

# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. CII

MARCH, 2024

NO. 3

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and  
Scriptural in practice.

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

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

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## JEHOVAH-JIREH

In mounts of danger and of straits,  
My soul for his salvation waits;  
Jehovah-Jireh will appear,  
And save me from my gloomy fear.

He, in the most distressing hour,  
Displays the greatness of his power;  
In darkest nights he makes a way,  
And turns the gloomy shade to day.

Jehovah-Jireh is his name;  
From age to age he proves the same;  
He sees when I am sunk in grief,  
And quickly flies to my relief.

The Lord Jehovah is my guide;  
He does and will for me provide;  
And in the mount it shall be seen,  
How kind and gracious he has been.

*Jonathan Franklin*

Selected by Lynn H. Miller  
Newmanstown, PA

## FINDING A FOUNDER

### The Past...

Many of you know the name B. E. Kesler. However, I suspect far fewer of you know what the B. and E. stand for. Why do I suspect this? Because we have a tendency to forget the details of the past. Even for history buffs, the details of the distant past can become blurry. Sometimes we need a refresher for things that were once clear to us but have become hazy over time. By the way, B. E. stands for Benjamin Elias.

Benjamin was one of thirteen children born to Stephen and Sofia Kesler. Benjamin was born on March 6, 1861, in Pernello, Franklin County, Virginia, approximately one month before the beginning of the Civil War. Both the Union and Confederate armies would be active in that

area of the Blue-Ridge foothills in the next few years, leaving a devastating effect. Those years were difficult for the Kesler family.

Kesler's life is well documented in *They Counted the Cost* (Keith M. Bailey, 2009), which was referenced in writing this article. Kesler received the Lord at age 17 and was baptized into the Church of the Brethren (at that time called the German Baptist Brethren). He was placed in the ministry at age 23. That same year, he married Mattie Lorrea Hurt. In the coming years, the Lord would bless them with 11 children and lead them to ministry in Illinois, Arkansas, Kansas, Colorado and Missouri. In 1917, Lorrea died after 34 years of laboring by Kesler's side. The following year, Kesler

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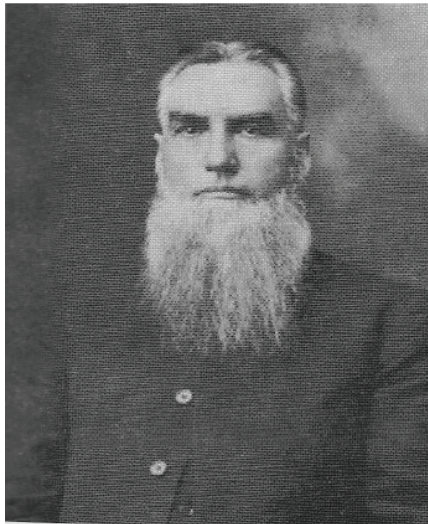
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married Lulu Matilda Thurman and they had one child (Kesler's 12<sup>th</sup>), who they named Benjamin Elias, Junior.

Kesler is known in Dunkard Brethren circles as a founder: first of the Bible Monitor Family which published the *Bible Monitor* and several years later, of the Dunkard Brethren Church. Kesler was the first editor of the *Bible Monitor*, with the first issue in October 1922. The purpose of the *Bible Monitor* was not to spread discord within the Church of the Brethren but was rather to call the church back to her formerly held beliefs and away from her slide towards acculturation. Those that agreed

with these conservative ideas were called the Bible Monitor Family.

After leaving the Church of the Brethren 1926 Annual Conference, the Bible Monitor Family headed to Plevna, Indiana for their fourth annual meeting. The gathering at Plevna was not a victory celebration but an humble, quiet bowing to the will of God. Conscience would not allow them to stay in a church body that had accepted acculturation as a norm, whose position would be an accelerated movement toward liberal modernism. During that meeting at Plevna, the Dunkard Brethren Church was born.



B. E. Kesler

Kesler served the Lord for many more years. He was Elder of the Goshen, Indiana congregation from 1937 until his later years. He passed away

at the age of 91 at his home in Goshen on August 1, 1952. His obituary is published in the September 1, 1952, issue of the *Bible Monitor*.

### And the Present...

Last March, Bro. Alan Meyers of the Dallas Center congregation in Iowa was our evangelist for revival meetings at the Pleasant Ridge congregation in Ohio and Bro. Alan and Sis. Brenda were visiting with us over a meal. The topic of B. E. Kesler came up in discussion and Alan mentioned that he had been in Goshen, Indiana and had tried to locate Kesler's grave but had been unsuccessful.

A number of months later, this discussion came to my mind and interest again was stirred in locating the gravesite. So, in December, my wife Melissa and

I took a road trip to Goshen to try and locate Kesler's grave. After about a half hour of walking around the cemetery and reading the names on the headstones, we were starting to get discouraged. We had not seen any Keslers and could see that we only had about one-tenth of the cemetery yet to search. At this point, Melissa used her phone to check the cemetery registry (something I hadn't considered before and ultimately glad I hadn't) which indicated that there weren't any Keslers in this cemetery. But coming this far, we pressed on. Then within a minute or two, we spotted the gravesite.



Photo: unknown date



Photo: 12/23/23

I am thankful for people like Kesler that were willing to stand against the current and lead in the direction that they believed God and His word instructed. Without ever meeting some of these people of the past, we as individuals as well as our entire brotherhood reap benefits today from their founding work. I have to wonder what Kesler would think if he could stand with us today and observe our

lives and see what has grown from the seeds he helped sow. What would he tell us? Would he rebuke, encourage or warn us? Perhaps all of these and more. As we consider a life like Kesler's, do we see similarities in our lives? Are we like Kesler, willing to stand against the currents of today and lead in the direction that we believe God and His word instruct?

### Gravesite Location

For those interested in finding Kesler's grave, it is in the West Goshen Cemetery, Goshen, Indiana. It is located along the western edge, in the southern one-third of the cemetery. The headstone is west facing just a few feet off the lane and just a few feet north of a large maple tree.

For those of you that are tech-

savvy, you can plug the following coordinates into your device and let it lead you to the precise location of the gravesite. (Lat/Long) 41.576830 -85.852421

*Photos of B. E. Kesler and first headstone above are from They Counted the Cost (Keith M. Bailey, 2009).*

K. Brock

## ISRAEL TODAY

The war between Hamas and Israel is well past its 100<sup>th</sup> day. The killing on both sides continues. The initial fear that closed schools and shops and lessoned travel, has melded into a general weariness. Schools here in Jerusalem are in regular session and children play in the streets. The traffic is at its usual congestion. Horns honk. Motorcycles and motorbikes weave in and out of the traffic. The public transportation buses have a constant presence bringing Jewish shoppers and engineers and Yeshiva students into and out of Jerusalem. There are dozens of tourists, but not hundreds.

In the West Bank, the biggest problem is roadblocks strategically placed by the Israeli army; sometimes by orange or yellow metal gates, sometimes by enormous boulders placed by bulldozers, and sometimes by slick, muddy dirt piles. We were told it was impossible to travel in the West Bank. It's not impossible, just difficult. Just last month it could take two hours going from Bethlehem back to

Jerusalem. Some dirt piles put into place with bulldozers have been removed in the last few weeks and we are back to our usual forty-five-minute drive.

If there is any change in Gaza, it is spiraling downward; disease, killings of civilians, cold and rain, days of no internet service, and 132 hostages (dead or alive?) remain captive. The news I hear from Gaza is bits and pieces from Palestinian friends who have family in the Strip.

Those of us 50-miles from the active bombing and killing are war-weary. I hear fighter jets fly over daily, sometimes a hundred a day. As one Arab friend said, "On October 7<sup>th</sup>, both sides had the wind knocked out of them." Most Jews and most Arabs want it all to stop.

Where does all this leave a Christian? I found some notes that I made more than two years ago from a book that reflected on what is happening in the Holy Land. I can't find that book today, so I am unable to give credit where it is due.

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### *The Zionism of God and the Zionism of Man*

*The Zionism of God is fulfilling prophecy in His way, in His time. The Zionism of man is trying to make it happen. The Zionism of man caused Abraham to try and fulfill God's promise through Ishmael. God fulfilled it in His time through Isaac. The Zionism of man caused David to number his men. God's way was for Jehoshaphat to put his praise team in front of his military men. The Zionism of man offered the Kingdom to Jesus without the cross. God's plan led Jesus to the cross.*

*The Zionism of God declares that every prophecy concerning His redeemed people will be fulfilled in His time. Today it appears that the Zionism of man buys tanks for secular Israel, applauds ethnic cleansing, and ignores Israel's sins.*

*Is it a war against Arab and Jew or is it a war between faith and presumption; two equal and opposite poles in the realm of Heaven? The fruit of the Zionism of God is love and peace. The fruit of the Zionism of man is often hatred, despair, hostility, intolerance, inequity, treachery, brutality, and unrestraint. Only the Zionism of God prevails because love never fails.*

My prayer is that by the time this goes to press the shooting and bombing will have stopped. Only then can hearts and attitudes begin to heal.

Mary Sue Moss  
Jerusalem, Israel

### **BY THE FAITH OF OTHERS**

*"And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house. And straightway many were gathered together,*

*insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them. And they come unto him,*



*bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.”* Mark 2:1-5

This part of scripture has been on my mind. The phrase, *“Their Faith”* is a statement about all five of the people involved, the sick and the four carrying him. The sick man had the faith to believe Jesus could heal him. The four friends agreed to take him to Jesus and at least try to get an audience with Him. As the story unfolds there is proof that they were more than paid or talked into helping. They had faith that Jesus would make their friend whole. Once they rounded the corner and saw the crowd was big and there was no room to get to Jesus, they came up with a plan to get what they believed was possible. The extra work to get their friend to Jesus was just a small inconvenience. They got him on the roof, peeled the roof back and lowered him in. *“When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy,*

*Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.”*

It is a great story. More than a story, an account of a real-life experience. *“And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.”* Mark 2:12 The man walked away justified and healed.

The Bible leaves the account there. It does not give us any more details. As a builder, my mind wonders a bit. I wonder who put the roof back together? Who cleaned up the mess? Who made sure the homeowner was ok with the work? I have no more details than you, but I like to think that man and his four friends either that day or the next day, repaired that roof. They made sure the owner of that house was ok with what had happened and thanked him for being accommodating. I think they fixed everything and went above and beyond to make things right.

The point I would like to make is that we need people. We need each other. The sick man was not able to get to Jesus on his own. He needed assistance and help to get in front of Jesus. It says he had the faith but did not have the ability to walk into the presence



of Jesus. We have all been there. We have all needed help at one time or another. We have had others gather around us and help us walk into the presence of God. Maybe we were “baby” believers. Maybe we were struggling in our walk and somebody or maybe a few somebodies came along with us and carried us into the presence of God. Once in the presence of God, He saw our faith, (even if it was small) and the faith of the others and He healed us. Healed our spirit and our heart. Healed us from the inside and we were made whole.

To those who are “the friends”, when you get someone to Jesus, don’t stop there. Usually this is where the real work starts. Cleaning up messes, “fixing roofs”, mentoring and encouraging. Too often, we get them to Jesus, and we leave them there and when real life happenings set in, they are alone. Be careful not to do this. Encourage and help whenever you can. Send a text, call or however you can be of help. Proverbs 27:17 *“Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.”*

To the ones of us that have been the ones carried on our bed to Jesus, remember you once

were helped and be ready to help others. Don’t be afraid to ask for help or let someone know you can’t do this on your own. It is not a sign of weakness to admit you are struggling. God designed us to be family. We are to be there for each other and proudly thinking you can do it on your own is a sure plan for disaster. I believe that once we remember where we were, it should bring on a keen sense of awareness to those who are in the same place we were. Ask God to sharpen those senses.

To all of us, be in prayer for each other; individually, collectively, and the CHURCH globally. Realizing the devil would love to bring separation and easily pick one of us off. *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”* Hebrews 4:16

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16

Joe Cover  
Dallas Center, IA

## THOUGHTS ON LOVEFEAST

*If ye know these things,  
happy are ye if ye do them.*  
John 13:17

When we sit down at the table of the Lord, it is not to satisfy an appetite. It is to follow in His steps. It is to remember what He did for us, and to affirm our faith in His finished, and continuing work of grace.

At the beginning, He told us to come. After we come, we are told to follow. We follow by doing God's will, and to do as

Christ did. Before we can walk, we must sit together in heavenly places. (Eph. 1 & 2)

Christ's sacrifice has established our relationship with God. When the church realizes its place, and its place is at God's feet. What a great and wonderful place! We learn to trust in God and, by faith, we see into Heaven. Our hope is renewed, and our journey is affirmed. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

From all that's mortal, all that's vain,  
And from this earthly clod,  
Arise my soul, and strive to gain,  
Sweet fellowship with God.

*Brethren Hymnal No. 409*

Lynn H. Miller  
Newmanstown, PA

## A JOYFUL DEMONSTRATION OF FAITH

I had an uncle who loved to boast about his fishing exploits, particularly for the ones that got away. He bragged about these, but there was no proof behind anything that he said. We just smiled and took him at his word.

That is like some Christians

today. They boast about their faith, but nothing in their life proves they really have any faith in God. In fact, if you examine their life closely, you might come to the opposite conclusion.

People who say they have faith but cannot prove it are only

fooling themselves. If someone says they have faith, but there is nothing in their life to prove it, I am not going to take them at their word. If I have faith, I am going to have something in my life to demonstrate the reality of that faith.

What are the demonstrations of faith in a person's life? I think the primary demonstration would be actions. I love the saying, "*Your actions speak so loud I can't hear what you are saying.*" I think that goes along with our Christian faith. Our actions reveal the kind of faith we have or if we have any faith at all. My actions reveal the level of my faith. True faith is never passive but is always active.

If you go through the Gospels and read what Jesus was doing, you will notice he was always proactive in his ministry. He was always going forward. "*And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth*" (Mark 1:38).

One indication of living by faith is when I am living beyond my resources. If I confined my life to my resources, strength and wisdom, then I really do not need faith. I have everything

under control. Or do I? It boils down to this. If I know what God wants me to do, I can then trust Him for the resources. God never sends me to do anything without first preparing me for that ministry.

God has His ways of preparing people. I do not think Job, for example, knew he was being prepared for what he was about to face. But I believe God so prepared him that he was able to endure the harshest of all trials and tribulations. God will never give us more than we can handle. No matter what I have to go through, if it is God's direction in my life, I will have God's resources available to me. The old saying is true, "*God's work, done God's way, will always have God's resources.*"

The thing that puzzles me is that God rarely reveals those resources until we need them. If I am really going to trust God, I am going to trust Him to bring in the resources I need at the right time to accomplish His will. After all, it is His will and not my will.

Faith is not just a doctrine we believe. We always talk about a man of faith or a woman of faith and such. But faith is not just believing something. Faith is

something we act upon. My faith motivates me to do something, and if that something is not beyond my personal resources then I really do not need God.

A person of faith never waits until he knows everything. I would like to at times. I would like to know everything up front, every step, every door and every opposition along the way, but that is not how God works. My faith in God allows God to do in my life, what He desires to do without asking my permission.

Many people today call themselves Christians. Yet if compared with a non-Christian, there is really not much difference. If my life is not drastically different from the man of the world, why do I think I am different? Why do I think I am a Christian? The only way I can really think I am a Christian is if in my whole life and attitude and agenda I am Christlike and trusting God every day to be Christlike in every way.

I know at times it is difficult to follow God. Most of the time in our culture everything is

piled against godliness. It is so much easier just to go along with the world than to contradict the world. Yet that is what God wants us to do. God wants us to stand up in this world in opposition to the worldliness that is reigning in our culture today. God wants us to be what He needs us to be in a culture and society that has for the most part thrown God to the curb.

We can also say that if my life is without controversy or opposition, I am probably walking in the wrong direction. However, when I am walking in the direction God wants me to walk, I will encounter all of that stuff. The truth of the matter is, if I am walking where God wants me to walk and in the direction God wants me to walk, I will have all of the resources necessary, not just to endure, but to be victorious in the outcome. There is nothing more wonderful than the victorious demonstration of faith in the life of the believer.

James L. Snyder  
Ocala, FL

## CONNECTIONS

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

### *2 Thessalonians 1,2,3 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-32*

I'm very encouraged about the March Sunday School Scripture reading and lessons. The phrase that kept coming to me as I read was, "Do I keep the main thing." The main thing? Or more importantly, do I even know what the "main thing" is?

After reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-32, it appears that Apostle Paul expects us to do some self-examination. What part of the Gospel do I live by? What do I share with unbelievers? Do I live a life of self-denial for Jesus? Am I willing to "die daily"? The choice is always ours about how we live out these questions: whether I'm willing to humble myself or have my own way?

In the second letter to the Thessalonians, Paul wanted them to know of his confidence in their faith and love in the Lord Jesus Christ, as they lived it out toward each other. Paul was so blessed by their testimony, that he thanked God for them always. Do we have this kind

of faith and love for each other, and do other people recognize these traits in our lives?

The Scriptures remind us that the trials and persecutions we experience are for our sanctification and for the furtherance of the Gospel. Paul encourages us to pray that the Word of the Lord would have free course and be glorified in us. Also that the study of the Word would direct our hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.

We are encouraged as brethren not to be shaken or troubled concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ or "the day of Christ". When we think about this coming day, what emotions arise within us? Am I looking for the Lord's return with anticipation and expectation? Revelation 12:12&17 tells us that the devil is full of great wrath because he knows that his time is short. Therefore, he is making war with those who are keeping

the commandments of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

As we study and discuss this month's Sunday School lesson, our prayer and encouragement is this: That we continue in the things which we have learned and been assured of, knowing

from whom we have learned them; and that from childhood we know the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make us wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

*On behalf of the Bible Study Board*  
Brother Ward Deaton

## PHIL'S PONDERINGS

As we "study to shew *ourselves* approved unto God..."  
March 2024 Bible Study Commentary

### March 3 - II Thess. 1:1-1 – He Shall Be Glorified in His Saints

After his salutation Paul begins to laud the Thessalonians for the spiritual growth that has been occurring in their lives. We experience such growth in a great variety of ways. We may read every day in our Bible. We may memorize verses that especially touch our hearts. We may study the scriptures more deeply for a variety of reasons. We pray often, visit the sick, help our neighbors and elderly church and/or family acquaintances. The list goes on and on. As important as all of these are, Paul refers to something less predictable and more fearful. Persecution, tribulations, and suffering seldom cross our minds. These things are too close to the battle that threaten our bodies as well as our hearts and minds. But what does Paul see? (II Thess. 1:4) "... *your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure.*" Paul sees spiritual growth. He sees love at work in their midst that is the fruit produced when we endure these difficulties. Rather than fear he sees greater determination to fight the good fight that brings glory to God. Our suffering for Christ mirrors the reflection of God's love for us, who suffered and died for all mankind.

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**March 10 - II Thess. 1:1-12 – Let No Man Deceive You**

I assume that many of you are aware that our study today is one of the more contentious passages in the history of the church. Entire denominations have been created based on the interpretation of this passage. I have no desire to be contentious about this passage. However, I do want to point out that all those who have predicted the “Day of the Lord” have one common trait. They have all been wrong so far. My suggestion is that we study what Paul, by the inspiration of the Spirit, has written to us.

The concern that Paul has for the Thessalonians is the false teaching they have been exposed to. These false teachers are proclaiming that Christ has already returned and taken His church with Him. Now, why would someone make such a claim? Job security. By that I mean that whoever is making such claims is attempting to make themselves the primary source to be believed. If Christ has returned and we are left behind, what are we to do? Follow the leader who says he knows what to do during this time. Don't follow Paul or any of his subordinates because he has no clue about these things. But Paul makes it clear that he has already taught them the circumstances that will occur prior to the Lord's return in power. Circumstances will be tumultuous. Lawlessness will be on the increase. The Lord has been restraining this lawlessness. But the increasing desire of all men is to deny the reality of God and declare themselves free of all restraints.

Prior to Christ's return ‘the man of sin’, ‘the son of perdition’ shall be revealed. He will take up residence in the temple (presumably the temple in Jerusalem) claiming to be God himself. Delusions of all kinds will ultimately lead to the death of all mankind. The Lord shall rescue the church from the self-destruction that permeates man's end.

**March 17 - II Thess. 2:13-3:5 – The Lord is Faithful**

Paul, by way of reminder, has given the Thessalonians a peek into the future. They are not to be deluded by those who claim that Christ has already returned. Now Paul gives them a peek into the



past. (2 Thess 2:13-14) *“13 But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: 14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Our purpose in emphasizing these verses is not to entangle us in any debate along the lines of, “Once saved, always saved.” Rather, it is the reminder that we serve a sovereign God, who because He is God, knows all things. If our faith rests upon who God is there can be no doubt in our faith about our relationship with Him. God has called us, awakened us to the reality of what He has in mind for us. Our salvation is not something that God has planned recently. Rather, it is a beginning, new indeed to us, but part of God’s plan from eternity past. What God has planned for us is rock solid. Therefore, we must not allow ourselves to be shaken by those who proclaim a different gospel (ex. that Christ has already returned and we have been left behind). God has designed us to respond to the sanctifying work of His Spirit and belief in the truth so that we may obtain the glory of Jesus Christ. He hasn’t called us to be halfway Christians or mere observers on the sidelines of life. Our goal is to persevere through this life that others might see His glory revealed in our lives.

### **March 24 - II Thess. 3:6-18 - Be Not Weary in Well Doing**

Walking disorderly isn’t a phrase that immediately communicates its meaning to us. It sounds like somebody who keeps bumping shoulders with others in a crowded situation. Having recently flown cross country and back I imagine those who hurry off the plane and don’t mind running into someone in the process. But the word picture is more a military term. Soldiers are taught how to walk in formation without tripping over one another in the process. Developing those skills sometimes is a life and death situation. But that still doesn’t fit what Paul is saying.

In conversations with people who run businesses, one of the greatest needs is people who aren’t afraid to work. They see things that need doing without being told. They recognize that they are paid to

work, not play around, visit excessively, or goof off. They want to earn what they are being paid. Merely showing up doesn't validate what they are paid. Most of us have had some experience with people who talk a lot and don't seem to notice when no one is listening. They will gladly watch you work but seldom offer a helping hand. They seem oblivious to their own behavior and quite willing to eat some snack you provide while they rest as you work.

Paul has known these kinds of people even before his own conversion. But this sort of behavior must be dealt with in a different manner by Christians for other Christians. For everything we do and don't do is a witness to our faith in Christ. We may need to kindly admonish a brother or sister concerning their talkative nature or their lack of willingness to share in the tasks at hand. Other times we must set some boundaries in our relationships that protects us from falling behind in our responsibilities at home or on the job. At the same time, we are not trying to push people away. We are always working at developing better relationships that benefit all of us together.

### **March 31 – I Cor 15:1-32 – The Resurrection!**

*“And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.”* (1 Cor 15:17) It is important that we understand that the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ are all a part of the same event. They cannot be separated from each other without some negative consequence to the gospel of Jesus Christ. For instance, in the verse quoted above, Paul emphatically states that if Christ is not raised from the dead we are stuck in our sins. If Christ is not raised from the dead what purpose is there in His death? We may think of Jesus as a martyr, but that He is not a sacrifice for sin. Therefore, we are not cleansed from our sins. There is no victory in Christ and death has not been defeated. Faith then has no offer of hope which we can rely upon for both comfort and courage as we face our own mortality.

The resurrection of Christ is essential to our faith so that we grow in his likeness. Death is defeated when we step from this time into eternity knowing and trusting that Christ Jesus awaits us in all His glory.

## OBITUARY

Rita A. (Gibbel) Stump, 86, of Bernville, passed away Sunday, February 11th in Penn State, St. Joseph Hospital. She was married to the late John H. Stump. John and Rita were married for 51 years when John passed away February 12, 2009. Rita was born in Bethel Twp., daughter of the late Rufus Abraham Gibbel, Sr. and Katie Catherine (Snyder) Gibbel.

Surviving are two sons, Doyle E., husband of Chanelle of Bernville and Duane C., of Bernville; and four daughters: Debra L., wife of Mark Johns, of Richland; Donna M., wife of Carl Hoffman, of Troy; Doris K., wife of Darin Alspaugh, of Bernville; and Denise F. Stump, of Bernville. There are also 21 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Rita was a member of the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church, Bethel, Pennsylvania. She is survived by two brothers, Rufus Gibbel, Jr. and Jay Gibbel. She is predeceased by her siblings, Russel Peiffer, Ray Gibbel, June Beck, Infant Henry Gibbel, Infant Ada Gibbel, and Harvey Gibbel. She has two honorary sons, William Leshner and Joshua Moyer.

On July 6, 1957, Rita married John Stump. While he completed his 1-W service, she worked with him at Norristown State Hospital. In 1963 John and Rita established Stumpland Farm near Bernville. Rita was a devoted farm wife, helping in the barn as needed, cooking three meals a day for her family and farm workers, and frequently hosting friends. She served in her Farm Women group, the Farm Bureau Women's Committee, and was a member of the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church.

Over the years she taught art and home-ec classes, decorated cakes, and sewed women's head coverings. She taught herself to play piano and accordion and her family frequently gathered around to sing along as she played her favorite hymns. Rita was definitely the heart of her home, loving her family and friends with her hands. She cooked and baked and canned and sewed most

of her children's clothes. Her amazing creativity was evident in her many ceramic projects and the myriad items she crocheted, sewed, quilted, painted, and embroidered. Nothing seemed to please her more than giving away something she had made.

Funeral services were held February 16th at the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church, with Bro. Justin Beck officiating. Internment followed at the Frystown Cemetery.

## NEWS ITEMS

### **Bethel, Pennsylvania**

The Lord willing, the Bethel congregation will hold their spring revivals March 17 - 24 with Bro. Lloyd Lorenz from the Plevna, Indiana congregation as our Evangelist. Sunday, March 17, 9:30 a.m. morning service, basket lunch and 7 p.m. evening service. Weeknights, 7:30 p.m. services. Sunday, the 24th, 9:30 a.m. morning services, basket lunch, and 2 p.m. concluding service. Please pray for the services and Bro Lloyd as he prepares. All are welcome.

Karen Gingrich, Cor.

### **Pleasant Ridge, Ohio**

Our Revival Meetings will be March 24 – 31. Jonathan Skiles from the Juniper Hills, New Mexico congregation will be our speaker. Services begin Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. with a potluck lunch afterwards and an evening service at 6 p.m. Weeknight services at 7:30 p.m. Lovefeast services will begin on Saturday at 2 p.m. with communion at 7 p.m. Sunday (31<sup>st</sup>) begins with morning worship at 7:30 a.m. followed by breakfast. Regular worship service starts at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be served and we will close with a service at 2 p.m. Please pray for these meetings and come join us if you can.

Teresa St. John, Cor.

### **Dallas Center, Iowa**

Please join us in prayer as Bro. Caleb Heckman from the Chambersburg, Pennsylvania congregation comes to bring us God's messages March 31 - April 7. May there be a revival in

our hearts, minds and souls. May this revival touch our lives, our families, and our communities!

March 31 Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. with preaching at 10:30 a.m., followed by a carry in meal. Sunday evening service at 6 p.m.

Each evening the services will start at 7:30PM.

Saturday April 6 services 10:45 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. communion service.

We will conclude our week of meetings on Sunday April 7 with morning worship at 7:30 a.m., followed by breakfast. Sunday school and church at 9:30 a.m. with the last service at 1:30 p.m.

Join us in person or in prayer that Satan will be defeated and Warriors for Christ will rise up and be strong!

Mabel Chupp, Cor.

### **General Conference**

2024 General Conference will be held June 8 through June 12 at Roxbury Holiness Campgrounds located at 13763 Cumberland HWY, Orrstown, Pennsylvania 17244.

You will need to bring your own sheets and pillowcases. If you are flying and in need of these items, please let us know when registering.

There is plenty of room for campers and trailers. The campground will be available for occupancy Friday afternoon, June 7.

You can make your reservations through the church website, <http://www.dunkardbrethrenchurch.com/conference/registration/>

Randall Reed  
717.798.7268  
Conference Lodging Committee

**Invitation to Write**

Avid readers of the Bible Monitor know that most of the content of the Monitor comes from a handful of regular writers and a handful or two of occasional writers. We very much appreciate those that diligently contribute material for the Monitor. There have recently been some new writers contributing, including some younger writers and that is very encouraging.

If you haven't written for the Monitor before or haven't in a while, this is an invitation to consider doing so. We welcome appropriate articles, poetry and news items. While many of our articles are devotional, other topics for publication may highlight topics such as youth, parenting, outreach, women's interests, etc. If you aren't used to writing and struggle with sentence structure, grammar or the flow of writing, the editor can help with rewording, corrections and general polishing before publishing.

Please send all materials for intended publishing to the editor by email at [kenbrockbd@gmail.com](mailto:kenbrockbd@gmail.com) or by regular mail to 1520 County Road 2260, Stryker, Ohio 43557. Any questions can be sent to the editor by email, mail or phone (text or call) to 419-515-3396.

**Bible Monitor Submission Schedule – Articles and News Items**

When submitting an article for publishing in the Bible Monitor, please try to submit it to the editor by the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month prior. For example, please try to have an article submitted by April 1<sup>st</sup> if you would like it to be published in the May issue. Likewise, for shorter writings such as news items, please try to submit them by the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the month prior. It is preferred that materials for publishing in the Monitor be submitted by email to [kenbrockdb@gmail.com](mailto:kenbrockdb@gmail.com). However, they can also be submitted by regular mail to 1520 County Road 2260, Stryker, Ohio 43557.

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR April 2024**

### **April 7 - 1 Timothy 1:1-11 - One True Doctrine**

1. What are the four primary doctrines Paul lays as a foundational teaching (vs.1&2)?  

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2. What are the several areas of false doctrine and teaching which is “contrary to sound doctrine” (vs.3-10), that is to be guarded against?  

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3. Paul says (vs.11) “the Glorious Gospel is committed to his trust”. What does this mean to you and how can we say the same today?  

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### **April 14 - 1 Timothy 1:12-20 - Glory to God for His Grace**

1. Paul says (vs.12-14), Jesus enabled him, put him in the ministry, extended mercy to him, and surrounded him with exceeding abundant grace. What is your testimony of the same?  

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2. We should believe and accept the message of salvation (vs.15 &16). Can you describe this in your life, and what does the phrase “worthy of all acceptance” mean to you?  

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3. What is the spiritual shipwreck that Paul describes (vs. 18-20)?  

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**April 21 - 1 Timothy 2:1-15 - Pray for All**

1. How can verses 1-3 become of top importance to us today, as it was to be “first of all” to Timothy?
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2. God’s perspective of His plan of salvation is for all men and women (vs.3-6). Do we truly have this same godly perspective towards everyone, and do we pray for all to be saved?
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3. Does Paul’s teaching (vs.7-15) still apply to us today, and how can we be a godly influence in our culture in these areas today?
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**April 28 - 1 Timothy 3:1-13 - Qualifications**

1. Most men, and their wives, never feel totally qualified to fill the position of church leadership. Though the list of qualifications is many, how can these three quotes in this text, which is often overlooked, motivate leaders and congregations today?

A) “desire”? (vs. 1)

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B) “Holding the mystery of faith in a pure conscience”? (vs.9)

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C) “and great boldness”? (vs. 13)

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