"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

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing." Psalm 100:1–2

Vol. XVII *November 2026* *No. 11*

NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us,
To keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son and Spirit blest,
Who reign in highest heaven—
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

Author: Martin Rinkart 1586–1649
Translator : Catherine Winkworth (1858)
Composer: Johann Crüger (1647)
Selected by
Joel D. Metzger, Eaton, Ohio

The Testimony

CONTENTS

FRONT COVER 1
Now Thank We All Our God 1
EDITORIAL 3
Thanks Giving 3
GENERAL 4
The Challenge of Christian Stewardship 4
An Allegory 9
A Devout Exhortation To The Holy Communion 10
Practice, Reality, Narrative 11
Do You Know My Jesus? 12
Pathway To A Fulfilled Heart 13
The Magnificent Jesus 18
Where in Eternity? 19
MEDITATIONS 20
QUESTIONS TO PONDER 20
GENERAL ITEMS 21
POEMS 1, 22
OBITUARIES 24



Editorial

THANKS GIVING

The word Thanksgiving has been presented in several different ways. It is usually used as a noun, as an expression of thankfulness and gratitude, specifically to God. Thanksgiving is seldom used as an expression of thanks to men. It has been used as "Thanks Living," the application of an expression of thanks to a pattern of life. It has even been used in reference to Thanksgiving Day, a day calling our nation to Thanksgiving to God for His blessings in times of special national blessing or need. There have been times when a day of national Thanksgiving was declared to be a day of fasting and prayer instead of a day of feasting, festivities, and football.

Currently, Thanksgiving Day is a fixed holiday set by our government and declared yearly by the President. Unfortunately, Thanksgiving Day has lost much of its intended meaning to most people. It has become the practice and responsibility of our fellowship to come together for a Thanksgiving Day Meeting in obedience to the declaration of our government. This year our fellowship has only one Thanksgiving Day Meeting scheduled in the Miami Valley of Ohio. The meeting house should be filled with thankful worshippers!

In the title of this meditation "Thanksgiving" has intentionally been divided into two words, "Thanks" and "Giving." The intention is to place emphasis on each word separately. "Thanks" indicates that something has been received or is being received, and the receiver wishes to return an expression of gratitude. "Thank You, Lord." The word "Giving" in our present meditation, is used to indicate that we should give to others of the blessings that God has given to us.

Now, having received from God and given thanks, we would like to lift a Scripture out of its context, as it were. Matthew 10:7–8 reads, "And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." This was instruction by Jesus to His Apostles. But it is also to us. "Freely ye have received, freely give."

This is not limited to our material goods and our time. Jesus gave to us of His love, His grace, His Word, the Holy Spirit, the promise of eternal live, exceeding great and precious promises, and all things pertaining to life and godliness. So, as we go, we must spread the word of the imminent Kingdom, attend to the physically sick or dying according to our ability. The dread disease of leprous sin can be healed by spreading the word of the Gospel of Salvation. Even those dead in sin can be raised to a life in the Kingdom of God and His Son.

Freely ye have received, now freely give.

Marcus Miller

General

THE CHALLENGE OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP PART 1

Milo Kauffman

A revival of Christian stewardship will inevitably mean a revival of spiritual life, and a revival of spiritual life will always mean a revival of Christian stewardship. This will be true of the individual, of the local church, and of the church at large.

Christian stewardship, a right relationship with God, holiness of life, fellowship with God, victorious living, the consecrated life, and the Christian life, are as dependent upon each other as the spokes of a wheel.

A careful study of God's dealing with His people from the time of Adam to the present will convince one of this fact. Let there be a revival of Christian stewardship and the long-prayed-for revival of the Christian Church will be at hand. Let the powers of Pentecost be felt in the church and a new day of Christian stewardship will dawn. The opposite is true also—when spiritual life is at low ebb, Christian stewardship greatly diminishes, or if Christian stewardship flags, spiritual life will ebb low with it. Man was created to be the steward of God. When he ceases to be God's steward, he ceases to be in fellowship with God, and in harmony with the will of God.

Christian stewardship, according to one definition, is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of time, abilities, and material possessions, based on a conviction that these are a trust from God to be used in His service, for the benefit of all mankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.

This definition is quite inclusive and adequate. It suggests, in the first place, that Christian stewardship is a practice. It is a practical expression of one's experience with God—a fundamental principle and a Christian way of life. In the second place, Christian stewardship is systematic and proportionate. Issuing from the very heart of Christian living it cannot be spasmodic and indefinite. Thirdly, it suggests that Christian stewardship is inclusive—it is the management of life and all its resources for God and our fellow men. All of life—all one's time, abilities, and possessions are gifts from God and should be used for His glory and for the good of His creation.

In the fourth place, the definition suggests that Christian stewardship is based upon a conviction that what we are and have is a trust from God. It becomes an overwhelming sense of moral responsibility for administering this trust in the interests of God's kingdom. Finally, it suggests that Christian stewardship is giving for His service and for the benefit of mankind. Christian stewardship is concerned in God's glory, but is also concerned in the well-being of God's children. The well-being of His children is God's glory and His will. To use life and its resources for God and for the good of all is to fulfill the great commandment and the second as well—to love God with all the heart, and to love one's neighbor as oneself (Matt. 22:37, 39).

It has been said that stewardship of possessions is the economic result of a religious experience. The deeper one's religious experience the greater will be his sense of stewardship. Stewardship of possessions is the effect of God's saving grace upon one's self and his property. Because of what has happened to us we use our talents and possessions as a trust from God. When God gets us He gets our property: When Jesus got Peter He also got Peter's boat. Then when the throng pressed Him at Galilee's seaside He had a boat from which to preach because He had the owner of the boat. He got the lad's lunch with which to feed the multitudes because He got the lad. When God gets a man with a car, He gets a car to be used in His service. When He gets a man of talent, He gets talent for the interests of His kingdom. When He gets a man with wealth, He gets wealth for furthering the Christian church.

We become Christ's stewards when He becomes our Lord. To acknowledge the Lordship of Christ means that we accept stewardship. Professing Christ as Lord and failing in stewardship is to say "Lord, Lord," and not do the things that He says.

Some Implications of Christian Stewardship

The Christian steward recognizes that God is the Creator and Owner of all things, and that He graciously bestows upon man the gifts of personality, abilities, and time, as well as material things. It is God who gives man the ability to get wealth. The belief that man owns anything is pagan.

The Christian steward recognizes that man is a steward of God's creation and of God's gifts. These gifts are a trust and must be used according to the will of God. We are to occupy till He comes. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:19–20). Our bodies must be cared for and used to His glory, our personalities must be developed for the greatest possible contribution, our abilities are to be used for Him and our fellow men,

likewise our time and material possessions.

The Christian steward recognizes a responsibility to his fellowmen. No Christian dare ask, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Cain showed his utter disregard for the principle of stewardship, not only by offering an inferior gift, but by asking, "Am I my brother's keeper?" If we see our brother in need and shut up our heart of compassion from him, how does the love of God dwell in us?

The Christian steward recognizes that a separated portion—a token of God's ownership—is to be given outright to God. In the Old Testament that portion was definitely specified as a tenth of the income. To disregard this phase of stewardship endangers the principle itself and renders faithful stewardship impossible.

The Christian steward recognizes that stewardship is a principle, and that faithfulness brings coveted and worthwhile rewards, while unfaithfulness is fraught with many hazards. Faithful stewardship brings the approval of God, the enlargement of abilities, and the sharing of the joy of the Lord. Unfaithfulness, on the other hand, brings the disapproval of God, the diminishing of abilities, and separation from the Lord.

The Purpose of Christian Stewardship

There are a number of mistaken opinions about stewardship. There are many Christians, and a good many ministers among them, who seem to think that the primary purpose of stewardship is to raise money for the expenses of the church. One minister said that it was his plan to preach one sermon on giving every year. That sermon was to be given the time they secured the annual pledges for the support of the church budget. That pastor, like many others, thought of stewardship as a means of securing money for the church. No doubt the members of his church had a wrong conception of Christian stewardship and not a very wholesome attitude toward it.

Stewardship becomes an unpopular term when people think of it mainly as money raising, or a scheme to get their hard earned cash. Lloyd Collins has well said that it is a perversion of the first order to plan a stewardship program just for the purpose of raising more money.

Others think of stewardship and tithing as synonymous. Tithing may be a good method of giving, but it may also be merely an act. Stewardship, on the other hand, is an attitude that expresses itself in daily living. Stewardship recognizes God's ownership, and that all we are or have is a trust and must be used for God and the good of fellow men. Stewardship is something far beyond the tithe. The tithe may become mechanical, but not stewardship.

Some seem to think of stewardship as a whip or as legal action to drive people to give to the expenses of the church. No doubt too often the attempt has been made to wring generous gifts from selfish souls. Christian stewardship most certainly is not church legislation nor a scheme to deprive men of their cash. It is the natural consequence of an experience with God—the natural reaction of the human heart that has been touched by the divine Spirit.

Another wrong notion of stewardship is that it applies only to money or material possessions; that if one gives systematically and proportionately, he is a good steward. The fact is, God wants most of all, not our money, but ***ourselves***.

Paul says that the Macedonians "first gave their own selves to the Lord." Only when we have given ourselves to the Lord are our possessions acceptable to Him. Stewardship includes the use of talents, time, and life as well as possessions. Christian stewardship must look beyond money and material possessions to the heart of man himself and must concern itself more with the character of man and what he is than with his offering and what he has. No amount of giving will make up for lack of character, or lack of consecration of self.

On the other hand, in some circles there seems to be a danger today of broadening the meaning of Christian stewardship, of emphasizing personality, time, talents, etc., and as a result *minimizing* stewardship of material things. One may shirk his responsibility in helping finance the work of the church while stressing the larger stewardship. While Christian stewardship should and does include all of life it does not permit "chiseling" on giving of means. The stewardship of the Scriptures is heavy on the side of money and possessions. While giving of one's means does not excuse him from other stewardship responsibilities, neither does stewardship of life excuse one from sharing material wealth.

A common mistake among Christians is to contend that we are under grace and therefore are not obligated to give generously of our means. Some are like the Christian who had a Jewish friend. One Sabbath he went with this Jew to the synagogue. He was astonished as the Jew gave twenty-dollar bill after twenty-dollar bill. The Jew, seeing his surprise explained, "It's the tithe. You see we Jews tithe our income." Sometime later the Jew went with his Christian friend to church. When the offering plate was passed the Jew could not hide his astonishment as his friend threw a few small coins into the offering plate. The Christian saw his surprise and said, "You see we Christians are not under the law; we can give as little as

we like." The Jew answered, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."

It is true that in the legalistic sense the Christian is not obligated to give largely to the work of the Lord. But it is likewise true that he is not obligated to attend Sunday services, to have family worship, to say grace before meals, to read the Bible, or to pray. Yet, if he fails in these, he most certainly loses a blessing and cannot be in full fellowship with his Lord. He who loves his Lord does these things out of a heart of love and not by legal constraint. These things are written in his heart. The words of Jesus, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them," may well apply here.

In the purpose of God, stewardship is a fundamental principle designed to help man. It helps him to recognize the ownership of God. It helps to lead him into greater participation in the great work of God in the redemption of the world. His purpose was not to get a gift from man or to get his money. It was the giver God had in mind. Stewardship is His way of enriching the life of man and leading him to deeper experiences with Himself—making him a partner with God. Christian stewardship is for the good of mankind; for the building of character. The cornerstone of all character-building worthy of the name is a deeply implanted sense of responsibility to God. The Jewish tithe was not for the sake of the tithe but for the sake of the Jew. Christian stewardship will help make God real in man. It will help man conquer selfishness and covetousness. It will help give him mastery over himself and his passions. It will help remove the sense of frustration and uselessness. It will give him a greater interest in the work of the kingdom. It will give him a sense of partnership with God.

Just as stewardship is not a scheme of God to take something from man, so it must not become man's scheme for raising money for the purposes of the church. The primary purpose should be the development of Christian character—the right relationship of man with God, and the enrichment of spiritual life.

To be continued…

Selected from the
Conrad Grebel Lectures (1953)
By the Editor

"Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

Matt. 25:34–36

AN ALLEGORY

Credentials of the most qualified teachers ever:

He achieves 100% attention.
He receives 100% respect.
He produces 100% obedience.

He accomplishes long term and complete memory retention of the lesson.

The content of his subject matter is clearly understood, it is impossible to misunderstand the curriculum.

His students all respect him, but none of them love him.

No one recommends his classes, but they are some of the most highly attended courses in the world.

There are no waiting lists to enter his class, you may start at any moment.

Graduates of his courses many times have a significantly altered view of life priorities.

His name is Mr. Pain who is assisted by his partner
Mr Inescapable…

They are permanent teachers on the staff in the School of Life.

This class only has two grades: **Better** or **Bitter.**

The **Bitter** grade grants the student the following certification:

"Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled" (Heb. 12:15).

The **Better** grade grants the student the following certification:

"Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God" (2 Cor. 1:2–4).

Galen Mohler

A DEVOUT EXHORTATION TO THE HOLY COMMUNION

Editor's note: The following writing was sent to me, just to read and ponder. As I read it, I was greatly moved.

Something in the sincerity and style of the expressions here compelled me to consider more the absolute wretchedness of my state without the grace and forgiveness of God.

And then being pointed to offer myself wholly unto God in faith so that He alone can account us worthy, and cleanse us from our sins.

The voice of Christ:

"Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you, saith the Lord.

The bread which I will give is My Flesh, for the life of the world.

Take ye and eat; this is My Body which shall be given for you: Do this in remembrance of Me.

He that eateth My Flesh and drinketh My Blood, dwelleth in Me, and I in him.

The words which I have spoken unto you are Spirit and Life."

Concerning searching our own conscience, and of purpose of amendment

The Voice of the Beloved:

Above all things, with exceeding pliant reverence, with a full faith, and holy intention to do honour to God, ought God's [servant] to come to the [Communion].

Examine diligently thy conscience, and to the utmost of thy power purify and make it clear, with true contrition and humble confession; so as thou mayest have no burden, nor know anything that may breed in thee remorse of conscience, and hinder thy free drawing near. Think with displeasure of all thy sins in general, and more particularly bewail and lament thy daily transgressions. And if time allow thee, confess unto God in the secret of thine heart all the wretchedness of thy evil passions. Groan and lament that thou art yet so carnal and worldly, so unmortified from passions; so full of the motions of concupiscence, so unwatchful over thy outward senses, so often entangled with many vain imaginations; so much inclined to outward things, so negligent in things inward; so lightly moved to laughter and unbridled mirth, so hardly to tears and contrition; so prompt to ease and pleasures of the flesh, so dull to zeal and strictness of life; so curious to hear what is new, and to see what is beautiful, so slack to embrace what is humble and small; so covetous of abundance, so in niggardly [beggarly] in giving, so close in keeping; so inconsiderate in speech, so reluctant to keep silence; so unruly in manners, so fretful in conduct; so eager about food, so deaf to the Word of God; so swift to take rest, so slow to labour; so wakeful after gossiping tales, so drowsy at the sacred Services of the night; so hasty to arrive at the end; so inclined to wandering and inattention; so careless in observing the Hours of prayer, so lukewarm in celebrating, so dry in communication; so quickly distracted, so seldom thoroughly self-collected; so suddenly moved to anger, so apt to take displeasure against another; so ready to judge, so severe to reprove; so joyful at prosperity, so weak in adversity; so often making many good resolutions, and yet bringing them as last to so poor effect.

These and other thy defects being confessed and bewailed with sorrow and great displeasure at thine own infirmity, make thou a firm resolution to be always amending thy life, and making progress in all that is good.

Then with full resignation and with thy entire will, offer up thyself to the honour of My Name, on the altar of thy heart a perpetual whole burnt offering, even thy body and soul, faithfully committing them unto Me. And thus mayest thou be accounted worthy to draw near to offer this sacrifice unto God, and to receive the communion to thy soul's health.

For man hath no oblation more worthy, nor any satisfaction greater for the putting away of sins, than to offer himself unto God purely and wholly, and in receiving the communion. And when a man shall have done what lieth in him, and shall be truly penitent, how often soever he shall come to Me for pardon and grace, as I live, saith the Lord, who will have no pleasure in the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live. I will not remember his sins any more, but they shall all be forgiven him (Ezek. 18:22, 23).

From ***The Imitation of Christ***
Thomas A. Kempis (1380–1471)

Selected by the Editor

PRACTICE, REALITY, NARRATIVE

The inseparable response to one who chooses to believe the principles, concepts, and parables given in the Word, is a life of practice, reality, and living narrative. When one has been made free through belief, the principles of God's Word cannot be unseen. They become practical in every aspect of life, and he loves to speak of how they have affected him. When we practice God's principles we proclaim efficacy of them in life. Principles are not true to me if they are not effective. Sometimes practices seem ineffective, and that is simply because it is seen as an end in itself rather than an outflowing obedience from God's truths. If God's Word is real to me, it will be observed in the narrative of my life. The beauty and power of freedom in Christ Jesus is being fully immersed in self-forgetfulness. We become so absorbed in His goodness, love, and compassion that, what seems as foolishness to the carnal man, is our delight. As we study the Word and the Spirit reveals the deep truths there, it must become so practical that our neighbor, brother, and friend cannot miss it. Some are better with words, some are better with action, but may we each be challenged to practice the reality of the Gospel in the narrative of our lives!

Forrest Shellabarger

DO YOU KNOW MY JESUS?

For all the dearest children. I would like for you to meet Someone who is so special to all. You cannot visually meet Him now face to face, but by faith He walks with us!

He was with the Father from the beginning, and I feel He made an agreement to come down out of heaven to give the greatest gift ever given. A love that is far greater than anyone has ever given. Do you know my Jesus?

The Old Testament had pointed to His birth, but when He came there was "no room in the inn" for Him to have a bed, so He was born in a stable and laid in a manger. Come see Him as a baby. Do you have room in your heart for Jesus?

As a young boy, if He went to school, the books He read from were the Old Testament in our Bible. At the age of 12, He went back to the Temple, and was with the priests and scribes, asking and answering questions. Do you know my Jesus?

Around 30 years of age, He was baptized, and taught that we too should be baptized. This is an outward sign of what God is doing within, and also a sign that we are wanting to do His will. Do you know my Jesus?

He was tempted in all points like we are, but not once did He allow Satan to be the winner in His life (Heb. 4:15). And He proved that we too can overcome by calling on His Name. Do you know my Jesus?

We have not seen Him (1 Pet. 1:8), but He wants to live in our hearts! We can hear Him very plain. It is just knowing and believing that He is, and that He is able! Do you know my Jesus?

One of the first things He did was to call His disciples, from which He chose 12 apostles. Daily they walked with Him, talked with Him, and heard Him speak. No one will ever have better words than Jesus. These words teach us about God the Father and His will. We can read His teachings, written by friends who heard Him. Haven't you read these teachings? Do you know my Jesus?

He did many miracles. He turned water into wine! He healed many who were sick, blind and deaf. He brought some back to life after they had died. The widow's son at Nain, and Lazarus are examples. He calmed the storm out on the sea. Do you know of anyone who could do this? Do you know my Jesus?

We think of the crowds that followed Jesus. Did they not have work? They left their duties. Most of them did not even bring food along as they followed after Jesus. The boy with the five loaves and two small fishes seemed to be an exception. All continued to follow Jesus. Do you, do I, know this Jesus?

In the Garden, we can sense the fear (anxiety) in Jesus, of what was ahead. Sometimes we can feel the same. We can be weary, not thinking as we should, when things are so stressful. The disciples of Jesus fell asleep. For them, the gift of the Holy Spirit had not yet been given. And Jesus was still on the earth. For unlearned men, they were later given great wisdom and understanding so that they could recall what Jesus did and said, and the Spirit helped them write about it (2 Pet. 1:21).

What would we do if someone would come to us and ask, "Are you one of His followers?"

"Well, I am, but I still make many mistakes." We must not count on anyone but God and the Lord Jesus for salvation.

Recently, we heard Isaiah 53 read, about Jesus, who was wounded for our transgressions, and bearing our sin clear unto death. Crucifixion is one of the most cruel deaths. He was beaten, and they pressed a crown of thorns down upon His head. They crucified Him, and left Him to die! He did die, and it was for our sins!

Three days later He rose from the dead, like He said He would. Do you know my Jesus? Shall we go on the Resurrection Day to meet Him? "…This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

Yes, we know Him! And in our lives, both in trial and in blessing, He wants us to follow Him!

We pray Jesus will know our names!

Written in weakness,

Vicki Witmer

PATHWAY TO A FULFILLED HEART

Matt Miller

Can I have a fulfilled heart if there is a vision, a hope, and or a dream in my life that lies barren and unrealized? Must I go through life carrying a cross of pain and loneliness while God answers the prayers of my friends and gives them the desires of their hearts? Is something wrong with me? Is my faith too weak? Have I not prayed enough, surrendered enough, been obedient enough? What is life all about? Why don't I have peace and joy?

Does God have a plan and a purpose for me?

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Ps. 16:11).

"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Ps. 1:3).

God has a path provided for each of us that will lead to a fulfilled heart. In God's presence, there is fullness of joy! God's desire is that your heart would be like a riverside tree, filled with life, health, strength, and fruit. He desires that you experience grace, joy, and peace, in your every-day life. God wants to fill your heart with His desires and purposes. He longs for

you to seek after His will and plan. If you walk on His pathway, you will be filled with blessing and grace. This does not mean that every desire that you may have comes to pass (I don't think that will ever happen for anyone in this life), but rather that your heart is full of the blessings of God. Your heart does not need to feel like a desert, the Water of Life can fill it.

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14).

Where does Fulfillment Begin?

Fulfillment has its beginning in your relationship with God. Does He feel cold and distant to you, or do you find joy and peace in praying and walking with Him? Do you know that your sins are forgiven and that you are accepted as His child? Do you obey God with a willing heart or are there areas in your life where you resist His will as revealed in the Bible? Walking in the love and grace of God is the most important thing you can do in life. This is the first step on the pathway to a fulfilled heart.

If you are struggling in your relationship with God and are not sure of His love, forgiveness, and acceptance, here are some directions from the Bible for you.

"But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Rom. 10:6–10).

You should never think that Christ is in some unapproachable place, and unavailable to you. Christ is made known to you by the Bible, His Holy Spirit, and by His creation. Unbelief, sin, disobedience, and unforgiveness to others can keep you from experiencing His love and grace. Opening your heart to Him by faith, believing in your heart, and confessing with your mouth the Lord Jesus, will restore your relationship with God. He will wash away your sin and receive you as His child. Christ came to this earth to reconcile us to God. He paid the price of our sin and guilt. We can receive His gift of salvation through faith and repentance. Faith is simply hearing the Word of God and receiving it into our hearts.

As we receive the Word of God into our hearts, it enables us to be

obedient to His will. We choose to believe all that God has spoken to us in the Bible. We let go of all our doubts and embrace His Word. Repentance is turning away from our own selfish will and our sinful ways and choosing to obey God and His Word. In 1 John 1:9 God has said that if we confess our sins, He will forgive us. Do you truly believe this? Is it hard for you to accept that He will forgive you? It is impossible for God to lie, therefore His Word and promises can always be trusted.

Practical ways to walk with God

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom. 8:1).

There are spiritual prerequisites needed to walk with God. If we don't have a right heart, these practical things won't actually help us walk with God. It will only be an empty activity with no real meaning and little benefit.

With our hearts full of faith and love we need to believe everything in the Bible. We need to believe all its history, everything it says about the man, Jesus, all the prophecies, and all the direction God gives us in the Word.

We also need a surrendered heart and choose to follow and obey God in everything. There is no area in which we choose to neglect or disobey. We need to have confessed our sins and be born again by the Spirit of God.

Pray—for yourself, God's kingdom, your family, the church, neighbors, widows and widowers, orphans, missionaries, governments, and the sick. Pray for people who have lost loved ones, hungry people, people in prison, and people who need salvation. Pray for God to send workers into the vineyard.

Study the Word. Memorize it and read it to others. Discuss it.

Sing praises to God! God has been so merciful to you. Rejoice in your salvation!

"…And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people" (Rom. 15:9–11).

Contentment

Another big step in the pathway to a fulfilled heart is contentment. You can never be fulfilled if you aren't content in knowing that you are in the will of God.

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Heb. 13:5–6).

What is covetousness? My definition of covetousness is having a strong desire for something that is outside of God's will for me right now. Normally, covetousness will drive you to violate Scripture and God's will, to try to obtain the thing you have a desire for. For instance, if you are covetous of money, you will tend to do unethical things or neglect to follow the direction in the Bible in your pursuit of money. You may cheat, steal, scam, overcharge, or become a workaholic and neglect God, family, church, or the needy.

God has given us desires, and it is a good thing to pursue them if our heart is surrendered, seeking God's will and pursuing it according to the direction given in the Bible. Seek to move forward, but never force your own will. Be open to the people that God has put in your life for direction.

You may be at the age when your friends are getting married. You also desire to get married, but all the doors slam shut in your face. It seems like God reveals His will to others but not you. Know that an unanswered prayer is an answer for you right here, right now.

God reveals His will to you day by day and moment by moment. Married people don't know the long-term will of God for their lives any more than unmarried people. The reality is that my family could be taken away from me in an instant. No one is promised anything earthly for tomorrow. God promises us spiritual blessings but not physical or earthly ones.

Be careful with your expectations. You can create many hardships for yourself if you are very strong in your expectations. As an example, Matthew 20 has the story of the householder who promised his workers a penny for a day's work. Later in the day, he hired other workers. In the evening, he was paying his workers, starting with the ones hired last, and gave them each a penny. Because of his generosity, the first workers expected more than he had promised them. Since they expected him to give them more than a penny, they murmured against him. Never have strong expectations for things that God hasn't promised in the Bible, even if you feel like God has revealed it to you by His Spirit. It is far better to have a humble, open heart to God, family, and the brotherhood.

Fellowship

Fellowship with God's people is another important step in the pathway to fulfillment. Don't isolate yourself, but rather make yourself a part of God's people.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Acts 2:41–42).

It can be easy to fall into the trap of feeling like you are different from everyone else and don't fit in. Remember that everyone is unique, and together we make up the body of Christ. You are an important member and have gifts and abilities that are needed in your local fellowship. Spend time with people and find ways to be a blessing and help others.

Identity

Embrace your identity. You may wonder, who am I? Where do I fit in? This can be especially difficult if you have a strong desire to be married but are not. You might see others as becoming something that you desire to be but are not.

You might wonder, what is wrong with me that I am not married? This is wrong thinking. The reality is that there are many married people who are in a worse place than you. Be open when those around you have thoughts about changes you can and should make in your life, but don't condemn yourself as not good enough and that others do not accept you. Ephesians, chapter 1, says that you are chosen by God to be washed of your sins through the blood of Jesus and to be adopted as His child. You are accepted by God, and you are to be "to the praise of his glory!"

Purpose

The last step I am writing about is purpose. What is one thing that you really enjoy doing that is a blessing to the church or Kingdom? God has a purpose for you to fulfill. You are a part of His kingdom that you can put time and energy into. God has called each one of us to be a servant, to follow in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus. It can be as simple as giving a glass of cold water in the name of Jesus. No task is too small or mundane to be a part of His kingdom. Be available. Have the heart of a servant. When you see a need, offer a helping hand or a listening ear.

"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men…" (Php. 2:4–7). My wife and I recently celebrated our third anniversary. I was 38 and Jena 29 when we got married. This past spring we were blessed with a sweet little girl, Gianna. I wish I could say that we always lived out the things that I wrote in this article, but we are human and did come short at times. But we can both say from experience that the things I wrote are real and true. There is a pathway to joy and fulfillment as an unmarried person. Jena pursued midwifery and sacrificed a lot to serve mothers and babies. Always ready to drop whatever she was doing or jump out of bed in the middle of the night to go

serve. I did a lot of Bible studies and also trips to the Middle East to study the Bible in a different measure. God has graciously given me the privilege to visit places where few people have been. I've been able to see where many of the people in the Bible lived and walked, including Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, and, best of all, Jesus. These people left behind a witness of faith and obedience. Let us follow them!

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 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. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds" (Heb. 12:1–3).

"Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled" (Heb. 12:12–15).

"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (Heb. 12:28).

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

By the Editor

THE MAGNIFICENT JESUS

Jesus was perfect God, and yet at the same time He was perfect man. As man, He hungered; as God He is the Bread of Life. As man, He said, "I thirst"; as God, He says, "Let him that is athirst come unto me and drink." As man, He was weary; as God, He gives rest to all who come to Him. As man, He prayed; as God He hears and answers our prayers. As man, He wept; as God, He wipes away our tears. As man, He was tempted; as God, He did not sin.

Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and earth." Jesus walked on the waves, stilled the storms, healed the lepers, raised the dead, and opened the eyes of the blind.

Jesus meets every need. He satisfies every desire; He hushes every fear; He calms every trouble; He is the Rose of Sharon; the Lily of the Valley; the balm of Gilead; the fairest of ten thousand to the soul.

His second coming will be the watchman's looked-for day; the husbandman's harvest day; the builder's completion day; the master's reckoning day, the servant's payday; the bride's wedding day; and the King's coronation day.

Jesus was born contrary to laws of nature; He lived in poverty; He was reared in obscurity; in infancy He startled a King; in boyhood He puzzled the doctors; in manhood He ruled the course of nature. Jesus never wrote a book, yet all the libraries in the world would not hold all the books that could be written about Him. He never wrote a song, yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all songwriters combined. He never practiced medicine, yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors in this world have ever healed broken bodies.

Herod could not kill Him; the devil could not seduce Him; death could not destroy Him; the grave could gold Him; time cannot extinguish Him. Great men have come and gone, but Jesus lives on!

Where have you placed this magnificent Jesus whom **God has highly exalted**? Are you giving Him the highest place? Jesus is supreme in every other realm. How can we forbid Him complete reign over the little empire of our hearts?

Author Unknown
Selected by
Carol Boone

WHERE IN ETERNITY?

Dr. Richard Donovan

Most of us have stood at the grave of a friend, and wondered when our own life will end. And some day we too, must go, and most assuredly we should know where our destination will be. It will be either eternal light or eternal darkness.

For those who have trusted Christ as Savior and Lord, their destination will be in heaven where there is no night, only the light of the glory of God. "…for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof" (Rev. 21:23).

We read in the Bible: "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them that are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth shall bring their glory and honor into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there" (Rev. 21:23–25).

The saved will forever dwell in the presence of the Light.

Now we read what God has to say about those who die in an unsaved condition. In the Bible we read: "Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matt. 22:13).

You may treat people well, and do many good deeds, and yet works end up in outer darkness. Your salvation is not bought by what you do,

but by faith in God's Son who died for you. Christ died on the cross to pay sin's price, and by trusting Him, you will not die twice.

The day will come when friends stand at your grave. Will they know that you knew the Christ that could save? Will they know from your life that you are heaven-bound? Or will they just stand back and look at the ground?

Time is short and our days are few. So today the choice is yours. We can avoid thinking about it. But why not trust Christ who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

Selected by

Sam Boone (deceased)

Monthly Meditations

Count your blessings; name them one by one. See what God hath done.
"Jesus is now and ever will be, sweeter than all the world to me."
Only the despised Samaritan returned to give God thanks.
God's plan is moving rapidly toward its fulfillment.
Eyes speak "thank you" louder than words.
Sing one of the songs of Zion every day.
Thank you, Jesus. Marcus Miller

Questions To Ponder

In the article, ***"A Devout Exhortation to the Holy Communion,"*** a description is laid out of the common weaknesses of our human nature. We are smitten as we consider the basic truth of this description. The writer expresses these things as if he knows that this nature and these weaknesses are common to all, and there are none exempt.

But there are questions that then remain as we each attempt to feel a proper repentance for our sins and failures.

Questions:

1. Why are these weaknesses common to all? Are we powerless against them?
2. Does not the Holy Spirit subdue these tendencies some? Surely.
3. At our next approach to the communion table, will we have overcome some of these things, and find ourselves growing and improving?
4. Will we soon be able to help others improve, as they struggle in this battle?
5. Isn't God gracious toward us?

THE TESTIMONY FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 2026:

Balance 6/30/2025	$9,309.16
Income	$ 53,826.00
Expenses	($ 34,444.99)
Balance 6/30/2026	$ 28,690.17

General Items

BAPTISMS

Sept. 13, 2026; Living Epistle, NM
Haven Kuntz
Sept. 16, 3036; Living Epistle, NM
Karina Flory
Sept. 20, 2026; Living Epistle, NM
Leon Harrison
Sept. 22, 2026; Pleasant View, OH
Savannah Peters
Sept. 27, 2026; Living Epistle, NM
Elliott Flory

NEW MEMBERS

Sept. 11, 2026; Bear Creek, OH
Heidi Bowman

COMMUNION NOTICES

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
Apr. 10, 2027 ..... Salem, OH
Apr. 17, 2027 .....Caldwell, ID

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Receipts		
Balance received from 2025 COA	**$ 186,923.02**	
Call for Funds	$ 310,200.00	
Interest	$ 2,883.67	
Subtotal: Call for Funds and Interest	**$ 313,083.67**	
Lodging Receipts	$ 117,147.60	
Donations—Kit Packing	$ 17,550.00	
Subtotal: Receipts and Donations	**$ 134,697.60**	
Expenses		
Non-Committee Expenses		
Insurance		$ 1,845.00
IWU Food		$ 214,706.99
IWU Rent and Services		$ 32,660.00
Non-Committee Expenses		**$ 249,211.99**
Committee Expenses		
COA		$ 487.27
Communion Committee		$ 1,785.02
First Aid Committee		$ 345.29
Lodging Committee		$ 3,362.19
Nursery Committee		$ 237.45
Transportation Committee		$ 17,212.70
Usher Committee		$ 43.50
YF/Preteen Committee		$ 18,313.15
Subtotal Committee Expenses		**$ 41,786.57**
Subtotal Expenses		**$ 290,998.56**
IWU Lodging		**$ 119,350.52**
Kit Packing		**$ 17,450.00**
Total Expenses		**$ 427,799.08**
Total Receipts	**$ 634,704.29**	
Ending Balance	**$ 206,905.21**	

Eldon Garber, Treasurer

Poems

THE REASON WE REJOICE

The air is getting colder;
A chill is setting in.
The days are getting shorter;
The night appears to win.
Will darkness just take over,
As earth gives way to sin?
And hearts of men grow colder,
If no warmth is let in?

"God said He'd send a Savior.
When will He come to earth?
How long we have been waiting,
For our Messiah's birth!"
So must have been the longing
Of every waiting heart,
But would they truly know Him?
And set themselves apart?

Apart for His own kingdom—
Just few could understand,
This One Who made the heavens
And each small grain of sand.
He told them many sayings,
Brought sight to blind eyes dim,
This One Who healed the hurting—
Would they make room for Him?

Then when His hour was present,
He drank that bitter cup—
The cup filled with our darkness;
His life He then gave up.
The One Whom they had followed
Laid down His life in death,
And yet He spoke forgiveness
And love with every breath.

Yet just a few days after,
He rose from that dark grave.
Emmanuel Redeemer—
Rejoice! He came to save!
The darkness will not conquer—
He brought to earth new light;
He came to take our burdens
And make the wrong things right.

Now here we are years later—
The story still as true.
But we must make some choices;
I must and so must you.
He died—do you believe it?
His blood was shed for us.
His grace—will you receive it?
And in His mercy trust?

His blood—though red—can cleanse you,
To sparkle as the snow
(That Christmas white you dreamed of—
It CAN BE, don't you know?!)
And that's why we sing joyfully
At Christmas and all year,
Rejoicing in Emmanuel—
God with us—words of cheer.

Allison Markley
New Paris, Ohio

OUR FOCUS

Matthew 14:24–27, John 20:14–16, Luke 24:13–32, John 20:19

The storms of life may be rocking your boat.
The waves crashing over the side.
If on the storm your focus be tied.
Jesus' presence you will not recognize.

Death of a loved one, or your hopes and dreams,
You oft return to the place they lay.
If on the tomb your focus stays.
Jesus' presence you will not recognize.

Past events your conversation controls,
While walking life's road with your friends.
On the confusion your focus trends,
Jesus' presence you will not recognize.

Fear of man causes you to shut the door.
Protecting your heart from future pain.
On suffering your focus claims.
Jesus' presence you will not recognize.

When we keep our eyes on His promises.
His teaching we receive as our guide.
On His truth our focus abides.
Jesus' presence with joy we'll recognize.

Winter Etter
New Lebanon, Ohio

THANKSGIVING FOR NATIONAL PEACE

Great Ruler of the earth and skies
A word of thine almighty breath
Can sink the world, or bid it rise;
Thy smile is life, Thy frown is death.

When angry nations rush to arms
And rage, and noise, and tumult reign,
And war resounds its dire alarms,
And slaughter dyes the hostile plain.

Thy sovereign looks calmly down,
And marks their course, and bounds their power;
Thy law the angry nations own,
And noise and war are heard no more.

Then peace returns from balmy wing;
Sweet peace, with her what blessings fled!
Glad plenty laughs, the valleys sing,
Reviving commerce lifts her head.

In thee we pay our grateful songs;
Thy kind protection still implore;
O may our hearts, and lives, and tongues,
Confess thy goodness, and adore.

Author Unknown

DAY AND NIGHT ARE THINE

The day is thine—
The long bright summer day
From the first dawning till evening closes,
And all its golden beauty bids us say
The day, O Lord, is thine!

And life's brief day—
Is also thine, when we
Must work, while light doth last, for our dear Master.
Oh, that our sluggish feet could travel faster,
And we with readier service give to Thee
Our life's fast-fleeting day!

The night is Thine—
The long, dark winter's night,
Hushing our birds to sleep, our flowers concealing;
But, by its host of glowing stars, revealing
Through the deep sky, Thy glory and Thy might;
The night, O Lord, is Thine!

That darker night
Is also Thine, O Lord,
When Thou sweet sleep to Thy beloved givest,
For while they needs must sleep, Thou ever livest,
And o'er Thy dear ones keepest watch and ward,
Till darkness ends in light.

Author Unknown

OBITUARIES

FLORA — Hollis Edward was born on February 18, 1933, in Covington, Ohio, to Cornelius J. and Pauline Flora, the oldest of a second set of eight siblings with six older half-siblings. On September 25, 1959, he married Charlotte Dutter from Modesto, California, moving to Stelvideo, Ohio, as a new couple. In 1972, they moved to Bartonia, Indiana, then to Horatio, Ohio in 1973, and to the "home place" on Highway 121 near Greenville, Ohio, in 1977. They remained there until 2019, when they moved to Goshen, Indiana, due to declining health. After sixty-six years of faithful marriage, in December, 2025, Mom was called home to her Lord, and on August 27, 2026, Dad was called from time to eternity, at the age of ninety-three years, six months, and nine days.

Hollis was baptized into Jesus Christ in 1953, becoming a member of the Old German Baptist Church. From 1953 to 1955, Hollis served at Harper Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, as a Conscientious Objector to war, making many memories with his roommates, Melvin Coning, Lemoine Miller, and Richard Skiles. In 1957, while in medical school, he was called to the ministry in the Oak Grove District where he was advanced to the second degree of the ministry in 1965, and ordained an elder in 1970. He Joined the Old Brethren Church in November of 1974, where Dad served as an elder until 1989.

Dad Hollis and Mom Charlotte spent many of their working years raising produce and operating a greenhouse business at their home in Greenville, Ohio. Dad's later working years were spent as a handy-man for twenty years at Rest Haven Nursing Home. Dad had a keen mind, studied history, and had amazing recall of facts, figures, people, places, and events. He loved to communicate, frequently preaching overtime, and conversing with friends, family, and strangers whenever possible. Dad wrote poetry, culminating in a 150-verse poem entitled "Man's Mighty, Tiny Titanic (God Is Wise and Almighty.)"

Dad always cherished honesty, and he became discouraged and disillusioned with those whom he felt were in error. This led to him deciding to withdraw his membership from the Old Brethren church, never rejoining a specific fellowship. Dad was supportive of Mom's membership with the Old German Baptist Brethren, New Conference congregations at Bethel and Clearwater districts, faithfully attending and serving with her. Through all of these decisions, Dad remained faithful in his love for the Lord and longed for His appearing. We rest in the knowledge that the Lord is the Righteous Judge and that we serve a faithful God—One Who uses even our imperfections to work His will.

Hollis is preceded in death by his wife, Charlotte; one infant daughter, Ruth Edna; half-siblings (Helen) Woneda and Clinton Sink, Ray and Grace Flora, Hubert and Glenna Flora, Paul and Norma Flora, Virginia and Kenneth Peters, Ann and Myron Bowman; brothers-in-law, Stanley Cook, Clarence Frantz, Howard Denlinger, and Russell Garber; siblings, Wade Flora, Ruth Elda Flora, Mildred and Marion Denlinger, C. J. Flora, and Buford Flora; one granddaughter, Krislyn Wagner, one great-grandson, Callum Royer, and one great-granddaughter, Talitha Bowser.

He is survived by his children: Faythe and Ron Cable, Rose and Paul Royer, Beth and Lloyd Wagner, Jill and Chris Crawmer, Edward and Karen Flora, Timothy and Krista Flora, Aaron and Jennifer Flora, and Lois and Sam Cover; along with thirty-five grandchildren and sixty-three great-grandchildren. Also surviving are three siblings: Etta Mae Garber, Thelma and Charles Garber, and Lucille and Keith Bussey; brothers- and sisters-in-law, Violet Flora, Joann Flora, Bonnie Dutter, Norma Dutter, Doris and Atlee Oyler, Marshall and Rosalene Dutter, Martha and Mike Meador; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

The family wishes to express deep appreciation for all who helped care for Dad, and are truly thankful to be part of a community that loves, cares, and supports each other in difficult times. We long for the day when our Lord returns as King of kings and Lord of lords, and there will be no more separations—forever.

A family viewing was held on Friday, September 4, 2026, and a funeral service on Saturday, September 5, 2026, at the New Conference Shiloh meeting house near Arcanum, Ohio, followed by burial at the Oakland Cemetery near Bradford, Ohio. The family would like to express a heart-felt thank you to the congregations and individuals who so lovingly and generously served during our time of saying goodbye. Your prayers, care, love, work, and support were expressions of God's love in action. Blessings to each one as we continue to serve together in Christ's Kingdom!

The Family

PANSING — Karen Rae (Meador), 69, passed away on September 15, 2026, at Ohio's Hospice of Butler and Warren Counties in Middletown, Ohio.

Karen was born on December 17, 1956, in Dayton, Ohio, to Robert Lee and Betty Meador. Her family moved to Rossville, Indiana, in 1959, and she attended Rossville Schools through tenth grade. She returned to Ohio for her final two years of high school, studied accounting at Montgomery County Joint Vocational School, and graduated in 1975.

On October 2, 1977, Karen married Jeffery Pansing at Cary Camp near Lafayette, Indiana. They made their home near Brookville, Ohio, and Karen was baptized in 1990. Karen and Jeff welcomed their son, Frederick, in 1994. In 1997, they opened the farm for a seasonal fall festival for the community to enjoy. Karen soon became a familiar face in the community, forming friendships that would last her whole life through her charm and caring demeanor.

Karen will be deeply missed by her family and all who knew and loved her. Her kindness, steady devotion, and love of family were woven into everything she did—from the long days she spent working the land to the care she gave her husband, son, grandchildren, and extended family. She found joy in welcoming people to the farm, sharing flowers, pumpkins, and honey, and making each visitor feel connected to the work she loved. Her grandchildren, Iris Rae and Tyler Glen, held a special place in her heart, and the time she spent with them reflected her warmth, patience, and delight in watching

them grow. In every daylily she tended, every flower she shared, and every season she welcomed, Karen left something beautiful behind. Her memory will continue to bloom in the hearts of those who loved her and in the natural beauty she cherished.

Karen is survived by her husband, Jeff; her son, Frederick, and his wife, Maria; her grandchildren, Iris Rae and Tyler Glen; her siblings, Rhonda Cable (Merideth), Carol Meador, Shirley Root (Greg), Bonnie Yost (Jim), and Scott Meador (Jewel); her aunts, Goldie Montgomery (Howard) and Phyllis Meador; her sister-in-law, Linda Moler (Greg); and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her parents-in-law, Fred and Mary Ellen (Flory) Pansing.

Funeral service was held at 11:00 A.M. on Monday, September 21, at Rogers Funeral Home in New Lebanon, Ohio. Burial followed the at Arlington Cemetery.

The Family

BRUBAKER — Jeanne Carol (King). Daughter of Philip and Betty (Aukerman) King was born on February 27, 1951, in Modesto, California, where she resided her entire life. She passed away peacefully on September 19, 2026, surrounded by her loving husband and family at the age of 75 years. She was a wonderful inspiration and example to many as she dealt with cancer the past 12 years. Her positive attitude lifted up all those she encountered. Her focus was always on others and not herself. On June 19, 1971, Jeanne was married to her loving husband, Lee Brubaker, in Modesto, California. They enjoyed 55 years together. She accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior and was baptized on September 10, 1972. She served the Lord faithfully all of her life. It was a blessing to her to fellowship in the Modesto District of the Old German Baptist Brethren church from that point on.

Early years were fun and full of life growing up in the King family. Jeanne was artistic and creative from the start which led to enjoying many years of sewing and crafting. These talents led her to making personalized scrapbooks for each grandchild, which will be treasured for years to come.

Along with raising three children and taking care of the home, Jeanne worked for Brethren Heritage School for 10 years and nearly 20 years for Dr. Wes Kinzie. She thoroughly enjoyed every minute of her time at each place.

Jeanne had a gift for serving others all of her life. If you were her child going to college you returned home on Friday with a load of dirty laundry and mom sent you back on Sunday evening with fresh clean clothes and a bag full of food for the next week. If you were her child going on a trip at any age you could expect to find a box of See's candy that mom would send along. Returning you would find a meal tucked into your kitchen to welcome you home. If you were a grandchild and saw "Grandma Jeanne" pulling into school to pick you up, you knew you were in for a treat at McDonald's. If you were a neighbor, Jeanne was a good friend, always having a plate of chocolate chip cookies and iced tea for anyone that showed up on her porch. Next door neighbor Eddie had special challenges and was fortunate to have mom as a caretaker until the end of his life. Impactful memories were made with grandchildren passing out plates of cookies and Bibles to the homeless at Christmas time. Even in her last few days she still thought of others as she made personalized bookmarks for each person in her family.

Mom's enthusiasm, spark, and smile left lasting memories. Family camping trips at Tenaya Lake, beach stays at Pajaro Dunes, and trips down south to Palm Desert. These trips were greatly enhanced by her delicious and abundant food, friendly competitions complete with prizes, and surprise toys and gifts. She especially enjoyed her more recent trips to Lake Almanor with the entire family. One of her favorite things was to spend time with her family. Along with family trips she also treasured her time spent with Lee, the love of her life. It could be as simple as a drive to the Gold Country looking for her next antique find. Trips large or small and quiet moments spent together were cherished times by both of them.

Jeanne had a joyful presence that filled the room with laughter and love. Her family and friends have been so blessed by her life of service and steadfast faith in the Lord.

Jeanne was preceded in death by her parents, Philip and Betty King; her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Hubert and Margaret Brubaker; brother-in-law, Dave Brubaker; niece, Jennifer Meeuwse.

She is survived by her loving husband, Lee Brubaker; children, Lisa and Michael Barton, Jason and Jenny Brubaker, and Lori and Adam Benedict; eleven grandchildren, Jamin and Laina Barton, Landon and Chloe Barton, Jenessa and Luke Domecq, Jada Benedict, Claire and Rylan Bayer, Carson and Carrie Brubaker, Jolie Benedict, James Brubaker, Jackie Benedict, Jackson Brubaker and Jace Benedict; four great-grandchildren, Declan and Quincy Barton, Reid Barton, and Margot Domecq.

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

"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Ps. 27:1).

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.

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