

# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. CII

MAY, 2024

NO. 5

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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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## TWENTY QUESTIONS

You say we must separate, but separate from what?  
I know full well what evil is, but tell me, what is good?  
I know that I should be like Christ, but what is Jesus like?  
It's plain there's things I shouldn't do, but what are things I should?

Is Jesus a perfectionist, rejecting most who come?  
Is Jesus ever angry, or is He always calm?  
If things do make Him angry, then what might those things be?  
Would Jesus quench the smoking flax, or soothe a wound with balm?

When I am hard beset with sin, is mercy still for me?  
Will God get tired of giving me forgiveness when I fall?  
When I'm too weak to understand, will His longsuffering reach?  
And when I need Him, will He answer every time I call?

If I could be the way God wants, then what way would I be?  
What are the great commands of God that everyone should keep?  
The kingdom's hard to enter; tell me, how can I get in?  
Can simple people understand, or is God's truth too deep?

I know I serve a holy God, but what does "holy" mean?  
And what would holiness look like if it was found in me?  
Are clothes and words the full extent of following the Lord?  
Can someone demonstrate His kingdom so the world can see?

Sarah R. Nolt  
Fredericksburg, PA

## ECLIPSE

Just a few weeks ago, on April 8, a total solar eclipse occurred, traversing northeast across central Mexico, Texas, parts of the Mississippi and Ohio River valleys, along the northeast tier of the United States and southeast Canada. The longest period of totality, when the moon completely covered the sun, was 4 minutes and 28 seconds in Torreon, Mexico (not to be confused with Torreon, New Mexico).

Some community planners estimated that a doubling of local populations might be reached for the day of the eclipse. Where that occurred, for many communities, it would mark their largest tourist event in history. With the anticipated mass influx of visitors, some

communities in the area of totality had been laying plans for this event for years. Many schools were closed as the added eclipse traffic was expected to interfere with bus routes. Many localities planned festivities and viewing parties. For those that didn't trust the weather, a limited number of commercial flights within the path of totality were offered to guarantee customers a view of the eclipse, unobscured by clouds.

A lot of hoopla indeed, but might it be justified? After all, here in Ohio, the last total solar eclipse occurred on June 16, 1806. During this previous total solar eclipse in Ohio, Lewis and Clark and their Corps of Discovery were returning home

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## THE BIBLE MONITOR MAY, 2024

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from their trek to the Pacific coast, Thomas Jefferson was president, and major inventions of that year were the coffee percolator and carbon paper. No one alive today, their parents or grandparents or most likely even great grandparents had previously experienced a total solar eclipse in Ohio.

I do find it a little ironic that in trying to see an eclipse, we're actually trying to not see something, namely the sun. Further, we have the very frequent opportunity to see the sun become obscured by clouds or by the earth every evening at sunset. Truly though, eclipses are rather fascinating.

Another thing that seems fascinating is their predictability; not so much that they can be predicted but by the precision which they are. A few weeks before the eclipse, I looked online for a map of our area to find out when the eclipse would occur and was not disappointed. Sifting through the numerous links, I located an interactive map where you could zoom in to a very specific location and get the exact time of eclipse beginning and ending, time of maximum coverage, maximum

obscuration percentage and weather forecast. The calculations and algorithms needed to create such a map seem to me, mindboggling.

Clearly, astronomers have put significant time into the mathematical study of the moon and sun and their motion with respect to earth perspective. Through such intricate study of these created celestial bodies, it would seem difficult for those involved to somehow overlook their Creator. For things which generate awe in us, a creator becomes undeniably forefront as such beauty speaks of a designer rather than happenchance. Ps. 19:1-3 states *"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard."* Yet there are many today that do not see the work of the Creator in the creation.

God's creation is a testimony to Him. But some turn away from the testimony and become foolish. *"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God*

*hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools” Rom. 1:19-22*

The believer, however, acknowledges the Creator from the testimony of the creation as well as from His own testimony in the scriptures. Also, it behooves the believer to remember that the saved of tomorrow include many that are lost today. Perhaps you’ve heard accounts of skeptics that initially sought to disprove the Creator by poking scientific holes in the creation, only to come to conclusion that a Creator God is the best explanation. Praise

God that some of these skeptics ultimately surrender their hearts and lives to God and become His children! This is but one way in which God is at work turning many foolish hearts towards wisdom. Alongside His creation, may we also testify of God, His glory, majesty, love and mercy!

*“And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.” Gen. 1:14-18*

K. Brock

Editor's note: *The following article was submitted at the request of the editor and tells of one congregation's efforts in, and blessings from, reaching out to people with God's truth and love. May this be an encouragement of God's hand at work and an inspiration for more to labor in the fields which are already white unto harvest. If you have a personal or congregational story to tell in how God is at work in outreach to others, we'd like to hear it and please consider sharing it with the editor for possible publishing in the Bible Monitor.*

## TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

The title of this article is repeated over and over again in my mind as I see God's Spirit move in the hearts and lives of those He has touched. God is an Almighty Savior who is willing to save anyone who is willing to open their lives to His Spirit. It doesn't matter how far man has fallen from the paths of righteousness, He is standing ready to accept them as His child.

One thing is missing from this scenario. Me. Where do I as a Christian fit into all of this? Are my prayers enough for sinful men? Is reading my Bible enough and understanding God's will for my life enough? Is just living a clean life enough, hoping people will see that my life is different? All these things are very important but dying to self and allowing God to use me as *His* hands and feet are what Christ really wants. We have heard much about

our mission. Matt. 28:19 – 20 says, *GO!!!! YE THEREFORE, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.* After a service in Des Moines a brother shared how this verse has become so real to him. He said, "It does not say sit and wait for these people to come to us but we must go find them."

I was asked to share about how God brought us to this point of having an outreach in Des Moines and what has been done thus far. For several years, there had been talk of our congregation starting something in Des Moines but nothing had come to fruition. Then last summer, there was an elderly couple in our community

that willed us a sizable amount of money and wanted us to use it toward something that would grow the Kingdom of God. In one of our council meetings, it was discussed and decided to use this money toward starting an outreach in Des Moines. At that time, our presiding elder asked for volunteers for a committee to search out our options and find ways to begin this endeavor we felt God calling us to. The committee met several times, prayed for God's guidance and threw around some ideas. We decided we needed to have a visible presence at a certain time and place. Some of the committee members went to different parts of Des Moines and talked to individuals about what we were planning and where might be a good place to meet.

The committee decided we would gather under the Locust Street bridge to sing every Wednesday evening. This started in September. This location is right along the Des Moines River and what is called the Riverwalk. Many people ride bikes, run and walk on this trail that runs right next to the river. There are also homeless people that live under several of the bridges in that area. We invited anyone from

church that would like to help sing. Most times, we would take cookies and bags of party mix with a Bible tract inside to hand out to people. Usually some of us would go early and walk the streets and invite people to the singing. This worked well until the weather turned colder and we needed a place to be inside. By this time, we knew several faces of acquaintances we had made. Most were homeless people who gave us opportunities to help in various ways; whether giving blankets or medication, giving transportation to various places or pushing someone in a wheelchair to find a warmer place.

We decided to rent a city building for Sundays that was only about two blocks from where we were singing Wednesday evenings. We have had Sunday morning services in what is called The Hub Spot since late November. We take coffee and some sort of pastries for the visitors that show up and also a carry-in meal for lunch. It gives us more opportunity to share with those who come. It is amazing to me to see how much closer you relate to people when you meet them where they are. The only expense we have so

far is the rental for the building. When there is a need whether it is for something internally (song books, coffee makers, signs, food, etc.) or for the needs of those we meet, someone steps up and says, "I'll take care of it!"

Of course, Satan will always try to discourage those who are doing God's work. The first Sunday morning in The Hub Spot we had no one show for services. We did not let that discourage us but decided that while we had services a couple men would go out and invite people to the Hub Spot. That worked well but they also missed out on the service. Now there are some men that go early Sunday mornings to walk the streets and share the Gospel and invite whoever they meet to come to the services. This way they get to enjoy the service also.

It takes work to get people to come but God has shown Himself so faithful. There are many times we get turned down on the street, but we praise God for every opportunity He gives us. For a while, every Sunday there were different visitors and not many returned but slowly we are welcoming some who have been

becoming faithful attendees. Last Sunday six in attendance were there previously. One we had not seen since December. In December he told us he wanted to see his parents and ask for forgiveness because of the way he had treated them. He also had some other issues he needed to work on. That Sunday we prayed with him that God would give him the strength to do what God has called him to do. When I saw him last Sunday, he held out his hand and had a big smile on his face. I knew immediately something changed in his life. He shared with me his testimony of asking his parents for forgiveness and their open arms to receive him back. Also the treatment he went through and now he was a free man! After services last Sunday he shared his testimony with all of us! TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

When we see God's faithfulness in things like this, it only encourages us to press on harder. Regardless of how many times we get turned down, God will always get His way! TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Denny Myers  
Dallas Center, IA

## THE OLD MEETINGHOUSE

*"...Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old."*  
Matt. 13:52

Mohler's meetinghouse was built in 1861 of native brick, which is very porous and soft. Less than 100 years later, Route 15 was built about 200 feet south of the Mohler's meetinghouse. It is a four-lane highway and traffic is increasing in volume and every day, gradually chipping away at the old building. Every

week there is more brick dust to sweep up, and the chimney is slowly dissolving before our eyes from the constant vibration.

Our lives are a little like that: the world slowly chipping away at our bodies and our minds. An old proverb states that even the gentle dropping of water will wear away a stone. Our bodies will diminish because of the sins of our ancestors as well as ourselves, but our faith need not. II Cor. 4:16 tells us that *"... though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."*

Come Lord, and tarry not;  
Bring the long-looked-for day;  
O why these years of waiting here,  
These ages of delay?

Come, for Thy saints still wait;  
Daily ascends their sigh:  
The Spirit and the Bride say,  
"Come": Dost Thou not hear the cry?

Come, for creation groans,  
Impatient of Thy stay,  
Worn out with these long years of ill,  
These ages of delay.



Come, and make all things new;  
Build up this ruined earth;  
Restore our faded Paradise,  
Creation's second birth.

Come, and bring Thy reign  
Of everlasting peace;  
Come, take the kingdom to Thyself,  
Great King of Righteousness.

*Horatious Bonar, 1846*

Lynn H. Miller  
Newmanstown, PA

## SERVING ON THE MISSION FIELD

It was an ordinary day, rising from my bed of slumber, seeing the sun shining and counting my many blessings that the Lord had already prepared for me in this new day.

Then this text came to me: *"We are volunteering one month of service at the Torreon Navajo Mission in October. We would be glad to have you join us for a period of time, if you so desire. Just let us know and we will pick you up at the airport!"* That message laid heavy upon my heart. As I pondered how I should respond, I didn't know what to say. I hadn't been to the mission for 46 years! Am I

too old to go and serve? Would I just be in the way? As I knelt for prayer that evening before bedtime, I communed with my God and went to sleep.

The following morning as I arose, the first thing I heard the Spirit speak was, *"You need to go! You need to serve in my fields! You are the only one that resides in this house! You will go and spread the Gospel to my people in Navajo land!"* My answer was, *"Yes, Lord! I will go and be a servant for YOU"*

Plans were made for my flight and I anticipated the day for travel. As was told me, they were there to pick me up. I was

overjoyed to see the beauty of New Mexico, the radiant sunrises, the breathtaking sunsets and most of all to be with the staff at Torreon! I was welcomed with open arms as we conversed about the many jobs that were awaiting someone to “get to work” and help in the service of the Lord!

We labored, we sweated, we scrubbed, we watered, we made food, we entertained other company that chose to come while I was there, we organized, we got rooms ready for the next visitors that were coming shortly after I returned back home. Every day there was always something to do. It was a joy to go down to the school for morning devotions, just to see them sing and recite. They were always ready and willing to hear the Gospel spoken and then made easily understood so they could comprehend in their minds how Big our God is! It was a blessing to ride the school van, one morning to pick up the school children!

On Thursday, Sis. Mildred Skiles came to the mission to stay until the following Sunday. On Friday morning, there were 4 of us, Sis. Mildred, Bro. Rick

& Sis. Anna St. John and myself that headed out for visiting locals to the north of the compound. About 15 minutes before we left, I was told that each of us would take turns reading the scripture to the Navajo’s and comment thereon. My mind went to the Lord again....Lord what will you have me speak? I thought of the verse: Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the Word of Truth and of counting our blessings in the midst of conflict and warfare that is all around us.

It turned out to be an interesting morning to travel, to greet, to study and to say our goodbye’s. Sis. Mildred passed out a little something to each place we visited. They were so happy with “their gift.” After lunch, back at the compound, we were off on our visits to the south of the compound. It was another rich blessing of greeting, tears, study and goodbyes. My mind was drawn to “*bear one another’s burdens*” and also how those who serve on the Mission Field put their all into the work there, to be a witness, to be the light, and to be a blessing to others. May God bless the labors of love there.

The following Saturday was the funeral of Ricardo Sandoval. It was a solemn occasion to witness the tears of the family as their loved one was placed in the ground. It was soon time to wind down my two-week visit and say goodbye to the mission staff.

Please continue to pray for the staff as they work with the

Navajo people, meeting needs and facing challenges from day to day. May we each have a vision for the mission fields, whether far away or next door and be in sympathy for lost souls in our day today. May we continue to be servants for our Master every day!

My soul be on thy guard; ten thousand foes arise;  
The host of sin are pressing hard; to draw thee from the skies.

Oh watch and fight and pray; the battle ne'er give o'er;  
Renew it boldly every day, and help divine implore.

G. Heath

Shirley L. Frick  
Greenville, OH

## AS GOETH THE TONGUE

Aunt Matilda had a tongue that could cut anybody down, any time she wanted to. Whenever Aunt Matilda got angry about something or someone, no one could stand against her. Her tongue was stronger than anything I ever knew. You just did not cross her.

Many times, we do not realize the damage our tongue can do to the people around

us. Once you say something, it is said, and you can apologize, but you cannot take it back. The tongue can either hurt or inspire. We use our tongue in ways that can bless people or curse them. I have an obligation to tame my tongue to the point where I am blessing people. I know in some situations we need to be strict and say things that are strong, but we need to be very careful

about those times and how to use the tongue.

In Prov. 29:11 Solomon says, "A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards." We need to make up our mind if we are going to be a fool or strive to be a wise man. The fool will speak without even thinking about what he says. The wise man, on the other hand, will take some time to think about what he is saying and how to say it in a way that is appropriate. Certainly, there comes a time that we need to speak our mind, but we need to be careful that we are not hurting people unduly, but rather, we are seeking to bless people and build them up.

I love to hear people talk about positivity and possibility and positive attitude and all of that. Some believe in 100% positivity, which, if you think about it, is impossible. You cannot have a positive unless you have a negative. When you try to say that everything has to be positive you are not saying anything with wisdom behind it.

I want to have a positive attitude in everything I do. However, in order for my positive attitude to have any

kind of validity to it, I need to understand the negative side of things. Sometimes, maybe not often, the negative has more value than the positive. I recently had a colon exam and the test results came back negative. I was positively happy about that. I did not want it to come back positive, because you know the rest of the story. Sometimes negative is the best choice, but we need to understand the difference between the negative side and the positive side. When we are speaking and not understanding what we are speaking about we can cause a lot of damage and hurt the people around us. My positive is sometimes based on my negative. Sometimes, however, the negative is worth it.

Along this line, we come again to the tongue. An untamed tongue can destroy. We can see it all around us. We see people who have left the church because somebody spoke to them in an unkind manner. Now maybe that person was right, but you can be right, say something in a wrong way and have a very negative impact upon a person's life. Perhaps the biggest challenge for me is to tame my tongue. A disciplined tongue can

build up a person. I remember talking to a young man who was going through a lot of problems and I kept mentioning how good he was and what I appreciated about him and encouraged his potential and the more I talked the brighter he began to look. Here was a young man who was never told anything positive about his life. Everything was always negative. Once he began to hear some of the positive side of his life, he began to develop a different perspective about himself.

A disciplined tongue is able to build people up in a way that will glorify God. That is our mission in life. We are not out to tear people down, rather, we are out to build people up. I know that sometimes in the very beginning, we need to tear something down, but we cannot tear anything down unless we have a plan in play to build it back up again. We are building people and our tongue is an effective tool to encourage and bless people in our life.

Whenever you say a hurtful word to somebody always remember, that word might stay in that person's mind forever. You cannot take it back. You can apologize, but that word is there forever. We hear the saying sometimes, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never harm me." That is completely and totally false. All of us can go back to times that we have been hurt deeply by something someone said to us, or something someone said about us and we heard about it through the grapevine.

My life has to be built on the idea of building. Sometimes in building, you have to tear something down, but you never tear something down unless you have a plan to build something back up again. My life as a Christian will prosper, and the prosperity of my Christian experience will be seen in the way my tongue either blesses people or curses them.

James L. Snyder  
Ocala, FL

**SPRING**

When brighter suns and milder skies  
 Proclaim the op'ning year,  
 What various sounds of joy arise!  
 What prospects bright appear!

Earth and her thousand voices give  
 Their thousand notes of praise;  
 And all that by His mercy live,  
 To God their offering raise.

Thus, like the morning, calm and clear,  
 That saw the Saviour rise,  
 The spring of heaven's eternal year  
 Shall dawn on earth and skies.

No winter there, no shades of night,  
 Obscure those mansion blest,  
 Where, in the happy fields of light,  
 The weary are at rest.

Wm. Peabody

**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.*

Be Thou an Example

*“Let no man despise thy conversation, in charity, in spirit, youth, but be thou an example in faith, in purity.”* 1 Tim. 4:12.

*of the believers in word, in*

Paul starts out chapter 4

with some serious challenges that we as Christ's followers should pay attention to. Then he lays out the charge for us to follow. Verse 12 tells us to be an example to those that we interact with.

We need reminded from time to time that we all have people watching our lives, whether we like it or not. It is our natural instinct to look up to others as they lead us through life. Like a child, we all need someone to lead us. As we age and mature in life, we realize that each of us become leaders to some degree.

What kind of example is my life leaving behind? This is a challenge that we as Christians should take seriously at all

times. Not for our own glory and appearance, but that we each will reflect Christ and his teachings. Our example to others is a powerful ministry.

A man can have a huge following by his speech and presentation, but when his actions fail his speech, he can lose his following quickly. This is so sad to see when it happens in the church. So, I hope this is a solemn reminder, that our actions speak louder than our words.

Let's live our lives in such a way so that those following will not be confused by our actions.

*On behalf of the Bible Study Board*  
Brother Caleb Heckman

## PHIL'S PONDERINGS

As we "study to shew *ourselves* approved unto God..."

May 2024 Bible Study Commentary

### May 5 - I Tim. 3:14-4:6 – The Mystery

In the commentary for last Sunday's lesson I made the mistake of offering an answer as to why there was nothing explicitly stated concerning the office of a Minister. My answer was only conjecture without any obvious foundation in the text we were studying. However, Paul has come to my aid and pointed out in the process one of the problems all of us face when interpreting Scripture. It is always helpful to know who is speaking and who is spoken to. As

we read over what Paul has written about the Bishop/Elder qualifications followed by that of a Deacon it is frequently in the context of an election taking place in our congregations. We are the ones being spoken to and the ones who then make a decision that reflects the intent of Paul's instructions. At least that is what we hope for when an election is taking place. But we aren't the first ones to hear what Paul writes. What we read is what Paul wrote to Timothy so that he would have Paul's instructions to rely upon whenever an election might occur. Paul is speaking to Timothy first of all. So rather than providing various character traits for a Minister as he did for the offices of an Elder or Deacon, Paul speaks directly to Timothy in the context of his ministering at Ephesus. How does Paul conclude his instruction to Timothy? (1 Tim. 4:6)

*"If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained."* So when we begin preparing for an election for a minister, what we want to listen for is the voice of Paul as he instructs both Timothy and ourselves so that he and we can be faithful ministers of Jesus Christ.

### **May 12 – Exod. 2:1-10 – Mother's Day**

I suspect that if given the time and opportunity, this month's Bible Monitor could be full of stories about mothers who demonstrated out of the ordinary means to protect her child or children. As the mother of Moses built the ark out of bulrushes, she must have prayed time and again for it to be a safe place for Moses and the means of his survival and future. All too quickly she finished the ark. The testing of her faith must now act by gently shoving the ark downstream and out of her control. Wisely she had sent her daughter ahead to keep watch from a distance. The rewards of faith often vastly exceed the labors of faith. The heart of the daughter of Pharaoh, who perhaps never gave much thought to the plight of the Hebrews, is immediately knitted to Moses as she sees and holds the expression of a mother's love for her child. Though he is a Hebrew child it is no barrier to her to love and care for him. Once Moses' sister reveals herself, a plan



is quickly developed that has Moses back in his mother's arms to nurse and care for him and even paid for her efforts. Time and again we see in the pages of Scripture the love of God demonstrated in the lives of women as they engage in both the routine of daily life as well as the unexpected and extraordinary.

### **May 19 - I Tim. 4:7-16 – A Good Servant of Christ**

In order to grow in godliness there are certain things we must reject along the pathway of life. It is not a list of do's and don'ts. Rather it is more subtle than religious, secular than spiritual. Something attractive draws our attention away from godliness. Our enthusiasm for discussing the latest secular commentaries suggests that we are well read and deeply thoughtful. Several months ago we traveled to Maryland to attend a funeral. Along the way we passed a huge church facility. Three crosses at least a hundred feet high dominated the skyline. Between the three crosses flew two American flags, not nearly as tall, but still an obvious part of the landscape. This display distorts the message of the gospel and elevates the secular into a position of being worthy of our worship. Godliness is seduced by that which is temporal. But Paul exhorts Timothy, (I Tim. 4:8) “...*but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.*” The latest sports scores and polling results will be left behind. Our focus in heaven will be the continuing revelation of the extraordinary life that is given to every believer through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **May 26 - I Tim. 5:1-15 – Honor True Widows**

When the church first began in Jerusalem, all material items including money were shared in common. Deacons were called to help distribute and meet the needs of those who made a confession of faith. As time passed, the church continued to organize itself so that those most needy were taken care of first. But the church also learned how to say “No” to those who were capable of taking care of themselves rather than depending on the church to pay their bills. Widows were often in a gray zone for a variety of reasons. Some were young and could marry again. Others had plenty of family to help care for them.

The children and even grandchildren of a “real” widow could provide for her. So the work of the church was learning how to care for those most in need and to promote faithful choices for those who are still able to care for themselves. Today we are still having to wrestle as the church with meeting needs both physical and spiritual.

## OBITUARIES

### **John Keeney**

John R. Keeney, of Seven Valleys, Pennsylvania entered into rest on his farm on Monday, April 1 at the age of 51. He was the husband of the late Bethany L. (Keeny) Keeney who died on June 21, 2015.

John was born in York, Pennsylvania on August 28, 1972 to Randal E. and Darlene A. (Sipe) Keeney of Seven Valleys.

He graduated from Shrewsbury Dunkard School and farmed with his father. He was passionate about farming and loved tractors of all kinds. John enjoyed going for long drives, waterfalls and spending his free time fishing.

Besides his parents, John is survived by nine children: Hannah Beth Hoffman (Jordan), Jonathan Andrew Keeney, Devon Wade Keeney (Danielle), Galen Randal Keeney, Heidi Michele Martin (Steven), Ginger Nicole Keeney, Holly Noelle Keeney, Aydin Patrick Keeney, and Cameron Riley Keeney. He leaves his grandchildren, Pemberly Rose Hoffman and Bethany Raelynn Martin as well as his brothers, Samuel and Andrew Keeney, and sisters, Rebecca Stuber, Jennifer Chupp, Amy Mummert, Julie Sweitzer, and Emily Eberly.

A funeral service was held at Grace Church, in New Freedom, Pennsylvania on April 5 with Bro. Robert Lehigh officiating. Burial followed in the Dunkard Brethren Cemetery.

In lieu of memorials, the family kindly asks for donations to be sent to defray the costs of funeral expenses: The Keeney Family, 1404 Ridgeview Road, Seven Valleys, PA 17360.

**Donald Gipe**

Donald B. Gipe, 77, of Covington, Ohio, passed away unexpectedly early Tuesday morning, April 9 at his residence. He was born May 28, 1946, in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, to the late Andrew G. and Gladys B. (Boone) Gipe. He married Mabel Sue (Peters) Gipe on August 19, 1967; she survives.

He will also be missed and remembered by his four sons, David & Tricia Gipe of Covington, Marshall & Becky Gipe of Clayton, Wesley & Rebekah Gipe of Fletcher and Steven & Brandyn Gipe of Bella Vista, California; nine grandchildren, Carmen (Nathan) Sink, Collin (Kristin) Gipe, Colson Gipe (& friend Cortney Garber), Rhett (Sarah) Gipe, Halli Gipe (& fiancé Eli Newburg), Rowan, Reese, Pierce and Quinn Gipe; six great-grandchildren, Eli, Gracie, Tessa & Liam Sink, and Granger & Archer Gipe; a brother, Ronald (Arlene) Gipe of Greencastle, Pennsylvania; and in-laws, Jean (Roger) Boone, Mary Ann (Calvin) Ronk, D.A. (Kenlynn) Peters, Joel (Glenna) Peters; and many nieces and nephews. Don was preceded in death by his parents-in-law, David & Gracie Peters; and his brother and sister-in-law, Raymond & Jeanette Peters.

Don grew up in Pennsylvania and earned his degree in accounting from Shippensburg University. He was a self-employed accountant for nearly 50 years and owned and operated Donald B. Gipe, CPA. He enjoyed every interaction with his clients, many of whom became longtime friends. Don was a member of CornerStone Dunkard Brethren Church of Covington. He was a man of faith who will be remembered as a devoted husband and father who loved without reserve. In his free time, he was an avid baseball fan and quietly had amassed an extensive baseball card collection.

Funeral services were held on April 13 at the Old German Baptist Brethren Church, Covington, followed by burial in Miami Memorial Park, Covington. Memorial contributions may be made to the CornerStone Dunkard Brethren Church Building Fund.

## NEWS ITEMS

### **New Minister**

At the Pleasant Ridge congregation, Bro. Jason St. John was elected to the Minister's office. Bro. Jason's address is 400 N. Defiance St., Stryker, OH 43557.

### **New Deacons**

At the Pleasant Ridge congregation, Bro. Jacob Short and Bro. Josh St. John were elected to the Deacon's office.

Bro. Jacob's address is 21185 Co. Rd. K, West Unity, OH 43570.

Bro. Josh's address is 20825 Co. Rd. R, Alvordton, OH 43501.

Please pray for the Lord's blessing and guidance for each of these men and their wives as they step into this new responsibility:

Bro. Jason & Sis. Colleen St. John  
Bro. Jacob & Sis. Rhoda Short  
Bro. Josh & Sis. Holly St. John

**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  
Conference Lodging Committee

## Ministers by District

District 1		District 2	
Jeff Aungst*	Bethel	Clem Bowman*	CornerStone
David Aungst*	Bethel	Ken Brock*	Pleasant Ridge
Judah Bauman	Lititz	Marlin Carpenter	Berean
Justin Beck*	Bethel	Robert Carpenter*	Berean
Jim Eberly*	Lititz	Kidron Crist*	CornerStone
John Eberly*	Chambersburg	Philip Gish*	CornerStone
Caleb Heckman	Chambersburg	Bart Hoblit*	CornerStone
Dennis Kleindinst	Bethel	Brant Jamison*	West Fulton
Robert Lehigh*	Shrewsbury	Fred Johnson	West Fulton
Marlin Marks*	Shrewsbury	Rodney Kimmel	Berean
Vernon Martin	Pine Grove	Lloyd Lorenz*	Plevna
Lynn Miller	Mohlers	Andrew Miller	West Fulton
Paul Noecker	Pine Grove	Lyndell Noecker	West Fulton
Gerry Priest	Chambersburg	David Rice*	CornerStone
Tom Priest*	Chambersburg	Dennis St. John*	Pleasant Ridge
Keith Snyder*	Lititz	Jason St. John	Pleasant Ridge
Ray Stuber*	Shrewsbury	Tom St. John*	Pleasant Ridge
Merle Sweitzer*	Shrewsbury	Gale Turner*	CornerStone
Verling Wolfe*	Bethel	Marc Wray	Berean
Loren Zook	Lititz	Mike Wray	Berean
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Jason Carpenter*	Juniper Hills	Milton Cook*	Winterhaven
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Devin Sweitzer	Quinter		
Brad Wertz	Quinter		

\* - Elder

## Deacons by District

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Vernon Champ	Chambersburg	Nelson Bontrager	Berean
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Anthony Nissley	Bethel	Doyle Lorenz	Plevna
Daniel Noecker	Pine Grove	Ryan Miller	CornerStone
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Matthew Priest	Chambersburg	Kurt Rolle	CornerStone
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Joel Royer	Dallas Center	Jacob Short	Pleasant Ridge
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Ivon Wertz	McClave		

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR June 2024

### June 2 - I Tim. 5:17-25 - Honor Your Elders

1. What is “Double honor?” (verse 17)  

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2. How are believers to rebuke sin? What should this process look like?  

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3. What does verse 22 mean when it says, “Keep thyself pure?”  

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### June 9 - I Tim. 6:1-10 - Honor Your Boss

1. In what ways can servants honor their masters?  

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2. How does materialism affect our spiritual lives?  

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3. What is the “Love of Money?” (verse 10)  

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### June 16 – Deut. 6:1-15 - Father’s Day

1. What is the importance of teaching God’s commands to your children?  

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2. What does it look like to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind?  

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3. What are the pitfalls of prosperity?  

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**June 23 - I Tim. 6:11-21 - Instructions for the Rich**

1. How can we live “Without spot” (verse 14), and be un-rebukable?  

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2. Are you a person who is “Rich in good works” (verse 18), and/or how can we become someone who is characterized this way?  

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3. Why did Paul feel it was so important to tell Timothy to avoid evil in verse 20?  

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**June 30 - II Tim. 1:1-12 - Not Ashamed of the Gospel**

1. Is it important, in our Christian life, to have a Christian heritage? Why or why not?  

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2. Have you ever been ashamed of the Gospel? Why or why not?  

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3. How can we, like Paul, be confident in God’s ability to sustain us until the end?  

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