospel according to Luke, we read that one thief came to faith in Jesus as our Lord's blood flowed out for the sin of the world. New faith burned into his very soul. There hanging on his own cross, this former sinner named Jesus as Lord (see Luke 23:39-43). For some, the pathway is longer. They accept the Word of God as true and "taste and see that God is good." Perhaps most of us need a lifetime to come to mature faith. We have doubts and fears when our prayers are not answered as we desired. Whether for healing of the body, for a renewed mind, or even the recovery of a loved one, we continue to come back to the Savior and learn His love for us in a new way—even to the "No" answer. As the outward man begins to perish the inward man is renewed day-by-day (see 2 Cor. 4:16). This, too, is the love of God drawing us to Himself.

To paraphrase Paul's second letter to the Thessalonian church; "We thank God for you that your faith grows exceedingly, and the charity of everyone of you toward each other abounds" (2 Thess. 1:3).

In summary, Scripture tells us that mature faith is initially a gift from God but increases as we feed on the Word. It is strengthened as it is exercised. Our Lord allows circumstances in our lives to work His faith in us. The pathway may vary but there is a common thread. The cho-

rus of the hymn "God Leads His Dear Children Along" captures this truth:

"Some thru the water, some thru the flood, some thru the fire, but all thru the blood..."

—George A. Young

As we "...work out [our] own salvation with fear and trembling," may we praise the Lord Jesus who "...worketh in you, both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:12, 13).

Stanley Boyd

PRINCIPLES, CONCEPTS, AND PARABLES

The Bible is not a rule book, nor is it a list of laws. Often its truths are hidden behind a story and must be sought out by the reader. The Bible is all truth—presented through principles, concepts, and parables. "Why can't it be plain and clear?" we sometimes ask. Jesus told His followers once, in John 8:31, if you really want to be my disciples, you will continue in my Word, you will live as I tell you. These principles, concepts, and parables will come alive to you. He says if you really desire to be my disciple you will know the truth hidden in them, and it is this hidden truth that will make you free. In John 20:27, Jesus told Thomas, "You believed it when you saw it, but blessed are those who believe when they haven't

seen.” This is often the tenor of the scoffer, “Yeah, I’ll believe it when I see it.” May I submit to you, you will never see it. Jesus says here that we will see it when we believe it. You see, belief must come first, or we’ll never see and experience the power of the truth that is hidden within the Gospel. Hebrews 11:6 says, “...he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” If God’s Word was carefully laid out like a rule book it wouldn’t take a diligent search to find its truths. The Bible is perfectly written by an all-wise God to provoke the diligent seeker to dig, but prevent the unbelieving scoffer from finding (John 12:40). Don’t be faithless but BELIEVING! God reveals His truth to the one seeking for it as for hidden treasure.

Forrest Shellabarger

THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

If you visit various business structures, especially those with several layers of authority, you will often see displayed what is known as an organizational chart. These charts outline the authority structure of the company.

Maybe the President or CEO (Chief Executive Officer) is at the top, and the finance officer is under him or her. The accountant or accounts are under his leadership

and the bookkeepers or secretarial staff will answer to the accountant, each with a place in the structure of authority.

Or possibly in a Sales scenario, the President would meet with the Sales Manager, who would direct the sales people, who would direct the deliveries, etc.

These organizational charts that you see define the structure, responsibilities, and leadership roles, and offer company stability.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 11, we find a sort of organizational chart of God’s authority structure. This is a cosmic structure defining universal leadership, or authority, which the King James Translation calls headship. God, who created everything and saw that it was good, will be the ultimate authority. He is the head of Christ. Christ is the head of man, and man is the head of woman. It will be a self-evident fact that leadership without wisdom would be unhappiness at best, and a catastrophe at worst. The first two, God and Christ, are perfect in all, and are ultimate in the example of love, wisdom, and charity. Man and woman may have a little more trouble with the organizational structure when dealing with the flesh. In fact, without the Holy Spirit of God, this leadership sequence may be impossible to fulfill in a God-honoring way.

As we move on through the first 16 verses of this chapter, we find it has some specifics regarding showing honor and dishonor. There are no examples of how to show honor or dishonor in each of life’s circum-

stances, but it does indicate a way to show that you agree with God’s order, and both man and woman are willing to show that to themselves, the world, and to the angels of heaven.

Regardless of how you may interpret this, remember the passage begins with a leadership or authority structure, and is directing us to the manifestation of that. It further defines the structure in terms of the glory of God, of man, and of woman. Finally, it addresses the order of creation as it relates to this order of headship.

This passage has been discussed and debated perhaps for centuries, I suppose, but increasingly in the last several decades (perhaps longer) it has been up for various interpretations, many of which are contrary to long-held Christian practices.

All of that being said, the subject at hand is God’s order of headship, the Christian’s responsibility, and the physical evidence of our agreement with it.

What do you think?

Paul Todd

TRAGEDY, TRUST, AND TRIUMPH

Dr. Richard Donovan

A songwriter wrote, “I will trust when I cannot see, when I’m faced with adversity and believe His will is always best for me. I will trust when I cannot see.”

The Psalmist wrote, “What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee” (Ps. 56:3).

Again in the Psalms, we find these words of David, “I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry...Blessed is the man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.”

Each of us, at one time or another in our lives experiences difficulty, testing, and sometimes even tragedy which tests our faith in God to the uttermost. We are told in Scripture that these testings will come, and we are told how we are to react to them. What we do with testings will determine largely what they do to us. If we react to faith and trust in the Lord, then the testing will become a blessing to us. If we react in anger and self pity, then the testing will become a blight to our lives. We are told in Scripture to give thanks to God in all things. That includes the testings and tragedies in life.

We are told in Scripture that “...all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

Again we are told that our Lord always causes us to triumph in and through our Lord Jesus Christ, “All things” and “Always” include the tragedies and testings in life.

If you face testings or tragedies, trust God, and He will cause you to triumph.

Selected by

Sam Boone (deceased)

NONRESISTANCE— TWO SEPARATE KINGDOMS

Note: This author was a seasoned pilot in the United States Air Force. While in service, he came under conviction that he could no longer be a Christian and carry out his sworn duty to obey his commanding officer. He wrote a 24-page paper explaining why he wanted to be released from his oaths and obligations to the USAF. When he presented his paper to his commanding officer, he was immediately grounded, and his military career ended.

This writing is a small portion of his testimony.

Jay C. Johnson's Testimony—

In order to have a proper perspective of the doctrine of nonresistance, it is essential to understand that the Bible defines two distinct kingdoms on earth. In this section I will show how Christ defined these two kingdoms, how a person becomes a member of the Kingdom of God, that God ordains worldly governments, and the Christian's relationship to the state. A biblical view of these subjects will enable us to understand why Christians should not be involved in the military, even though the state is established by God to use force if necessary.

When a person becomes a Christian, they leave the kingdom of the world to become a member of the Kingdom of God, of which Christ is the King (II Cor. 6:14–18; Luke

23:3). The true Christian, then, begins a walk with Christ and learns obedience to the Bible. The non-Christian remains a member of the world.

In John 18:36 and Matthew 4:8–9, the Bible delineates the two kingdoms. “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.” “Again, the devil taketh him [Jesus] up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.”

When He was on earth, the Jews thought He was going to be king of an earthly kingdom and liberate the Jews from the Romans. If Jesus was interested in political power, He could have gathered a large following of men since He was so popular and still had the power of heaven behind Him. Jesus had the might to overthrow the Romans, but that was not His purpose (John 18:37). His concern was for the glory of God and enlistment of souls into His kingdom. Despite the evils that were taking place in the Roman government during His earthly ministry, Jesus allowed earthly rulers to rule their kingdoms without interference.

Jesus said “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom

of God...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:3, 5). True Christians have been born again of the Spirit of God, which means they are new people with a new life (2 Cor. 5:17). They have a new outlook on life as well as new commands that come from the Bible. They are now citizens of Christ's kingdom.

Once I was translated into Christ's church, I changed my allegiance from the world to Jesus Christ. “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:2). The Bible also says, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15). I became a citizen of Christ's kingdom when I became a Christian.

I am now in the world, just like Christ was during His earthly life, but I am not of the world (John 17:16). When I became a Christian, I became a “pilgrim” and a “stranger” in foreign territory (Eph. 2:19–22). I am no longer a stranger to God, but I am now a stranger in the world (1 Pet. 2:11, Heb. 13:14). Christians, like myself, have effectively changed citizenship and, “Now we are ambassadors for Christ...” (2 Cor. 5:20). As an ambassador for Christ here on earth, I now represent a foreign kingdom, which is God's kingdom.

An ambassador is an official envoy, diplomatic agent, or resident representative of another government (Webster 77). As a Christian, I am bound to the laws of my “government” of which Christ is king. Neither is it my duty, nor would it be right, to entangle myself in the affairs of the foreign land in which I live, just as earthly ambassadors do not involve themselves in the military of the government to which they are ambassadors.

My job as Christ's ambassador is to act in Christ's stead, to call all people to repentance and to encourage reconciliation to God.

The Bible states in Romans 13:1 that the governments in charge today are ordained of God. In other words, God has allowed every government and leader to exercise authority in the position they have been given. This was evident during Christ's trial. “Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?”

“Jesus answered, Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin” (John 19:10–11). God ordains all authority given to men to govern. Whether the person in the government position even acknowledges God or not, the facts remain the same: they could not rule if it was not for God allowing them to rule.

God decides who will be the authorities of the nations. In Daniel's

time, even though King Nebuchadnezzar was a very unrighteous man, God allowed the king to be in a position of authority in order to bring about His purposes. (Dan. 4:17).

In light of these truths, the Christian church should realize that it is the responsibility of the state to use force, but not that of the Christian. Romans, Chapter 13, outlines to the Christian the individual roles of the church and the state. It is the God-given responsibility of the authorities of the state to bear the sword, "...for he [the state authority] beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil" (Rom. 13:4, 1 Pet. 2:14). Because of the wickedness of the human heart (Rom. 3:23), the police and military are needed. For example, to prevent chaos in society, the police must be able to ultimately use force to keep the peace and uphold justice in man's law system. The military is an extension of the police system from an international standpoint and its purpose is to keep peace and wage war.

The role of bearing arms is not the responsibility of Christians or Christ's church in society.

One will notice that there are no rules given in the New Testament for Christian rulers of the state or military. My role as a Christian is always the salvation of souls and the exaltation of Christ by my lifestyle.

God has given me direction in the Bible on how to relate to the state. With the clear separation be-

tween Christ's church and the state, it is my duty as a Christian to submit to the authorities that are appointed over me. The Word of God says: "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God..." (Rom. 13:1-2a).

The Word also says: "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well" (1 Pet. 2:13-14).

God has allowed the present authorities to be in power; this includes my operations officer through the chain of command to the President and the Congress. It is my duty to obey the laws and regulations that are set in place by these authorities. I must obey the laws of the United States as much as the Word of God will allow. The authorities are put in place to keep the peace, pass laws, punish evildoers, and bear the sword. Romans 13:5 says that Christians are to be subject to these "ministers of God" for conscience sake. In other words, to "live a quiet and peaceable life," I must obey the law, pay my taxes, and render custom and honor to whom it is due.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 — "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all

men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

Luke 20:24-25 — "Show me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesars. And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's."

Romans 13:7 — "Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor."

Titus 3:1-2 — "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men."

1 Peter 2:17 — "Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the King."

The Scriptures do not state that the leaders have to be good for Christians to honor them (1 Pet. 2:17). When Peter wrote these verses, the wicked Nero was emperor of Rome. In fact, Nero was so evil that he would use Christians as human torches to light the games in the Roman coliseum.

Prayer is one aspect that should not be overlooked when dealing with the relationship between the Christian church and the state.

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made

for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:1-4).

It is a Bible command for Christians to pray, to give thanks, and to make intercession for all persons, especially for those in authority. I must remember that it is God's will that I am praying for; Jesus said "Not my will, but thine, be done." If a Christian desires to be involved in government or the military, then prayer is God's approved tool for this purpose.

MY CONCLUSION

My true faith and allegiance belongs to Jesus Christ, not the United States, nor the Constitution. Christ's kingdom and the United States are two distinct and separate kingdoms.

The fact is that every person in the USAF has sworn to support and defend the United States and the US Constitution. Therefore, I cannot be true to both the USAF and the commands of Jesus Christ.

My conclusion is that it is wrong in the sight of God to be in the military in any capacity. Out of obedience and love for Jesus Christ, I cannot honestly serve in the United States Air Force with a clear conscience.

Selected from the *Anabaptist Voice*

by the Editor

“THY KINGDOM COME”

I’ve been wanting to take a trip by faith. So let us prayerfully buckle our seatbelts. As we prepare for our journey, we will have God’s great Presence before us in His Word. Let’s daily keep buckled in, in prayer.

Are our vehicles filled with the fuel of His Holy Spirit, to guide us and keep us?

Let us not forget the Voice of His Spirit (our GPS—God’s Presence and Spirit). Showing in our GPS is a long journey of life before us, and we are not very far along before we hear the car doors lock.

The picture we want you to see is this: Psalm 11:4: “The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD’S throne is in heaven...” This scene then led us to Acts 7:49, about God’s dwelling place, where we are going, “Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?”

The scene is penned. Hebrews 12:2 tells us where we are looking: “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Before our trip, we usually study to see the place that we are going to. Is it a beautiful place? Does it have lodging? Does it seem like a peaceful and restful place?

Due to the importance of the following verses, we want to include

them here, which speak of God’s holiness, and how we must also be holy as we journey.

Second Peter 3:14: “Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.”

Psalm 45:6–7: “Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.” So, shouldn’t we enjoy the trip? Continue to read verse 8 to the end of the chapter.

Revelation 1:8 says, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”

Isaiah 41:4 says, “Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.” **May our hearts be always centered upon Him, and we will enjoy the trip!**

“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last” (Rev. 22:13).

Is God interested in our journey of life? Yes, He is interested in how we are doing as we travel.

Revelation 3:21 says, “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”

Second Timothy 2:12 says, “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us...” We think of hymn 143 in our collection. “I am, saith Christ, the Way.” Jesus Christ is the way to this eternal destination!

We get one picture of Heaven by reading Revelation 4:3–11. This is a scene of the Throne of God. Read this, and then turn to Ezekiel 1:27–28. “And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.”

“And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald” (Rev. 4:3). Then continue reading to the end of the chapter.

An eternal destination!

Notice the Scriptures that encourage and warn us on the path:

“Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try

them that dwell upon the earth. Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown” (Rev. 3:10–11).

“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God” (Matt. 5:8).

Then more about the beauty of Heaven:

“Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal...” (Rev. 21:11).

Now let’s read Revelation 22:1, “And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.”

“There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High” (Ps. 46:4).

Psalm 46:5: “God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right

early.” We include these because... have you ever planned a trip, and, well, it just wasn’t what you expected? This is because we are still on earth, and our destinations are not what this one will be.

“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands...” (Rev. 7:9). And then the next verse is their verse of praise!

Now as we are journeying, let’s read Romans 9:17 about God’s purposes. “For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.”

There are places on the way where we may buy good things, and fuel from the Word of God.

“I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see” (Rev. 3:18). And, “...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Rom. 10:17).

Revelation 7 tells us about those who are sealed. Very fascinating. And Hebrews 11 tells us about the lives of those who lived faithful to God, and what they did by faith! Life’s journey

gives us plenty of time to look at these lives and learn from them.

We are sailing through the forties and fifties, and we come to some really rough terrain in the sixties. Most of us start to show signs of aging, but soon our engine light comes on. As we are bumping along, we begin to think “Dark and thorny is the desert through which pilgrims make their way...” We may even have a tire blow, and we need an exit. But still, “It is a very pleasant thing To follow Christ our Lord; And thus obey our heavenly King, According to his word.” (Hymn 266). As we try to learn to abound and also to suffer, we need Philippians 4:12–13: “I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

We also need thoughts as from hymn 247, “Take up thy cross...If thou wouldest my disciple be; Take up thy cross with willing heart, And humbly follow after me.”

The mountains along the way are very beautiful, but for unseasoned drivers, they can be very tricky, and the way can seem very long. We see a sign: “A few more years shall roll. A few more seasons come...”

We are warned many places about getting off at the wrong exit. Proverbs 4:26–27 says, “Ponder the

path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.” There are tricky detours, hidden in the tall grass.

“Well, this getting old is not for sissies,” some have said. But it seems that the older saints have this saintly smile, and are quieter, and can sit still, (perhaps sometimes because of stiffness).

Our G.P.S. had a unique saying. It showed the landmarks, and we knew we were on the right way. But the G.P.S. said, “You are nearing your destination.” And still it seems like everyone is driving at break-neck speed. My friend, Satan knows that his time is running out, and he loves and cares for no one! Children, do not stop at any of his stations, where drugs and drink will bring you heartaches, and your vehicle will stop if you fill up at his station. He will never leave you alone unless your heart is filled with Sonshine! So let the Son shine in!

“Lord, give us a vision, we pray.

Help us thy will to obey.

Come into our heart and make it anew,

Lord, give us a vision today!”

(Christian Hymnary #873)

Let us keep looking to Jesus as we travel (Heb. 2). As we draw closer, we begin to see, “There is a land of pure delight” and “On Jordan’s stormy banks I stand.” But we still need to be careful. There are steep hills and sharp curves, even while we fellowship with God. On the one side of the road we often

see light, but on the other side it can be smoky and hazy. We see a sign that says, “Watch the Signs!” We know not the day or the hour, but we can learn to know the signs! Again the G.P.S. states, “You are nearing your destination!”

I wonder if Heaven can be so close that we can see it clearly by faith. The landmarks are sure.

Hear the G.P.S., 1 Corinthians 15:24 says, “Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.” “How great are His signs! and how mighty are His wonders!” (Dan. 3:3). And soon the G.P.S. says, we are very close!

First Thessalonians 4:16–17 says, “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first. 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.”

Our hymn 480 says, “Jesus, Jesus will go with you. He will lead you to his throne!”

Now Heaven’s a reality!

Only one life, ’Twill soon be past.

Only what’s done for Christ will last!

Vicki Witmer

HOME & FAMILY

MERCIFUL DADS

Learning to Discipline
Like Our Heavenly Father
Shawn D. Schmidt

“...God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins...” (Eph. 2:4, 5).

The report when you get home from work isn't good. Your middle son hasn't finished his schoolwork again. As your wife recounts her difficult day, you feel your frustration rising. You send him to your room to wait.

That pause is necessary for you to think. He must be taught; discipline matters. A firm hand would make this serious. His mom is often too easy on him.

But where does mercy come in?

God is merciful, forgiving, and slow to anger. Psalm 103 says He does not deal with us according to our sins because His mercy is as great as the distance between heaven and earth. That's a lot of mercy.

Yet God is also just. Discipline, though painful, is part of love (Heb. 12:5–11). A father who refuses to discipline is not merciful; he is neglectful.

You enter the room. Your son sits with head down, quietly crying. He looks up, afraid. Your heart catches at first, but you harden your resolve. This is his fault.

But look again. He's tired. He's discouraged. He doesn't want to fail or to disappoint you. He's as weary of this as you are. He's defeated. How has God dealt with you in your failures? Is there any area

where you have repeatedly fallen short with your Father?

Mercy says, “I do not give you what you deserve.”

Grace says, “I give you what you do not deserve.” Love says, “I act for your good.” We desperately need the Spirit's wisdom to hold these together so our homes reflect God's character.

Perhaps this time, what your son needs is not punishment, but mercy.

You sit beside him and draw him close. You ask about his day, and he breaks down. Soon, your tears add to his. You tell him you understand and share your own struggles from your school days. You pray together, asking God to help you both do better. Two sons kneel before a merciful Father.

Afterward, you instruct him with both firmness and hope, then send him to make things right with his mom. He looks back, surprised. “But what about my punishment?”

Love sees the child. Mercy restrains the punishment.

Grace builds him up. Love does what is best for him.

You smile and ruffle his hair. “I think you understand. I know you want to do better. A punishment won't be necessary this time. Let's go see how much homework we can get done before supper.”

“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy” (Matt. 5:7).

Selected by

Zach Flory

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME

It was a long day of errands with three young children; running in and out of stores, buckling, unbuckling (and repeat), inconvenient requests for the bathroom, no lunch, and overdue naps. In the last check-out line with the big cart—turning down requests for the tempting array of goodies, reminding the restless older ones to stay put, the youngest crying because his prize of bubbles has been taken to be checked out—I allow the frustration to overcome me and speak sharply. The unsightly display continues out into the parking lot as patience and gentleness wane and seem to depart entirely.

The last stop is Grandma's house, just quickly running in, and finding family from away are there. They greet me enthusiastically with warm hugs and inquiries about the children's whereabouts. Yes, they're all in the car. “We haven't had lunch and once unloaded, they're hard to round up.” Uncle and Aunt are understanding and quickly make their way outside. I follow to see one on either side of the car, making over the children. Giggles drift out from inside along with happy exclamations of greeting. As they head back in the house Uncle says, “Enjoy those young'uns.” I give an appreciating smile and get in the car to leave. As I pull out of the driveway, his words echo in my head. “*Enjoy. Enjoy those young'uns.*”

Tears well up in my eyes as I recall my sharp words and impatient behavior.

How often is it the case that I focus on the inconvenience and chaos of young children and forget to notice and appreciate their littleness? Children are precious and there are so many things about them to enjoy once you start looking. The sound of their little voice lisping the words and phrases unique to them. Big, shining eyes looking up at you with great sincerity as they express their deepest need for a cookie. Excitement over simple things like mealtime and how they never seem to know whether it is breakfast, lunch, or supper. Great delight over mastering small skills.

There are people who love children, not because they know them well, but simply because they are children. The ones who stop in the store to smile and gaze, usually with comments about their own when they were small. The ones who don't seem to mind the constant movement and voices that are often a little too loud. The ones who notice a child's littleness and delight in it as if they were their own. What a blessing this perspective and understanding is! Like Jesus, they seem to be saying, “Let the little children come.” It often seems that this wisdom comes with age and fond memories of “when the children were young.”

My encouragement to mothers whose children are young now is to begin today to enjoy their little-

ness. Children have many needs and require much training, but in the midst of it all, we can appreciate the childish things they do. Delight in the things they delight in. Enjoy them—hold them a little longer, linger a moment to let their giggles soak in. Don't let the busy-

ness of caring for their needs be your only focus and miss all the little moments that will soon become wistful memories, much more quickly than you expect.

Jessica Bayer

MONTHLY MEDITATIONS

Pray for those wavering in their faith and also for those backsliding. "Nurture and admonition" are God's nurture and God's admonition.

Silence in God's presence is an expression of reverence.

You are not the General Manager of the Universe.

To fall away, one doesn't have to fall very far.

Meanness doesn't just happen overnight.

God-forgiven people always forgive.

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

The last days are upon us, as foretold in the Scriptures in many places. Almost all of the New Testament writers speak of things waxing worse and worse (2 Tim. 3:13) and of a time when the Antichrist will exert more and more influence, though he is already in the world.

"Little children, it is the last time; and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time" (1 Jn. 2:18).

Questions:

1. As a believer, what should my role be, in the Church of God, and as I mingle in the world?
2. Is the need for encouragement and stability greater now among our people?
3. What about in my family?
4. What are some ways that I can contribute, in the church, commu-

nity, and family, to the stability of those around me, as the days become more evil?

5. Should our family discussions include talking about ways that we can answer questions or give encouragement in the marketplace?

6. The Bible says that men's hearts will be failing them for fear (Luke 21:26). Should we have a word of hope ready for them?

7. Should I be giving more thought to encouraging my parents or siblings as they each deal with the burdens life is bringing to them?

8. What Scriptures can I point others to that will give hope and direction to us all?

9. Does my church congregation need more encouragement, as I visit with the members weekly?

10. Will this effort need to be intentional, because it is not natural?

11. Will Satan try to hinder this?

GENERAL ITEMS

BAPTISMS

Aug. 26, 2026; Sugar Grove, OH
Kendall Peters

Aug. 30, 2026; Cutler Ridge, IN
Ethan Dutter

Sept. 6, 2026; Fair Haven, KS
Luke and Millie Oldsen

Sept. 9, 2026; Pleasant View, OH
Kayla Miller

NEW MEMBERS

Aug. 28, 2026; West Modesto, CA
Reuben Cover

COMMUNION NOTICES

Oct. 3, 2026.....Providence, IN
Oct. 10, 2026.....Lower Twin, OH
Oct. 10, 2026.....Zillah, WA
Oct. 17, 2026.... Clearwater, IN/WI
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..... Kidron Valley, KS
Nov. 7, 2026..... Shenandoah, VA
Nov. 7, 2026..... West Modesto, CA
Nov. 14, 2026..... Fall Creek, IN
Jan. 30, 2027 Pine Grove, FL
Feb. 6, 2027 Living Epistle, NM
Feb. 27, 2027 West Manchester, IN
Mar. 6, 2027 Dallas, OR
Mar. 27, 2027 Fair Haven, KS
Apr. 3, 2027 ... Cascade Valley, WA
Apr. 10, 2027 Cutler Ridge, IN

MISSION VALLEY BUILDING UPDATE

On behalf of the Mission Valley congregation, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who has so generously supported us during this phase of our building remodel. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial support have made it possible for us to make significant improvements to our current building.

With your assistance, we have been able to:

- Install new windows
- Install a new heating system

- Upgrade the plumbing
- Upgrade the kitchen
- Finish the basement
- Install new flooring
- Paint the interior
- Install new doors
- Change bathroom layouts
- Create a small council room

These improvements have greatly enhanced the practicality, comfort, and useability of our building.

The remaining work for Phase One includes installing gutters and painting the exterior. We hope to complete these projects soon. This will complete the first phase of the remodel project.

Phase Two of the project will involve the annex located at the back of the sanctuary. We will need to determine whether the existing structure can be salvaged, or whether it would be more practical to tear it down and begin again from the ground up. We look forward to seeking the Lord's direction and wisdom as we consider this next step. Your continued prayers and support would be greatly appreciated.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and support. We are grateful for everyone who has had a part in helping make these improvements possible.

Financial contribution may be sent to:

Mission Valley NC Building Fund
Gabriel Mohler
42730 Ridgeway Rd.
Charlo, MT 59824

We cordially invite you to come and worship with us at Mission Valley whenever you are near or in the area. You are always welcome, and we would be glad to have you join us.

With sincere appreciation, and on behalf of the Mission Valley congregation,

The Building Committee

POEMS

THE WORLD OUTSIDE

There is a world outside our own
Of which I'd never seen,
Until one day I journeyed there
Across the distant seas.

It is a land where children play
On red and dusty ground,
A land of pain and suffering
Where poverty abounds.

The beauty there is hard to find
From an external view.
No mansions there, or shiny cars.
Nothing is clean and new.

And yet a closer glimpse inside
Reveals a deeper truth.
It seems with less, there can be more;
The old can feel like new.

I saw the children wearing smiles
In spite of broken hearts;
Their laughter echoed through the air
And spread to every part.

And then I thought of life as I
Had made it out to be,
With lavish homes, and earthly goods
And wealth beyond my need.

But yet was I as carefree as
The children in that land.
Could I be happy with my life
If dealt a poorer hand?

And so it seemed these different worlds
Could surely never blend.
The world of fame, and wealth, and show,
Where comfort knows no end.

And then the world of broken dreams
Of sickness, pain, and death,
Where every day is lived as if
It hinged on one last breath.

I sat with this, in heavy thought.
And on my journey home
I prayed that God would take each child
And claim them as His own.

I prayed that He would care for them.
Of this I could be sure.
And someday we would meet again,
On the eternal shore.

(After visiting children's homes in
the country of Myanmar)

Laura Alspaugh
Myerstown, PA

LOOK

If Christ would come today—to stay,
As He looks at my day, would He say,
“Give me all your hurts, unburden
your heavy load”?

If Christ would come today—to stay,
Would He ask me if I could trust Him?
Trust Him with my burdens great,
And fill my heart with love?

If Christ would come today—to stay,
Would He tell me that all of these things
That are sought—will be laid
beneath the dust?

If Christ would come today—to stay,
Would He ask me to just forgive,
And love as He has loved?

If Christ would come today—would
He say
That fears and hurts are a tool'
That Satan uses to cloud our minds,
So we forget to pray?

If Christ would come today—would
He say
That the packed inside our day
Reveal the things we really love—
The love that we give away?

If Christ would come today—would
He say
The time's so short, you know—
The values that are given away,
Shall shine in eternal gold?

Vicki Witmer
New Madison, OH

CALL BACK!

If you have gone a little way ahead of me, call back—
'Twill cheer my heart and help my feet along the stony track;
And if, perchance, Faith's light is dim, because the oil is low,
Your call will guide my lagging course as wearily I go.

Call back, and tell me that He went with you into the storm;
Call back, and say He kept you when the forest's roots were torn;
That when the heavens thundered and the earthquake shook the hill,
He bore you up and held you where the very air was still.

O friend, call back and tell me, for I cannot see your face;
They say it glows with triumph, and your feet bound in the race;
But there are mists between us, and my spirit eyes are dim,
And I cannot see the glory, though I long for word of Him.

But if you'll say He heard you when your prayer was but a cry,
And if you'll say He saw you through the night's sin-darkened sky—
If you have gone a little way ahead, O friend, call back—
'Twill cheer my heart and help my feet along the stony track.

Selected from the front of Rosalind Goforth's book
Climbing! Memories of a Missionary's Wife.

by Maribeth Filbrun, Waynesboro, PA

OBITUARIES

SKILES — Mary Helen, age 94, daughter of Charles E. and Alberta Wampler Long, was born on January 5, 1932, in Knob Noster, Missouri. She was called home to be with her Lord on the evening of June 15, 2026, while surrounded by her children. Mother left us with a beautiful smile on her face as she experienced the unimaginable glories our Father has prepared for those who accept the gift of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer!

Mother moved with her family from Knob Noster to Lapel, Indiana, in 1935. Her parents bought a

farm in Rossville, Indiana, where they moved in 1941. 1950 was an eventful year for Mother. She graduated from Rossville High School in 1950. Also, she, along with some dear friends, accepted the Lord and was baptized in 1950. She also was married to Charles A. Skiles on December 8, 1950.

Mother was a willing and hard worker on the farm as she worked side by side with Dad for many years. They lived on the farm until 1988, when she and Dad built a new home around the corner from the farm. As they got older, they were able to enjoy several years of travel

including two trips to the Holy Land. Dad passed away in August 2015, and mother lived in their home until 2019, when she moved into an apartment she had built, across the drive from her home, where she resided until the Lord called her Home. We children were privileged to care for our mother in her home as she so patiently bore her increasing weakness and failing eyesight with a gentle and grateful spirit.

Mother loved people, was always interested in their welfare, and showed it with humble acts of generosity, kindness, and service. She especially was interested in, and grateful for, the members of her fellowship at Cutler Ridge, and appreciated the loving care they gave her. Mother was a member of the Old German Baptist Brethren, NC, Cutler Ridge Congregation.

Mother leaves behind her daughters, Sharon and Lynn Peters, Marcia and Robin Root; son, Larry and Joyce Skiles; son-in-law, Loren Peters; 12 grandchildren; 44 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren. Also her brother, Dale (Lois) Long; sisters, Marlene (Gary) Boone, and Charlene (Steven) Lynch; sisters-in-law, Bonnie Long, Mary Noll, Alice (Tim) Hoover, Joyce Skiles, Lisa Skiles Lukens; brother-in-law, Eugene (Robina) Skiles; step-brothers, Norris (Mary Catherine)

Skiles, and Jerry Skiles; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband; daughter, Diane Peters; parents; mother- and father-in-law, Nettie Skiles and Harvey Skiles; stepmother, Belle Skiles Long; brothers, Everett, David, and Russell Long; brothers-in-law, Darrell Filbrun, Dwaine Lentz, Marion Noll, David Skiles, and Mark Skiles; and step-sister-in-law, Carol (Dick) Ottinger.

Funeral services were conducted on Sunday Morning, June 21, 2026, at Cutler Ridge Meeting House with burial at Maple Lawn Cemetery, Flora, Indiana.

Mother was blessed with a long and fruitful life, and now has been given her heart's desire, to join her Savior, her husband, her precious daughter, Diane, and other loving family and friends.

"O praise the LORD, all ye nations; praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us; and the truth of LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD" (Ps. 117).

The Family

BOONE — Elizabeth Ann (Mason, Wagoner), was born December 29, 1931, and deceased July 30, 2026. She was the younger daughter of Thomas and Nellie (Wray) Mason and was born and raised on

a farm near Sawyer, Kansas. At the age of fourteen, she requested Christian baptism and lived faithfully as a follower of Jesus.

She was married to Melvin Wagoner, son of Andrew and Wilma (Gish) Wagoner, on March 15, 1953, and they were the parents of four children. They raised their family in the Anderson, Harvey, and Butler counties of Kansas, and their union was broken by Melvin's death in July, 1997.

She was married again to Robert Boone, a widower and son of John and Alice (King) Boone, on November 27, 1999. He died in May, 2016. Betsy, as she was affectionately known, lived the remainder of her life in the Miami and Preble counties of Ohio.

Mom had an outgoing and engaging personality. She took sincere interest in others and formed lifelong friendships across many states. She was a homemaker, an Avon representative, the wife of a teacher, and the wife of a minister; and she faithfully served in each of these callings. Her latter years were spent in a local nursing home in Eaton, Ohio, where she was appreciated by both staff and residents for her friendly spirit, harmonica-playing abilities, and many spontaneous songs and poems which seemed to just bubble out of her.

For most of her life, she had a keen memory and was able to recount incidents and details which others had either not recognized or had long forgotten. In her latter years, her own mind began to fade, but she was pleasant and cooperative until the very end. We, her children and family, consider ourselves highly blessed by having been cared for by a godly mother and grandmother.

She was predeceased by her parents and husbands; her brother, Keith (Bernice) Mason; and sister, Virginia (John) Wolf; and two granddaughters, Sarah Wagoner and Deborah Wagoner.

She is survived by her children and their spouses and companions: Curtis Wagoner and Jane, Craig Wagoner and Cindy Jones, Cheryl Wagoner Alexander and James Alexander, and Carma Rockers and Dale Elmer. Her surviving grandchildren are Bethany Brubaker, Rachel Coleman, Caleb Wagoner, Hannah Wray, Mason Wagoner, Colet Wagoner, Nathan Rockers, Aaron Rockers, and Gabriel Rockers. Betsy is also survived by 30 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren; and three stepchildren: Beverly Davenport, Bradley Boone, and Barak (Theresa) Boone.

Her loving nature was, in turn, reciprocated to her by many others. Her children, grandchildren,

former neighbors and acquaintances, residents and staff from the nursing home, and many others immensely enjoyed her engaging personality and wit. She was a member and worthy contributor in the Sand Creek, Cedar Creek, and Maple Grove Old German Baptist Brethren church congregations throughout her lifetime. She will be missed, but we cherish the enrichment she provided us.

Funeral services were held in the Upper Twin meeting house in Preble County, Ohio, and the burial was in Bethel Cemetery in Anderson County, Kansas. Ministering brethren who served in this way were Allen Markley, Kendall Eichman, Alan Garber and Duane Flora.

God has blessed both in life and death, and we praise Him! Blessed be the name of the Lord.

The Family

BOWMAN — Daniel Amos, 67, of Modesto, California, passed away on August 4, 2026. Daniel was born on July 13, 1959, to Fred and Ruth Bowman. He was baptized on June 17, 1979.

Daniel was the husband of Sally Bowman and is the father of Brad Bowman, Vincent (Karen) Bowman, and Alyssa (Clark) Wray.

He is the grandfather of Elsa, Andersen, Jasper and Clara Bow-

man, and Adaya, Jack, Felicity, (Eden Rose), Shepherd and Archer Wray.

Daniel's siblings are Bonnie (Byron) Miller, Betty (Phil) Cook, and Mary Jane (John) Beery.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Ruth Bowman; his sister, Betty Cook; and his granddaughter, Eden Rose.

In his earlier years, Daniel was an accomplished carpenter. He was known for his hearty laugh and enjoyed connecting with others, something that remained important to him throughout his life.

Throughout much of his life, Daniel was a member of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church. Although there were seasons when he was close to the church and seasons when he was away, the brothers and sisters remained faithful to him through their prayers, friendship, care, and service.

Daniel leaves behind a life known fully by God and remembered in different ways by those who knew him. His family is grateful for those who continued to show him and his family patience, compassion, and faithful Christian love through both peaceful and difficult times.

Visitation was held Saturday, August 8, 2026, from 4–7 P.M. and the funeral was Sunday, August 9, 2026, at 2 P.M. Both meetings were held in the Modesto Old German

Baptist, New Conference church. He was laid to rest at the Wood Colony Cemetery.

The Family

FLORY — Judith A. “Judy,” 78, of Covington, Ohio, passed away Monday morning, August 10, 2026, at her residence. She was born September 4, 1947, in Hancock County, Ohio, to the late Howard and Alta McMaster. She married Marlin L. Flory on February 11, 1967; he survives.

She is also survived by her children, Dawn (Andrew) Sink of Covington, Darcy (Kip) Deaton of Covington and Jamie (Jeff) Fisher of St. Paris, Ohio; nine grandchildren, Chase (Ashley) Lavy, Connor (Megan) Lavy, Nash Lavy (fiancée Jenna Victor), Canyon Sink, Piper

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

Sink, McKell (Travis) Bowman, Teague (Abby) Deaton, Slava Deaton, and Reese Fisher; eight great-grandchildren, Tucker, Oakley, Larkyn, Kollyns, Lincoln, Emmy, Lenny, and Aspen; in-laws, L.D. (Sue) Flory of Pleasant Hill, Ohio, and Myrna Frantz of North Manchester, Indiana; and several step-siblings.

Judy was a longtime homemaker, wife and mother. She was a member of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church—New Conference.

Funeral services were held at 10 A.M. Thursday, August 13, at the Old German Baptist Brethren Church, Covington, Ohio. Burial followed in Sugar Grove Cemetery. Visitation was from 2–6 P.M. Wednesday at Moore Funeral Home, 10 S. High St., Covington, Ohio.

The Family

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.

Send all communication to:

The Testimony
353 Billman Rd.
New Paris, OH 45347-9102
Phone: (937) 604-9464
thetestimony@emypeople.net

The Testimony Committee

Lowell Miller, Editor
Phil King
Tim Deaton
Grant Fullmer
Rusty Flora

Associate Editors

Marcus Miller
Darryl Filbrun