

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. CI

JUNE, 2023

NO. 6

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GOD'S GREAT MERCY

Depth of mercy! – can there be
Mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God his wrath forbear,
And the chief of sinners spare?

I have long withstood his grace,
Long provoked him to his face;
Would not hear his gracious calls,
Greived him by a thousand falls.

Jesus, answer from above:
Is not all thy nature love?
Wilt thou not the wrong forget?
Lo, I fall before thy feet.

Now incline me to repent;
Let me now my fall lament,
Deeply my revolt deplore,
Weep, believe, and sin no more.

Charles Wesley, 1740
Selected by Lynn H. Miller,
Newmanstown, PA

NAKEDNESS

We are all born naked. It has been said that some were born with a silver spoon in their mouth but even those babies were born naked. In the world today, there seems to be different definitions of what being naked is. Some would say it means not having enough clothes on while others would say it refers to no clothes at all. This might seem like a silly question but what does it mean to be naked? Does it mean that any creature that isn't clothed is naked? No. We don't consider animals to be naked. Even in the case of an animal with some sort of body covering like fur or feathers, if we would de-fur, shave or pluck them, we might consider them bald but not naked. No, nakedness is exclusively a human trait. So what exactly is nakedness?

The first account of nakedness occurred near the beginning of time in the Garden of Eden. God had created Adam and Eve and they were naked. But initially, their nakedness was not shameful. That's an interesting quandary. Only after eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was their nakedness shameful. Aha! Now we're getting somewhere. What caused this sudden demotion of nakedness? After all, their wardrobe had not changed. While their disobedience had not caused a change in their bodies, it caused a change in their souls.

In response, they sewed together aprons to try and cover themselves. In some

THE BIBLE MONITOR JUNE, 2023

Published monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Haines Printing Company.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Haines Printing Company, 10575 West Main Road, North East, PA 16428.

Terms: Single subscription \$5.00 a year in advance. Checks should be made out to "Dunkard Brethren Church". Send all subscription payments to the Editor.

KEN BROCK, Editor and Subscription Manager, 1520 County Road 22-60, Stryker, OH 43557. (419) 515-3396 | kenbrockdb@gmail.com

children's books, you may see this illustrated by Adam wearing something like swimming trunks and Eve wearing something like a bikini. However, I don't believe they were trying to cover what we would consider private parts of their bodies. I believe they correctly understood in what sense they were now naked. What was now laid bare was not their skin (their bodies), for that had previously been exposed and was not shameful. Their bodies had not broken God's law. Rather, their souls contained in their bodies had broken God's law. Because of that, I suspect that the nakedness they were now trying to cover was not their skin but was specifically their flesh (their humanness). Thinking of this, I have to wonder if their aprons looked less like secular swimwear and more like Muslim burkas.

After God found them trying to hide in the garden under their figgy aprons, it appears that the aprons they had made to cover their shame were inappropriate. Why were they inappropriate? Hebrews 9:22 would seem to answer this. "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of

blood is no remission." They had broken God's law and because of that, God apparently sacrificed animals and shed blood to fashion coats of skins as clothes for them to cover their nakedness (shame).

While God provided clothes for Adam and Eve, their clothes did not totally cover their nakedness. Rather, their clothes were a foreshadow of the future, of the only covering that could completely hide their nakedness. That future covering was far greater than their coats of skins. That future covering was the shed blood and sacrificed flesh of the Son of God; Jesus Christ.

Today, things haven't changed much. We inherited our nakedness from father Adam. We can wear clothes from head to toe but still be naked. While our clothing is important and necessary, it is much like those fig leaf aprons in the garden. Our clothing covers our bodies but cannot cover our sinful souls. To avoid nakedness, we must put on the covering that Father God offers us; the shed blood and sacrificed flesh of the Son of God; Jesus Christ.

"For the life of the flesh is in

the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." Lev. 17:11

"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Matt. 26:28

"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have

redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." Col. 1:12-14

"The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." Rom. 13:12-14

K. Brock

THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW, WHEN TOMORROW IS TODAY

The following is a portion of a longer article by Ashton Koval that was not originally intended for publishing in the Bible Monitor but was edited and reformatted as a four-part series of articles for the June through September issues. As a word of introduction, Ashton is a young adult from the CornerStone congregation. We welcome and encourage articles from the younger people. Your input and ideas challenge the body to consider issues and attitudes that will affect Christ's church today and tomorrow.

Part 1 of 4

Godly Role Models

Over the course of the past year or two, I have provided some

commentary on the state of the church, and our response to politics and world events. Right or wrong, I have been very critical of many decisions and movements we have made as a whole, and through this, one response in particular seems to always come up. What do we do about these issues?

This query is one that I found was never answerable. Partially because I have never been able to find an answer, but more so because to even define it requires going down an abstract rabbit hole too deep to fit into my Instagram messages. I will not claim to have the answers, however I feel that in the course of this paper I will be able to identify major issues and offer broad solutions. Through this exercise I hope to convict those better equipped to implement and effectuate solutions to do so.

This paper will mainly be addressing people of the younger generation, and specifically men due to their roles in leadership. We are oft called the Church of tomorrow, and as frequently pointed out by many of our older brothers, Tomorrow is rapidly becoming Today. This is not to say that the older generations are exempted from this conversation, let alone have no part to play in its discussion and implementation. I am merely advocating that to induct deep and effectual change we must begin with the groups furthest in the future.

The children, teens, and young adults will not only be the ones to start the implementations of changes, but the ones to sow much deeper seeds. We may not be the ones to reap the benefits of change, but certainly our children will be. "These trees which he plants, and under whose shade he shall never sit, he loves them for themselves, and for the sake of his children and his children's children, who are to sit beneath the shadow of their spreading boughs." - Hyacinthe Loyson

It is important to remember that we are one body under Christ, and to exempt anyone from "The Conversation" would be at least partially, cutting them from the flock. I am not suggesting this,

merely reminding that if we do not act in the interests of those not even born yet, might we be sowing the seeds of our own destruction? I will be getting into issues directed at my generation later in this paper, but for now I will focus on the broad picture.

One of the biggest issues I have come across during this thought experiment has been one of leadership. And I need to preface this with a disclaimer that I am not pointing a finger at our leadership, nor disparaging them. I believe that we are blessed to have wonderful, God-fearing men leading us and we should be forever grateful for their blessing. However, in our attempts to not be like the world, have we accidentally picked up one destructive trait?

Many young men both outside of the church and within are gravitating towards a certain type of individual. Two examples of these people are Andrew Tate, and Jordan Peterson. While the latter is more nuanced, the former is unfortunately a morally gray, Godless man. Peterson is more complicated as he tends to lean more into the Judeo-Christian system of morals and beliefs, but he is still by no means a Godly man. So why are we as a generation being drawn to these types?

Tate and Peterson teach a sometimes forgotten, but fundamentally simple, message of strong men. Let's start with Tate; He has risen to popularity for advertising riches, women, and responsibility. These fundamental ideals appeal to the instinctive male desire, to lead and to control. Peterson has a similar message, but focused on the good that men can achieve in good stead, of leading society and family in a moral and good direction.

These higher, harder to attain ideals appeal to the deeper and more intellectual male desire to push further and achieve higher goals. Neither group of behaviors and desires are bad at their core. In fact it is quite the opposite. Man was created to be stewards over the earth, and to lead the church and family in a God-oriented way. That is where the issue begins, with the God-oriented direction.

You see, neither of these men are Christians. Tate used to be a Christian by name but recently transitioned to the Islamic faith, citing reasons such as that Muslims defend their faith, and Christians just lay down and take the abuse. In his mind, men should vehemently defend themselves against any slight. Peterson is also not a Christian, but every day seems to grow closer. He claims to not believe in God but lives as if there is one because he is scared there is. Do either of them seem like men that should be leading our young men spiritually?

I've long pondered why we would choose to flock to men of this caliber and moral code, and what I've found is that, to understand why, one must take a step back and define the bigger cultural picture.

The sexual revolution aggressively placed women at the front of the line, while simultaneously pushing men to take a back seat. Seeing this, the church gave a valiant effort against it, but has slowly faltered. Outside of conservative Christianity, women preachers are very common. Women leading churches and communities continue to appear. However, the Bible specifically designates men as the spiritual heads.

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,” Ephesians 5:22–26

All of that said, I am not insinuating that we do not preach these ideals, quite the contrary. Over the past many years, this message has been pushed very heavily. The part that isn't taught is what people like Tate and Peterson teach, that men must be strong and masculine, not afraid to take the responsibility on their

own shoulders. Feminism has shoved in this idea that men must take a backseat, and it seems that it has slowly worked its way through the cracks into our churches. There is an epidemic in our culture of “letting someone else do it.” In our minds there is always someone else that will step up and take responsibility, but by the time someone does, it’s usually too late.

In my opinion, many of our men are fundamentally weak. This is not a dig at anyone, merely a generalization based upon my observations. We tend to create theologically sound and strong men, but who are soft spoken and who are shy to correct. Dancing around issues and playing politics seems to be a behavior that is increasingly emerging, because we cannot hurt anyone’s feelings or make a faltering brother to feel he is doing wrongly. We look down upon abrasiveness and rebuke, fearing it will drive people away and form wedges between people. We prepare ourselves spiritually to serve God, while neglecting our duty to prepare ourselves physically and mentally to face evil head on!

Someone asked me recently; if it came to be that we were thrust into a time of persecution, would our church actually stand up against it? As I thought more about it, I truly am not sure. We talk the talk, but do we walk the walk? Can we truly say with all certainty that we would draw a firm line in the sand, or would we slowly make concessions until we were exactly where Satan wants us to be?

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.” - 2 Timothy 4:2

“All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:” - 2 Timothy 3:16

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.” - Revelation 3:19

We are called to be zealous in our pursuit of Christ. To love God is to strive to be like Him! "I rebuke and chasten". We are to call forth sin out of our midst with anger and conviction, not dance around it and rid of it eventually. We expel far too much energy on preserving our relationships with people, and not nearly enough chasing fervently after the Father. There is a solution to this, but we will address that further in the paper. I would like to get the issues fully listed first.

To be continued in "Part 2 – In the World" in next month's issue of the Bible Monitor

Ashton Koval,
New Carlisle, OH

DON'T JUST DO SOMETHING, STAND THERE!!

A few days ago, my 5-year-old and I went hunting for the allusive Morel mushroom. The conditions haven't been just right, and we didn't find any. It was getting dark, and I told her we needed to head back. She wasn't ready because we hadn't found any. It put her into kind of a bad mood, and she declared she wasn't going back until we got what we came for. I explained to her it was called "hunting" for a reason. If we were guaranteed to get some, we would call it mushroom "picking". Aren't we glad God isn't like that? He has promised to always be found if we seek Him. Luke 11:10 "For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and

to him that knocketh it shall be opened." If we cannot find God or we cannot hear Him speak, the fault lies with us. Hebrews 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." He has promised to be there if we are truly seeking.

We as a people have gotten very good at staying busy. We are not very good at quietly sitting and observing and listening. In my generation, it was 'Walkmans' and 'Rubik's cubes', this generation is 'air pods' and 'fidget spinners'. We must constantly be entertained. Something in our ears and

something for our fingers to do. We have lost the art of silence and meditation. Being over stimulated and busy is a distraction, and a good one from the devil. You may say, "I don't have those issues" but if you are honest, almost everyone does. The items we entertain ourselves with are very seldom evil in and of themselves, and therefore they are easily shrugged off as harmless.

As a people, we have gotten very good at prayer being a one-way conversation talking to God, and that is not all bad, but I believe we most times forget to listen for the answer. We pray and rush back into our schedules and leave it at that. We figure if God wants our attention, He will find a way to get it. We forget that God wants a relationship and He most times talks in the still small voice. 1st Kings 19:11-13 "And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the

LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?" We are all busy, most of us, too busy. So busy that we sometimes confuse what is valuable and even necessary. I worked for a man that could not stand to read the plans or directions. His mode of operation was to start in and figure it out as he went. Without fail he would have parts left over or would have to go back a few steps and fix something he had not done correctly. If he had slowed down a bit and figured out what the plan was he would have saved himself much time and trouble.

I am not advocating to never start something without every step figured out. I mentioned in a previous writing that sometimes God asks something of us without showing us the second or third step. When God speaks, obey! Step out in faith and do the thing he is asking. What I am saying is that if God has not given clear direction about something, no words at all,

it behooves us to just stand, or better yet fall on our faces before Him, boldly entering the throne room, asking our wants and desires, not forgetting to lay quietly waiting for an answer. God is faithful. The verse says if we seek, we WILL find. Not a maybe find, but WILL. John

10:27 “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” If you are not hearing the voice of the Good Shepherd, maybe make sure you are listening.

Joe Cover,
Dallas Center, IA

WISDOM IN FELLOWSHIP

Romans 12:16: Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

To you who stand in Christ so fast,
Ye know your faith shall ever last;
The Lord, on whom that faith depends,
This kind, important message sends.

If light, exulting thoughts arise,
Your weaker brethren to despise,
Remember all to me are dear;
Who most is favored most should bear.

If strong thyself, support the weak;
If well, be tender to the sick;
To babes I oft reveal my mind,
And they who seek my face shall find.

If faith be strong as well as true,
Then strive that love may be so, too;
Boast not, but meek and lowly be;
The humblest soul is most like me.

Should I, displeased, my face but turn,
Ye sadly would your folly mourn;
Who now seemed best would soon be worst;
I often make the last the first.

Encourage souls that on me wait,
And stoop to those of low estate.
Contempt of slight I can't approve;
Be love your aim, for I am love.

Joseph Hart, 1838
Gadsby's Hymns

Do not be afraid to encourage others. They could be at a really bad place in their lives. There are many people in this world just one step away from their worst day. Just step outside your comfort zone, just for a moment. See what a blessing it is to put a smile on someone's face.

In San Francisco back in the 1970's, a young man left a suicide note which said, "I am walking to the Golden Gate Bridge. If just one person smiles at me, I will not jump." Apparently, no one smiled at him. Imagining the worth of just one smile. Many of us smile and wave at others and think nothing of it. But what if a simple smile was worth a life?

How big is our heart? Jesus had a heart big enough to include every man, woman and child in this world. He does not ask us for that much: just enough to include everyone we meet. If we have not started already, let us do so now.

Lynn H. Miller,
Newmanstown, PA

HIS WORDS IN MY MOUTH

To say we live in difficult times is merely acknowledging the obvious. Of course we are living in difficult times. Nobody would disagree with that. I believe the problem comes when we try to define what we mean by difficult times. Every generation has had its difficulties and our generation is no exception. Just when we think we have seen the worst in our culture, we get out a history book and read back and discover similar difficulties. Man has always been man and hatred has always been within the core of humanity.

The only solution to this hatred is not more laws, which only addresses the surface, but dealing with the real problem, which is sin. Nobody wants to talk about sin. We would rather blame our problems and difficulties on something else or someone else. It is easier to deal with the symptoms.

In light of the difficult times in which we live, we have the impression that we need to be better equipped to handle our situation. We believe that education and training, not to mention experience,

are necessary to deal with the difficulties at hand. It is interesting to note that when God calls a man for a particular job, the man, on the surface, is really not qualified for the job. Jeremiah was not “equipped” for the job at hand. And he made this fact known to God.

Some people believe that they can handle anything that comes their way. And then, something comes their way that they cannot handle and blows them completely off the road. It is the person that understands what he can't handle that God can use. When Jeremiah received God's call, he countered with “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak: for I *am* a child” Jer. 1:6 I don't think Jeremiah is making an excuse here. I believe he was stating the obvious. He did not have the experience and therefore, who in the world would listen to him? I love God's response to Jeremiah. “But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I *am* a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.” Jer. 1:7. From this passage, I get the idea that what God wants Jeremiah to do

does not rest upon Jeremiah's ability or qualifications. If that's the way God ran his business, we'd all be in a lot of trouble. The whole weight of Jeremiah's work was on God. "All that I shall send thee." "Whatsoever I command thee."

When you think about it, it's a very easy job. I don't have to try to figure out how to do something when God is in control of what He wants me to do. When God calls a person to do a particular job, He equips that person particularly for that job. And we may not know that we have been qualified for what God has called us to do.

I think one of the things God is trying to get Jeremiah and us to understand is that we are not called to articulate our opinion but rather to state God's truth. So many people today are trying to articulate their own opinion and many times it veers far off God's intended purpose. We may not originate the message. The message does not originate with the messenger. The messenger delivers a message that was given to him or her.

I believe one thing Jeremiah

learned from his experience was that most of the time, doing God's work is inconvenient. It is hard for us to get a hold of this truth. We believe that we can slip God's work into whatever we're doing at the time. The grave danger is that we tend to modify the word that God is giving us to speak. We try to put it into the culture and make it culturally sensitive so that we don't offend anyone. I think Jeremiah found out very quickly that that is not how God works. We too need to understand that that's not how God works. When God calls us, He wants His word and not our interpretation of what God means to guide us.

In our celebrity saturated culture, we believe that in order to get something done, we have to be a celebrity and well-liked by the majority of people. However, as we come to the word God wants us to deliver to this generation, it is not often going to be a word that they will accept and like. If our culture understands what is right and wrong, why do they need a word from God? The problem is, our culture is out of sync with what is truly right and truly

wrong. It seems that our culture concludes that wrong isn't quite as bad as our fathers taught and sin is merely a matter of interpretation. So when the man or woman of God steps forth to speak God's word, there is a sharp difference between God's

word and the values of today's culture. Although it may be difficult, it is absolutely important that God's word be delivered by God's power.

James L. Snyder,
Ocala, FL

CONNECTIONS

As members of the Bible Study Board our hope in writing monthly articles related to the Adult SS Lessons is that we all see afresh different points of connection that reveal the Word made flesh.

John 8:34-36

Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say until you. Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever, but the Son abideth forever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Imagine you are at a church on Sunday morning and the guest speaker is Jesus. After the service, He spends time answering questions. If you were to ask a question, He would most likely begin his answer with "Verily, verily," and you would know he was not just giving His opinion. When Jesus says "Verily, verily," as He does in verse 35, we need to listen carefully.

Jesus' words were designed to show the Pharisees the error in their understanding. They were understanding Jesus to mean some sort of actual bondage like physical slavery. In our own words, we might say that Jesus taught them "No, I'm not talking about slavery to a person or master to whom you are sworn to as a servant. I'm talking about slavery to sin."

When God made Adam and Eve, He made them with an ability to make choices. They were responsible for their actions because they had the moral power to choose what they wanted to do. Even after the fall of Adam and Eve, the power of making choices remained intact. We are not robots or puppets.

We have minds that think, wills that make choices, and hearts that have affections. So, we think we are free!

But Jesus says we are not really free. Without His power in us we are like slaves on a galley. We have minds, wills and hearts, but the chains of our slavery limit our choices. By nature, we are slaves to our own wicked desires and our own wicked impulses! Nobody else is forcing us to commit the sins we commit; we sin because we are slaves to sin. You ask what

is sin? Sin is not simply making bad choices or mistakes; sin is having the desire in our hearts to do the will of the enemy of God. Paul asked the Ephesians (Eph 2:1-3): are you “Quickened” or made alive to break the bondage of the slavery of sin? Surely this was the point Jesus was trying to tell the Pharisees. Let us each examine our own desires to see if we are slaves to sin or are free indeed.

On behalf of the Bible Study Board
 Brother Gerry Priest

PHIL'S PONDERINGS

As we “study to shew *ourselves* approved unto God...”
 June 2023 Bible Study

June 4 - John 8:21-41 – The Truth Shall Make You Free

Everyone is a seeker. However, what we seek can be as different as night and day. Jesus speaks to those that seek him. That sounds good. But Jesus says their seeking of him will only result in them dying in their sins. How is this possible? Their seeking is not for the purpose of gaining spiritual insight. They do not seek first the kingdom of God. They seek to discredit Jesus rather than discover who he really is. They have no interest in a Messiah who does not justify them as the best and truest of God's people. They mock his words. “*Maybe he is going to kill himself. We can't follow him then.*” Or, “*Who do you think you are (since we are the most knowledgeable of God's people)?*” Back and forth goes the conversation with every assertion that Jesus puts forth swatted aside.

There is no hint of discernment as to who really stands before them. They do not listen to his words to hear any truth that needs to be heard. The warning to us in this passage is that we never become so smug in our faith that it becomes impossible for us to hear the Word of God when applied to our own lives. We are never built up in our faith by trying to tear down the faith of others. We can be honest in our understanding as well as humble in the light of God's eternal nature.

June 11 - John 8:42-59 – Christ's Heavenly Origin

We continue to listen to the debate between the Jews and Jesus in the temple at Jerusalem. It is worth noting that if this were a sporting event, Jesus is definitely the visiting team. This is no longer the voice crying out in the wilderness that drew many to John the Baptist. Jesus is proclaiming his kingdom faith to the seat of Jewish power. This is a clash between two kingdoms. Jesus is not fighting with swords and spears in order to conquer the collective powers of those seated on the Sanhedrin. Jesus is fighting for the heart and soul of Jewish faith. What he sees and they are blind to is the one who really is in control of them. Despite their pristine ancestry it is the devil who is their father. He fills their hearts with murderous intent. He seduces their minds as they fight for the scraps of power and prestige that Rome tosses their way. Jesus can only be perceived as a threat to their own security. Why do they think so? Jesus has no army with which to threaten their position.

Whatever power Jesus may have he has not used to directly threaten their political positions. But if Jesus becomes the hero of the masses, Rome may deem him a threat. Rome's solution to a "Jesus problem" could easily strip away any influence and power they now possess. The inevitable solution to the "Jesus problem" is presented to them by Jesus himself. When Jesus says, "Before Abraham was, I AM." he is declaring that he pre-existed Abraham. He is the God who said to Moses, "I Am who I AM." God has no beginning or end. He has always existed and will always exist. To the ears of the Jews who heard Jesus speak these words, what Jesus said was blasphemy. So they picked up stones in order to

stone him. But Jesus slipped away without being seen. This is but a preview of what is to come.

June 18 - Gen. 45:1-28 – Father’s Day

The story of Joseph from beginning to end is one of the most joyous stories in the Bible. Yet, it is a story with much conflict especially between Joseph and his brothers. The conflict can be traced back to their father Jacob. Joseph is a very precocious son and the next to the youngest of 12 sons. But Jacob likes to play favorites with his sons and honors Joseph above them all. The fact that Joseph is the first son of Rachel, Jacob’s favorite wife, plays no small part in his favoritism. The text we are reading this Father’s Day demonstrates the joyous reconciliation that can still occur in a dysfunctional family when forgiveness has the opportunity to be applied as a healing balm. Joseph is able to see past the wounds inflicted by jealous brothers and recognize the handiwork of God that ultimately saves all of their lives from a lengthy famine. May each one of us be able to see past our own wounds to the healing and reconciling wounds inflicted upon Christ Jesus for our sake and for our salvation.

June 25 - John 9:1-23 – The Blind Man Healed Then Questioned

It is not uncommon for us to question or conjecture about certain circumstances. We think we are wise if we know the answers to things where judgment is on display. We can appear to be an authority on where blame should be placed. “Who sinned; this man or his parents since he has been blind since birth?” Life can often seem like a riddle and the person who can answer the most riddles must indeed be wise. Jesus cuts through our fuzzy thinking by declaring both innocent. The real reason this man was born blind is so that the works of God can be revealed through him.

That thought alone should comfort all of us. We exist for the purpose of revealing the works of God. Our blindness may not have anything to do with our eyesight. But like Jesus’ disciples we often don’t see the possibilities that God provides for the revealing of His love and mercy.

Now Jesus does an odd thing at least in our experience. He spits on the ground and makes clay to anoint the eyes of our blind man. This was not uncommon because the saliva was thought to be of some medicinal benefit. This sounds a bit like letting a dog lick your wound so that it will heal faster. However, the making of such a medicinal benefit breaks the law of working on the Sabbath. So why did Jesus send a blind man, by himself, to wash in the pool of Siloam? Perhaps it wasn't far away and our blind man may have availed himself of its benefits for cleansing his body on numerous occasions. At least he evidently knew how to get himself there. What a different world awaited him after he washed the clay off his face and eyes.

It is difficult for us to imagine what seeing for the first time must be like. Perhaps seeing some natural wonder, like the Grand Canyon or Yosemite Valley, begins to give us an inkling of what our formerly 'blind man' began to see as he walked back home. Nor does he suspect that the healing of his blindness will become 'ground zero' for the storm of unbelief that will surround him. Things begin innocently enough as neighbors and other acquaintances try to figure out if he is, in fact, the same person who sat and begged at this location. What begins as inquisitiveness quickly turns into suspicion. Suspicion turns to accusation as he is brought before the Pharisees. His parents also are brought to make sure that they have the right person. Fear and inquisition begin to rule this day.

OBITUARY

Velda Gunderman

Velda Irene Gunderman, 95, of Goshen died Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at home surrounded by her family.

She was born June 11, 1927, to Paul C. and Gladys (Guffey) Schrock in a small house along side of the maternal grandparent's home called Meadow Brook Farm, which is still in operation today as a beautiful event/wedding venue.

She graduated from Jefferson High School in 1945. Velda worked at Farm Bureau Co-op where she met the love of her life, Reinhold Gunderman. They were married July 28, 1946.

To this union six children were born. They had a family farm where she grew large gardens and many beautiful flowers, her favorite being roses and irises. She canned food not only for her family but for the Torreon Mission in New Mexico; and fried lots of chicken for Faith Mission in Elkhart. Her hobbies included baking cookies, playing the organ, birdwatching, sewing, crocheting and needlepoint. Being a seamstress, she rarely had a store-bought dress. She crocheted afghans for all of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren along with baby afghans she gave for gifts.

Mrs. Gunderman was a long-time member of the Dunkard Brethren Church, Goshen where she often served as song leader. Velda was always content with the simple things of life and learned at an early age to make lemonade out of lemons.

One of the biggest highlights of her life was visiting their log cabin in the beautiful mountains of Colorado, that she and Reinhold built with their children and grandchildren. She was always up for whatever adventure the family came up with including riding her own four-wheeler.

She is survived by three daughters, Diane (Kenneth) Reed, Trish (Jeff) Gaugler, and Susan (Tom) St. John; a son, Michael (Brenda) Gunderman; daughter-in-law, Lola Gunderman; 17 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; and 24 great-great grandchildren.

Along with her parents and husband, Reinhold, she was preceded in death by an infant sister, Ruth Vivian Schrock; two sons, Ronnie P. and Terry Gunderman; a granddaughter, Marcie Troyer and a great-grandson, Brandon Troyer.

The family would like to thank Heart to Heart Hospice and Karing Hearts for their wonderful care of Velda.

The funeral service was held at Yoder-Culp Funeral Home with Thomas St. John, son in law and Dennis St. John officiating. Internment followed at West Goshen Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be directed to Torreon Navajo Mission, HCR 79 Box 8, Cuba, NM 87013, Faith Mission, P.O. Box 1728, Elkhart, IN 46516; <https://thefaithmission.org/giving/> or Heart to Heart Hospice, 1178 Fremont Ct., Suite 2, Elkhart, IN 46516; <https://hearttohearthispice.com>.

NEWS ITEMS

Reminder - Rudy Cover Bible Story Book

Rudy's Bible Stories is available on Amazon in paperback (\$9.99), hardcover (\$16.99) and Kindle (\$3.99). The book includes approximately 240 of Rudy's Bible stories and approximately 20 illustrations by Sis. Bethany Johnson (Manuel). To buy your copy, just log-in to Amazon and search for "Rudy's Bible Stories" or for "Dunkard Brethren Publishing". To save some shipping costs, groups or congregations may want to consider bulk ordering, especially through those with Amazon Prime.

As noted in the description on Amazon, "*Discover stories of the Bible that will not only entertain your child but ground them in the truth. The author relates the stories and often shares experiences from his own life. Each story lists Bible references so that your child can look them up on their own. Use these Bible stories for kids 8 -12 years old in several ways in your home. Perhaps as Bible bedtime stories for kids who are younger, or as a devotional for those who are older. Homeschooling parents might use them in their reading or Bible curriculum.*"

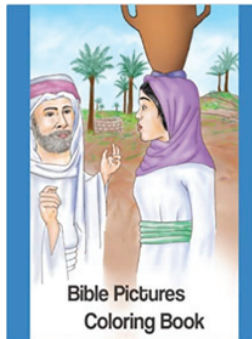
If you are active in writing product reviews on Amazon and would

like a copy of the book (as a .pdf file or paperback proof copy) in exchange for your honest review, please contact Bro. Marvin Lorenz at dbcpublishing@gmail.com. In requesting a copy for review, please indicate to Marvin your preference for a .pdf document or paperback proof copy.



Coloring Book

Additionally, a coloring book featuring Sister Bethany's drawings is available through Amazon. In Amazon, search for "Bible Pictures Coloring Book" or for "Dunkard Brethren Publishing".



Electronic Bible Monitor (e-Monitor)

If you are interested in receiving the Bible Monitor by email each month (e-Monitor), please notify Ken Brock at kenbrockdb@gmail.com or at 419-515-3396. The e-Monitor comes as a pdf file (Adobe file) and looks just like the paper subscriptions that come by regular mail. If you choose to sign up for the e-Monitor, you can either continue or discontinue your paper subscription of the Monitor that comes by regular mail. Simply let Ken know your preference. Subscriptions currently remain \$5/year, whether receiving paper copies of the Monitor, e-Monitor or both.

General Conference

The Lord willing, the 2023 General Conference of the Dunkard Brethren Church will be held June 10-14, 2023, at Aldersgate Christian Camp in Turner, Oregon. (www.aldersgateretreat.com)

The closest airport will be Portland, Oregon. (approx. 70 mi. from conf.) There is a commercial shuttle service from the Portland Airport to Salem. (10 mi. from conf) (groometransportation.com) **Advance reservations are recommended on Groome Transportation** There is a charge for this service. If you miss your scheduled shuttle you are supposed to call them to reschedule. There is Amtrak service to Salem. (10 mi from conf.)

We will run our own shuttle from conference to those 2 locations in Salem as needed. Please let us know if you are planning on using our transportation from Salem to the conference grounds. We are only picking up by appointment. Cell #'s Dennis 503-931-2940 and Norma 503-559-1481. Email normastamy@yahoo.com .

Lodging reservations should be sent to Dennis and Norma Jean Stamy, 1539 SE Miller Ave. Dallas, OR 97338. Call, text, or email. Cell Phone: 503-559-1481. Email normastamy@yahoo.com

Earliest check in time will be 4 pm on Friday.

There are limited rooms that have a bathroom in them. **IF YOU ARE WILLING TO SHARE A ROOM WITH SOMEONE ELSE, PLEASE LET US KNOW.**

Bedding and 1 set of towels per person will be furnished for the 5 days. There will be the option to have clean towels midway through the conference.

There are RV spots available. Not all have full hookups.

Please let us know if you will be arriving after the 6:30 pm meal time on Friday. We need to have a count for the evening meal. If you will be arriving on Saturday please let us know approx. time so we can adjust meal counts.

If you are staying off site, please let us know which meals you will be there for.

We do need a signed medical release for anyone under 18 without parents attending. We have a form available if you need one. Just let us know.

It will be cool in the late evenings and early mornings, possible upper 40's to low 50's. You will need to bring jackets. Not heavy ones just lightweight. Like a sweater or sweatshirt.

Oregon has a law in place that you cannot pump your own fuel into your vehicle. They will pump it for you. Everyone needs to be aware of this so you don't try to pump your own. There are a few rural locations that will let you pump your own.

We have a list of popular places to visit. Just let us know and we can email it or if enough time I can mail it to you.

Travel Directions to Aldersgate Camps and Retreats:

From the North:

Exit from I-5 at Exit 252 (Kuebler Blvd.). Turn left at light. Proceed east to stop light at Turner Rd. and turn right. Follow Turner Rd. 4 miles into Turner. Continue to follow the main road through Turner following signs to Aumsville. You will cross Mill Creek on your way out of Turner. Entrance to Aldersgate is 500 ft. on the left.

From the South:

Exit from I-5 at Exit 248 (Turner-Sunnyside Rd). Turn right at stop sign. Proceed 4 miles east on Delaney Road into Turner. Turn right at the stop sign just after the railroad tracks. Follow the main road through Turner following signs to Aumsville. You will cross Mill Creek on your way out of Turner. Entrance to Aldersgate is 500 ft. on the left.

Thank You,
The Lodging Committee

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR July 2023

July 2 - John 9:24-41 – Blinded by Pride

1. According to verse 28, the Pharisees identified themselves as being disciples of Moses rather than Jesus. What can we tend to be “disciples” of today, instead of Jesus?

2. What does the once-blind man’s defense and eventual acceptance of Jesus say about the state of his heart, as opposed to the Pharisees?

3. What type of blindness is Jesus speaking about in verse 41?

July 9 - John 10:1-21 – I AM the Good Shepherd

1. Who/what could the thieves, robbers, and hireling represent?

2. In verse 21, the people reason, “can a devil open the eyes of the blind?” Is a devil capable of doing good? Why or why not?

-
3. Concerning verse 16, what or who are the sheep that are “not of this fold”?

July 16 - John 10:22-42 – I AM the Son of God

1. In what ways do we resist Jesus just as the Pharisees resist Him in this chapter?

2. What do you think was the true reason for the Pharisees trying to stone Jesus?

3. How did John prepare the people for Jesus? How might we do the same for those around us?

July 23 - John 11:1-16 – The Purpose of Lazarus' Death

1. What is the purpose of Lazarus' death?

2. Did Lazarus actually die?

3. In verse 16, the disciples seem ready to die for/with Jesus. Why does this seem to change in the Garden of Gethsemane, right before His crucifixion?

July 30 - John 11:17-37 – I AM the Resurrection and the Life!

1. What is the difference between Martha and Mary's encounter with Jesus?

2. What was the purpose behind Jesus's weeping?

3. What are the reactions to Jesus weeping?

DIRECTORY OF BOARDS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Fred Pifer, Chairman
17354 240th Street
Adel, Iowa 50003

Chad Meyers, Secretary
26580 205th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Dennis St. John, Treasurer
21397 County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

BOARD OF PUBLICATION

Ken Brock, Chairman
1520 Co Rd 22-60
Stryker, OH 43557

Kevin Funk, Secretary
24107 N Avenue
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Marlin Marks, Treasurer
429 Summit Drive
Red Lion, PA 17356

Dennis Myers
23999 268th Lane
Adel, IA 50003

Bart Hoblit
2846 Gettysburg Pitsburg Rd
Arcanum, OH 45304

BIBLE STUDY BOARD

Philip Franklin, Chairman
1520 Brannon Ave
Modesto, CA 95350

Nathan Meyers, Secretary
15351 U Avenue
Woodward, IA 50276

Bart Hoblit
2846 Gettysburg-Pitsburg Rd
Arcanum, OH 45304

Loren Zook
225 Snitz Road
Lebanon, PA 17042

Gerry Priest
20207 Marsh Haven Lane
Hagerstown, MD 21742

RELIEF BOARD

Kurt Rolle, Chairman
5298 Byreley Road
Bradford, OH 45308
(937) 448-2217

Mark Cordrey, Jr., Secretary
3825 Missionwood Court
Ceres, CA 95307
(209) 606-8677

Rodney Kimmel, Treasurer
6625 E 100 S
Flora, IN 46929
(765) 491-8598

Gerry Priest
20207 Marsh Haven Lane
Hagerstown, MD 21742
(301) 766-9036

Tom Hawbaker
7121 KS Highway 7
Mound City, KS 66056
515-745-0174

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

Paul Skiles, Chairman
6561 Mountain Hawk Loop NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

Justin Beck, Secretary
480 Schubert Road
Bethel, PA 19507

Dennis Myers, Treasurer
23999 268th Lane,
Adel, IA 50003

Tom Priest
8815 Willowdale Road
Greencastle, PA 17225

Milton Cook
1138 East 12th St
Beaumont, CA 92223

Ken Brock
1520 County Road 22-60
Stryker, OH 43557

Mark Cordrey, Sr
525 W. Grayson Road
Modesto, CA 95358

Phil Gish
7850 E. Agenbroad Road
New Carlisle, OH 45344

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

Devin Meyers, Superintendent
HCR 79, Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013

Nelson Hawbaker, Chairman
27268 270th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Rick St. John, Secretary
2578 County Rd 20-2
Archbold, OH 43502

Johnathan Edgecomb, Treasurer
14302 NW 2100 Rd,
Garnett, KS 66032

Jonathan Skiles
PO Box 1990
Cuba, NM 87013

Brian Kegerreis
90 Orchard Lane
Bernville, PA 19506

AFRICAN MISSION BOARD

Alan Meyers, Chairman
17614 R Avenue,
Minburn, IA 50167

Andy Lichtenberger, Secretary
1556 Yarrow Rd
Piqua, KS 66761

Jonathan Pifer, Treasurer
22025 Midland Trail
Minburn, IA 50167

Merle Sweitzer
13227 Fishel Road
Felton, PA 17322

Micaiah Johnson
6002 Blue Gum Ave.
Modesto, CA 95358

DIRECTORY OF BOARDS Cont....**CIVILIAN SERVICE BOARD**

Milton Cook, Chairman
1138 E 12th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223
951-845-6231

Robert Lehigh, Exec. Sec.
5137 Waltersdorf Road
Spring Grove, PA 17362
717-225-4928
Fax: 717-632-6823

Tom St. John
20380 County Road R
Alvordton, OH 43501
419-737-2203

James Eberly
1237 Pine Hill Road
Lititz, PA 17543
717-286-4511

Alan Meyers
17614 R Ave.
Minburn, IA 50167
515-419-5431

CHURCH GROWTH BOARD

Mark Cordrey, Chairman
525 W Grayson Road
Modesto, CA 95358
209-595-4592
iwsmc@fire2wire.com

Brant Jamison, Secretary
14970 SH 120
Lyons, OH 43533
419-345-6607
thebusybs@gmail.com

Mark Andrews, Treasurer
24407 South Overfelt Road
Peculiar, MO 64078
816-506-3007
mran62@fairpoint.net

Merle Sweitzer
13227 Fishel Road
Felton, PA 17322
717-515-2608
mesweitzer10358@gmail.com

Dennis Myers
23999 268th Lane
Adel, IA 50003
515-490-0037
dennykaren423@msn.com

Ward Deaton
2620 Thacker Rd
Zillah, WA 98953
509-391-0685
wbdeaton@gmail.com

Marcus Wray
5268 E 775 S
Peru, IN 46970
(765) 863-4795
marcwray@gmail.com

James Eberly
1237 Pine Hill Road
Lititz, PA 17543
717-286-4511
jfeberly@gmail.com

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP BOARD

Zac Rice, Chairman
5761 Hartzell Rd.
Greenville, OH 45331
937-877-0131

Jesse Alspaugh, Secretary
430 Bordner Rd.
Richland, PA 17078
717-933-9197

Don Gipe
9525 Greenville Falls Rd.
Covington, OH 45318
937-570-0276

Marlin Marks
429 Summit Dr.
Red Lion, PA 17356
717-683-3871

Alex Meyers
1616 1st St.
Redfield, IA 50233
515-897-8207

When donating to any of these Boards, please make checks payable to "Dunkard Brethren Church" and write the name of the Board on the for / memo line of the check, or on a separate note included with your check. Any checks received without a Board designation will be deposited in the Trustee Board account. Thank you for your generosity in supporting these Boards.

Mail all donations to: Dunkard Brethren Church, P.O. Box 821, Troy, OH 45373.

Please Note: Bible Monitor subscription payments should be sent to the Editor. Please see bottom of page two (2) for details.

Dunkard Brethren Church
10575 West Main Road
North East, PA 16428

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ERIE, PA
PERMIT NO. 227